

Minutes
REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING
ASHLAND PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION
May 20, 2019
Council Chambers, 1175 E. Main Street

Present: Commissioners Gardiner (Chair), Landt (Co-Chair), Heller, Lewis; Director Black; Recreation Superintendent Dials; Senior Services Superintendent Glatt; Parks Superintendent Oxendine, Assistant Sullivan

Absent: Commissioner Bell; City Council Liaison Mayor Stromberg

CALL TO ORDER

Gardiner called the meeting to order at 7:15 p.m.

APPROVAL OR ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF MINUTES

APRC Special Meeting April 8, 2019

Gardiner stated a correction to the Minutes on page 3. The Comment, "Commissioner Gardiner clarified that the E Main Park was made possible by selling Clay Street Property to the YMCA for a profit", is inaccurate and should indicate that APRC sold the YMCA Park to the YMCA and the Clay Street property was sold back to the Housing Authority of Jackson County.

Motion: Landt moved to approve the Minutes from April 8, 2019 as amended. Lewis Seconded.
The vote was all yes.

APRC Regular Meeting – April 22, 2019

Motion: Landt moved to approve the Minutes from April 22, 2019 as presented. Lewis Seconded.

Minutes Acknowledged:

Pool Ad-Hoc April 3, 2019

Ashland Senior Advisory Committee April 8, 2019

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

a) Open Forum

Larry Cooper of Ashland provided written comments and read them for the record (See Attachment I). Cooper also provided a URL to a video on YouTube titled, "Legacy of Trees, John McLaren's Gift to Ashland": https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y5L2LCU8_XQ&feature=youtu.be. Cooper added he has been dismayed watching the process for the Lithia Park Master Plan and the discussion, or lack thereof, of how to refurbish the Japanese garden. Cooper saw a similarity with this process and the miscommunication experienced during the Senior Center restructuring.

Julie Norman of Ashland provided written comments and read them into the record. Norman also provided a program to an event held by the Friends of Lithia Park held on May 14, 2019 (See Attachment II for both documents).

ADDITIONS OR DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

b) 19-21 Cost Recovery Goals (Action)

Dials reviewed the staff report included in the packet.

Discussion on the topic included the following points:

- In addition to Nature Center fees, Dials plans to bring Ice Rink fees back to the Commission for review
- The discussion included the following items on Nature Center School Programs
 - Most school groups attending Nature Center activities request scholarships to offset costs
 - Scholarships for school groups attending Nature Center activities are not restricted to the Ashland School District
 - The Scholarships are administered by the Ashland Parks Foundation

- The program is in high demand which could support raising fees
- Landt expressed concern that scholarships are provided to school children outside of the Ashland School District and staff may want to review which school districts receive scholarship funding when reviewing the fee structure for Nature Center School Programs
- The Goal for the Ice Rink & Nature Center School Programs are based on a projection that takes potential fee increases into account
- The Pioneer Hall goal was adjusted based on Commissioner input at the previous meeting and due to the closure of the Community Center, which will likely result in more rental income at Pioneer Hall

Motion: Landt moved to approve the Cost Recovery Goals as presented. Heller seconded.

Discussion:

- Heller stated the Ashland Parks Foundation may want to review the policy of funding scholarships for school children outside of the Ashland School District.
- Gardiner stated that if the school programs fill up, scholarship funds should probably be reserved for Ashland School District classes
 - Dials clarified the following:
 - Manager VanWyhe writes grants to other foundations to provide funding specifically for these scholarships
 - Dials believes that the grants are written to support environmental education opportunities for school groups throughout the Rogue Valley and are not limited to the Ashland School District
 - Dials will bring back information on grants to the Commission

The question on the Motion was called. The Motion in question was:

Motion: Landt moved to approve the Cost recovery Goals as presented. Heller seconded.

The vote was all yes

NEW BUSINESS

a) COLA Policy Amendment (Action)

Black reviewed the staff report included in the packet which asks for a suspension of the current policy based on budget restrictions. Black specifically asked that the policy be suspended rather than amended to allow the possibility of working with the City of Ashland to bring the City of Ashland and APRC COLA policies in line with one another, so all unrepresented employees would receive the similar COLA increases.

