

City of Ashland  
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION  
**Study Session**  
Minutes  
March 18, 2019

Present: Commissioners Bell, Gardiner, Heller, Lewis; Director Black; Parks Superintendent Oxendine; Recreation Superintendent Dials; Assistant Sullivan

Absent: Commissioner Landt & City Council Liaison Mayor Stromberg

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Gardiner called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. at The Grove, 1195 E. Main St, Ashland

**PUBLIC INPUT**

No public input

**GOALS DISCUSSION**

Director Black spoke about the goal identification process, which began with approximately 130 goals put forth by Commissioners and staff. During the Goal Setting Meeting, the goals were reduced to approximately 50. Commissioners then further reduced those goals to 15 new goals while carrying forward 4 goals. Black read the proposed goals as outlined in the staff report and spoke briefly on each goal.

Goals Moving Forward

- 1) Update Trails and Open Space Comp Plans and continue to purchase land according to the plans.

Although the Trails Master Plan (TMP) has been completed, it still needs to be adopted. The TMP is likely to be scheduled to go before the Planning commission in May. The Open Space Master Plan has not been started at this point.

- 2) Develop parks development standards and guidelines.

The intent of this goal is to create standards that could be used during the planning process, such as identifying specific types of materials and best practices for layout and design.

- 3) Pursue the evaluation of, and funding for, a rebuild of Daniel Meyer Pool into a year-round eight-lane competitive/recreation aquatics facility.

Black proposed that this goal be folded into the new goals regarding aquatics.

- 4) Implement/attain easement and purchase agreements on Ashland Pond property and through the few remaining private properties, with dogs excluded from the property via a wildlife preserve designation.

Per past discussions by the Commissioners to not move forward with a wildlife preservation designation at this time, Black proposed inserting a period after "properties" and striking the remaining portion of the goal, so it would read: Implement/attain easement and purchase agreements on Ashland Pond property and through the few remaining private properties., ~~with dogs excluded from the property via a wildlife preserve designation~~

## Top 15 New Goals

- 1) Design and begin building new East Main Street neighborhood park, including the top priority of the second Ashland dog park.

This project would require funding, which is currently budgeted at \$950,000. These funds are available and can be used to move forward with this project. This park will replace the YMCA park. APRC staff has concerns about the long-term sustainability and maintenance of all parks. During the design process of this park, it will be necessary to take the long-term maintenance of the park into careful consideration.

Black has contacted a consulting planner to move forward with the annexation process. Public input will be solicited during the planning process for the actual design of the park. Black clarified that this goal is in regard to the 5.2-acre property.

- 2) Improve public aquatic recreation and competitive options in Ashland consistent with the findings and recommendations of the Pool Ad Hoc Committee and ensure the continuous operation of an adequate recreational pool in Ashland during the summer months, at a minimum.

Black suggested that this goal take the place of other goals related to the Daniel Meyer Memorial Pool. An issue was raised that this goal could imply that the current pool will remain open during the construction of a new pool. This was not the intent. This goal will be altered to reflect that the current pool may be decommissioned during the construction of a new pool.

- 3) Ensure that Lincoln School playground and fields remains open to the public in perpetuity

The intention of this goal is to work collaboratively with the School District to keep this area open to the public. The goal will be edited to better reflect this intent.

- 4) Work with RVMBA to explore costs and locations for a pump track/skills park

This goal will be updated to state that APRC will work with volunteers rather than just one specific group. There may be an opportunity to build the pump track and skills parks in two different locations. However, if suitable land is available, both projects could be built in the same location.

- 5) Explore suitable locations for a pickleball facility within the APRC system, including the Oak Knoll Golf Course, and implement the installation of up to eight new pickleball courts with consideration for lighting and fencing.

This goal reflects multiple pickleball goals that were put forth. Per the discussion on goal # 10, this goal will be edited to include implementation language that expresses the pickleball facility will be built.

- 6) BB/pickleball court at ACP in graveled area

This goal was inadvertently left off the list on page 2 of the staff report. Black suggested that this goal be combined with goal #9, but not state that a full court basketball court will be built in ACP. Black also clarified that the court would be hard surfaced and that the mention of the gravel area is in reference to a specific location.

- 7) Explore fire vulnerability on all APRC lands and if discovered there is a large volume of different mitigation work – Explore a bond for fire suppression

The intent of this goal is to carry out due diligence to see if a bond is warranted.

- 8) Explore the feasibility and community support of a low-angle trail on the east side of Lithia Park (kid-friendly)

This goal does not currently have budget implications. Work still needs to be done to explore the feasibility of the trail.

- 9) Full basketball and multiuse pickle ball courts at Ashland Creek Park.

This goal will be struck and combined with goal #6. The goals below will be renumbered accordingly.

