

City of Ashland  
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION  
**LISTENING SESSION**

Notes

January 24, 2019

**ATTENDEES**

**Present:** Commissioners Landt, Lewis, Director Black; Parks Superintendent Oxendine; Analysts Cottle and Kiewel

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Gardiner called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. at Senior Center Grove 1699 Holmes Ave, Ashland, OR.

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

• ***Japanese Garden Design in Lithia Park***

According to the sign-in sheet 16 Ashland residents attended the Japanese Garden Listening Session held on January 24, 2019. The following is either a compilation of statements made or a synthesis of questions and/or concerns.

Questions and concerns

- Would it be shortsighted to remove the trees?
- Could we have access to the arborist's report?
- Will the cherry trees have enough light?
- What about the security of the garden?
- How will the enclosed garden be accessed? Will the gate discourage people from entering the garden?
- What are the times when the garden would be closed?
- What is the plan for maintenance and how will the additional maintenance be paid for?
- Will admission be charged?
- What are the provisions for keeping people safe within the enclosure?

Comments and opinions included the following:

- Appreciation for the design's authenticity
- A tremendous opportunity for a beautiful garden
- Keep the design as it is
- Donor said that keeping the trees would not be a deal breaker
- The cherry trees will be beautiful
- The design should not be messed with
- The bamboo will eventually be of equal value as the firs
- 10 firs are still a nice stand of trees
- Taking out the firs makes sense to accommodate the garden
  
- Consider moving the garden to accommodate the trees
- The trees are part of Ashland's heritage (and should remain)
- Consider moving the bamboo garden closer to the wisteria
- Consider moving the garden upslope
- Plan doesn't meet the criteria of the Parks Commission as stated on website

- There should be harmony between the two cultures
- Contact the boy scouts to let them know that the trees are going to be removed
- Do the Master Plan first?
- Removing the trees will affect the roots of all of the trees – not just the two that would be removed
- We are disrupting the ecosystem – large conifers capture carbon

## **ADJORNMENT**

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 7:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Betsy Manuel, Assistant

The Notes are not a verbatim record. Narratives have been condensed and paraphrased to reflect the discussion as described by APRC staff notes.