Discussion on the topic included the following points:

- Black clarified that the motion would suspend the policy and cap the COLA increase to no more than 2%
 - If the CPI-W came in at 2% or less, that number would be used to set the COLA
- Landt proposed the COLA for the next fiscal year be set to 2% since suspension of the policy would preclude awarding a COLA above 2%. Landt added that 2.1% is what is the CPI-W set for the current fiscal year COLA.
- The Commission has the potential to review the policy and amount provided next fiscal year
- Black is unaware of the methodology the City of Ashland uses to determine COLA
- Lewis stated that suspending the policy as requested would allow APRC to work with the City of Ashland to reconcile COLA policies and methodology. Lewis further stated that the Commission has the flexibility to review the issue again next fiscal year

Motion: Lewis moved to suspend the COLA policy for this biennium. Heller seconded.

Discussion:

There was concern from Gardiner and Landt that the stated motion did not cap the COLA at 2%. Lewis rescinded the motion.

Motion: Lewis moved to approve the proposed suspension of the Benefit Adjustment Policy and cap the COLA increase at 2% for the 2019/21 Biennium. Heller seconded.

Discussion:

Black stated that APRC employees will received a 2% COLA for the fiscal year that begins July 1, 2019 since the CPI-W came in at 2.1%. The CPI-W will still determine the COLA, but caps the amount given at 2%.

A vote on the motion on the table was called. The motion in question was:

Motion: Lewis moved to approve the proposed suspension of the Benefit Adjustment Policy and cap the COLA increase at 2% for the 2019/21 Biennium. Heller seconded.

The vote was all yes

b) QTR 6 Budget Update (Action)

Black reviewed the staff report included in the packet. Discussion on the topic included the following points:

- Landt suggested that the Commission acknowledge the budget update rather than approving it
- Black stated that acknowledgement or approval of the budget update shown in the Minutes would suffice

Motion: Landt moved to accept the information as provided. Heller seconded.

The vote was all yes

c) 19-21 Goals Addition (Action)

Black reviewed the staff report included in the packet. Discussion on the topic included the following points:

- Black stated that if 19 goals were initially approved, the addition of the proposed goal would have been next in line to be added
- Black specified that the goal from the previous biennium regarding the Lithia Park Master Plan stated that the process to select a consultant for the Lithia Master Plan should continue while the proposed goal is more specific and went through the prioritization process, while other goals from the previous biennium did not go through that process
- Black clarified that the Greenway goal from the previous biennium would generally fall under goal number 1 for the upcoming biennium regarding trails and open space

Motion: Landt moved to approve the Lithia Park Master Plan goal as stated by staff. Lewis seconded.

Discussion:

- Heller stated a concern that the goals within the Lithia Park Master Plan have not been prioritized and would like to move forward with a process in the future to prioritize the goals
- Gardiner clarified that the Lithia Park Master Plan has yet to be adopted, that the prioritization will not be included in the document and that it will be up to the Commission to prioritize the goals within the Lithia Park Master Plan
- Lewis stated that there may be opportunities to complete goals in the immediate future that have a lesser budget impact, while other goals that would have a considerable budget impact would need a funding source identified prior to moving forward

A vote on the motion on the table was called. The motion in question was:

Motion: Landt moved to approve the Lithia Park Master Plan goal as stated by staff. Lewis seconded.

The vote was all yes

ITEMS FROM COMMISSIONERS/STAFF

- Black stated that APRC staff will be working on scheduling a walkthrough for the Japanese Lantern Art in the Park project proposed by Terry Doyle at the February 2019 Study Session. Black mentioned the applicant informed APRC staff that the plaque mentioned at the Public Arts Commission meeting will not be included in the final proposal
- Gardiner will be visiting Guanajuato, Ashland's sister city in Mexico, as a representative of APRC

UPCOMING MEETING DATES

- c) Pool Ad-Hoc Committee – June 5, 2019
 - Ashland Senior Center, 1699 Homes Ave—3:30 p.m.
- d) Current Parks, Conservation, and Maintenance Subcommittee—June 10, 2019
 - Lithia Cabin, 3:40 S Pioneer St—2:00 p.m.
- e) Ashland Senior Advisory Committee – June 10, 2019
 - Ashland Senior Center, 1699 Homes Ave—3:30 p.m.

- f) Bee City USA — June 12, 2019
 - Nature Center, 620 N Mountain Ave—3:00 p.m.
- g) APRC Study Session—June 17, 2019
 - The Grove, 1195 E Main Street, Ashland—5:30 p.m.
- h) APRC Regular Meeting—June 24, 2019
 - Council Chambers, 1175 E Main Street, Ashland—7:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:01 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by
Sean Sullivan
Office Assistant II