- 9) Get an agreement with schools to be able to use gyms for rec leagues or open play for use by vb players, bb players and pb players, during non-school times and during smoke events.

This goal could have budget implications if it is necessary to create new recreation programs. Black suggested that we reach out to established leagues that could utilize these facilities and see how APRC can work with the school district to support the leagues.

- 10) Explore Need for and Feasibility of Centralized Recreation Center The following are potential uses for the Center: Covered Field house big enough for full court basketball/indoor soccer that would be multi-purpose to include at least pickleball and bike polo; Maintenance yard; Skateboard Park; Bike Skills Park; Dog Park; Aquatic Center

A system wide master plan could potentially address this goal. There are no budget implications for this goal as it reads.

- 11) Create a small pocket-neighborhood playground/park also in the vicinity of Oak Knoll Club House.

A budget is being put together for this project.

- 12) Explore and implement, as funds allow, capital improvements that would reduce long term maintenance and would be projected to pay for themselves in 10 years or less

Some projects are more long-term and may not pay for itself in 10 years. However, these projects may still be worthy. This goal will be edited to remove the mention of 10 years or less.

- 13) Build Mace Property trail – Connect Oak Street to North Mountain

Funds have been budgeted for this project.

- 14) Continue to be part of the solution for realizing an Authentic Japanese Garden in Lithia Park and securing a large donation to accommodate the building and long-term maintenance of the garden.

The donor has put this project on hold and is also looking at different scenarios where the funds could be used for a different project. A potential action that APRC could take is to pay for the plans to be re-designed with the inclusion of the Douglas fir trees.

- 15) Perform a system wide master plan for APRC to determine the need for an increased SDC fee.

The system wide master plan has more purposes than just determining the need for an increased SDC fee. The goal will be edited to reflect this by removing "to" and replacing it with "and."

Discussion on goals continued and included the following items:

- There are currently 18 goals left for adoption. The Commission could bring forward the next two goals on the list to bring the goals to 20. The next two goals are to 1) Resurface the Lithia Tennis Courts and 2) Act Upon the Lithia Park Master Plan.
  - The Lithia Master Plan is complete. Projects outlined in the plan will move forward as possible even if it is not listed as a goal.
  - The Lithia Courts will get a patch job this summer
  - The courts are typically resurfaced all at once to reduce costs
  - It is likely that the courts will need to be resurfaced in the near future.
  - If there is an issue of function or the surface of the courts fail, they could be resurfaced using maintenance funds
  - Commissioners determined to move forward with 18 goals
- Two Commissioners will be absent at the next Regular Meeting. The Commissioners discussed and agreed to move forward with the adoption of the goals as scheduled for the next Regular Meeting. Staff was directed to make edits to the goals as discussed.

#### **LIONS: OLCC PERMIT**

Superintendent Dials stated the Lions, a community-based organization, are requesting to serve wine and beer at the Feast of Will event in June. Currently, APRC does not allow alcohol in parks. Other local jurisdictions, including Medford, allow alcohol in parks with a special permit in certain areas in parks.

Maggie Lander and James of the Lions were present and issued a letter, which was included in the meeting packet, with their request. A discussion between the Lions representatives and the Commission included the following points.

- Alcohol is allowed at the Community Center. The process is administered by the City of Ashland and not APRC
- Per OLCC requirements, the Lions will prepare a plan to ensure that minors are not provided with alcohol
- Local alcohol vendors will be serving beer and wine and will also have an OLCC permit for the event.
- The Lions would be responsible for security, set-up and clean-up
- The Lions have an insurance policy for events - The City of Ashland requires 2 million in liability insurance
- The Lions were amenable to coming back annually to seek permission for a permit
- The Lions stated that wine was historically allowed at the event, but permission was removed in 1974
- The event last 2 – 2.5 hours with an expected attendance of 375-450
- The event is a fundraiser for the Lions
- The Lions have not been charged a fee in the past since it is an event that benefits a community organization
- Alcohol will not be included in the ticket price

Superintendent Dials will research if selling raffle tickets would be considered wagering, which would go against APRC policy

Commissioner Gardiner directed that the item be added to the March 25 Regular Meeting agenda for a vote.

## SILENT DISCO

Superintendent Dials and Jordan Rose of Silent Movement presented a slide show about Silent Disco, see Attachment I. This item is being brought before the APRC because of concerns of the potential commercialization of Lithia Park and conflict with an ordinance regulating commercial activity in parks. Dials is seeking clarification on the proposed program of events in order to move forward. The ordinance in question is:

### 10.68.060 Unpermitted Commercial Activity

No one shall sell or offer for sale any article or perform or offer to perform any service for hire in any of the parks without a written permit for such concession properly and regularly granted by the Park Commission. No one shall hawk or peddle popcorn, ice cream, candy, soda water, peanuts, or similar wares within or on any of the park grounds of the City without first securing a permit to do so from the Park Commission.

The following points were made by Dials & Rose

- This is an APRC sponsored event and something APRC would like to continue
- Noise ordinances can be a deterrent to organizing some types of events. Utilizing headsets to broadcast music or audio during movie screenings has been utilized here and in other cities to stay in compliance with noise ordinances
- Silent Movement is now a program fiscally sponsored by a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization
- Entrance fees are a suggested donation of \$5. Those who are unable to pay are not turned away.
- The events have been used to raise money for non-profit organizations, including the Ashland Parks Foundation. Income has also been utilized to purchase equipment for the events. In the future, some income would also be utilized for operational & staff expenses
- Locating the First Friday Silent Discos in the front of Lithia Park allows for integration with downtown businesses and increases attendance
- The event provides a safe place for families to gather and promotes inclusivity for all ages and abilities
- Police Department feedback stated there were no documented issues from past Silent Disco events
- Liability Insurance for \$2 million is held by the organizers of the events

The proposed program of events is as follows:

- Once a month Silent Disco, to be held in conjunction with the First Friday art walk in the front of Lithia park with donations to happen on-site. Sponsored by APRC with proceeds benefitting the Ashland Parks Foundation
- Daytime Pop-ups in other parks sponsored by APRC
- Movies in the Bandshell sponsored by APRC

Commissioner's discussion included the following items:

- The program should be brought back to the Commission at the end of the season for an evaluation
- Concerns about park access for the public who are not participating in the event were raised
- Clarification that APRC staff time is not required. Jordan's org runs the event and cleans up
- Clarification that the Silent Disco events lasts approximately 5-6 hours
- Clarification that the Ashland Parks Foundation will be a recipient of donations from future events – minimum of 10%
- Past community events held at the bandshell failed due to the inability to "pass the hat" to collect donations to fund the continuation of events

- The program provides a service for APRC that would otherwise require APRC staff time and money

Commission Gardiner directed that the item be added to the March 25 Regular Meeting agenda for a vote.

#### **ARBOR DAY EVENT AT OAK KNOLL GOLF COURSE**

Superintendent Oxendine presented on the Arbor Day event to be held on April 5 at the Oak Knoll Golf Course. Multiple Commissioners stated that they will be attending the event.

Oxendine is striving for Ashland to be awarded a Growth Award. Cities who have been designated a Tree City USA community, who have held the designation for more than one year, may apply for a Growth Award. The Growth Award requirements go above and beyond what is required to be designated as a Tree City USA community.

Grants provided by Oregon Community Trees & Plant Oregon will fund the event.

#### **ITEMS FROM COMMISSIONERS AND STAFF**

The Bike Swap will be held on April 6, 12-2 p.m. at The Grove. All proceeds benefit bicycle safety education in schools.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

There will be no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:11 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Sean Sullivan, Office Assistant II

These Minutes are not a verbatim record. The narrative has been condensed and paraphrased at times to reflect the discussions and decisions made. Ashland Parks and Recreation Commission Study Sessions and Regular meetings are digitally recorded and are available upon request.

Attachment I

# Silent Movement Introduction





What is it?

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History of  
the  
Relationship



How does it operate?



# The Trends



A photograph of a man and a woman dancing at night. The man is in the foreground, wearing a light blue shirt and glowing headphones. The woman is behind him, also wearing glowing headphones. The background is dark with colorful bokeh lights and a glowing blue ring light.

Community  
Benefits of  
Silent  
Movement

Storytelling



### **10.68.060 Unpermitted Commercial Activity**

No one shall sell or offer for sale any article or perform or offer to perform any service for hire in any of the parks without a written permit for such concession properly and regularly granted by the Park Commission. No one shall hawk or peddle popcorn, ice cream, candy, soda water, peanuts, or similar wares within or on any of the park grounds of the City without first securing a permit to do so from the Park Commission.

Police Dept  
Feedback:  
No documented  
issues from  
Silent Discos in  
either location.

What we are asking for....



KURT DEWITT  
PHOTOGRAPHY

A man in the foreground is wearing headphones with a glowing red 'A' on the left ear and glowing blue gloves. He is holding a camera and taking a photo of two children sitting on the grass. The children are also wearing headphones with glowing red 'A' on the earcups. The scene is dark, illuminated by blue and red light from the headphones and gloves. The background is dark and out of focus.

Once a month Silent Disco during First Friday art walk in the front of Lithia Park, donations would happen on-site, proceeds benefit APF



Daytime silent disco  
pop –up events in other  
Ashland parks sponsored  
by APRC with proceeds to  
benefit APF. This would  
be a scaled-down  
version.

Movies in the Bandshell  
sponsored by APRC  
with proceeds to  
benefit APF.



Questions?

