

MINUTES
ASHLAND PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION
Current Parks, Conservation, and Maintenance Subcommittee
December 10, 2019
Lithia Cabin 340 S. Pioneer

Present: Commissioner Lewis, Bell; Director Black; Superintendent Oxendine; Tech III Minica Tech III Miller; Assistant Sullivan

CALL TO ORDER

Lewis called the meeting to order at 2:03 p.m.

Sullivan noted that the City of Ashland has directed all Committees to post recording to the website for the public to access. Action Minutes for meetings where audio recordings are posted are acceptable.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Current Parks, Conservation, and Maintenance Subcommittee – August 12, 2019

Motion: Lewis moved to approve the minutes from August 12, 2019 as presented. Bell Seconded.

Vote: The vote was all yes

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Open Forum

Joanne Eggers of Ashland inquired about the rock planter bed that has a plaque referencing the Rotary Club. Eggers stated that since this memorial has been in place for over 30 years, this would be an opportune time to retire it. Eggers stated a desire to see the number of plaques in Lithia Park decreased.

Oxendine responded that this memorial is considered historical in nature and will be maintained. A special variety of Japanese Maple was originally planted in the location and has since deetiolated due to a lack of irrigation. There are plans in place to repair the irrigation and replace the tree with the same variety.

Eggers also inquired about how APRC is incorporating the values of the City of Ashland's Climate and Energy Action Plan into Capital Improvement Projects and Maintenance. Lewis stated that the last item on the agenda will address this question.

BUSINESS

Standard Memorial Request (Action)

Sullivan presented on the request from Jill Estes to dedicate a bench to Kyle Estes (see memo included in the [meeting packet](#)). The bench will be located within the Nature Play Area at North Mountain Park.

Motion: Bell moved to approve the request as presented by staff. Lewis Seconded.

Vote: The vote was all yes

Standard Memorial Guidelines Update (Action)

Sullivan reviewed the memo on this item included in the [meeting packet](#). Staff requested amendment to the Standard Memorial Administrative Procedures Document to add guidelines for benches located on sports courts.

Motion: Lewis moved to include guidelines and listed costs for sports courts benches in the Standard Memorial Procedures. Seconded by Bell.

Vote: The vote was all yes.

Organic Land Management Update (Informational)

Oxendine gave a verbal report on Organic Land Use Management Activities. The update included the following items:

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- Staff met with Chip Osbourne of Osbourne Organics and participated in the Organic Land Management practices training
- Osbourne was invited to the Golf Course to discuss potential opportunities for introducing organic land management practices at the golf course on test plots(s)
- Osbourne is willing to move forward with the test plot(s) in the Spring
- Staff will work on identifying specific areas to use as test plot(s)
- There would be no cost for APRC

Current Sustainability Measures (Informational)

Oxendine gave a verbal report on current sustainability measures. The update included the following items:

- Staff is working on the possibility on converting Clay Street Park to TID for irrigation purposes
- Maintenance staff is testing electric powered smaller equipment such as weed eaters and blowers. City maintenance crews are also testing equipment. APRC & the City have identified some issues with using electric equipment versus gas powered equipment.
 - The output for electric blowers is less, requiring more time to complete tasks
 - Electric tools are more expensive
 - The time of use is lower than gas powered equipment.
- Electric technology is improving, but not applicable on a large scale at this time
- Lewis stated that before committing to new technology, equipment should be tested and evaluated to ensure the replacement is feasible and does not impact level of service
- Staff is working on Identifying high fuel use equipment and will review replacement options for those types of equipment
- Black stated that APRC is not moving forward with completely switching to all electric at this time. Authorization has been given to purchase some electric equipment for testing purposes. When replacing vehicles, it is necessary to consider electric power over gas powered equipment first.
- Bell stated that he sits on the City Climate Policy Committee and this committee is seeking a ban on gas powered two stroke engines, excluding chainsaws. The committee is also seeking a ban on natural gas-powered fireplaces in building codes
- Bell suggested reducing the level of maintenance for manicured areas as a means to introduce electric equipment in an effort to decrease green-house gas emissions
- Black stated that if the City moved forward with a ban on two stroke engines, the Commission would need to weigh in on the issue. Lewis suggested evaluating where the most fuel is used and identify avenues to reduce usage. Black stated that as technology and costs improve, APRC will look into phasing out gas powered equipment where feasible.
- Eggers spoke about the immediate need to move quickly to address the climate crisis and APRC should lead the way as an example to the community.
- Lewis reviewed a handout provided at a previous meeting which included opportunities to increase APRC sustainability practices (see [attachment I](#)). A discussion on various methods to better achieve sustainability ensued
- Black suggested establishing a formal role for APRC on the Climate Policy Committee as Bell was appointed as an individual
- Black directed staff to move forward with an inventory of gasoline use and determine impacts of a reduction in maintenance or changing out equipment. Black also stated that while APRC works to move away from fossil fuels, other practices to reduce the carbon footprint of APRC will be sought.

SET NEXT MEETING DATE / TIME / PLACE

The next meeting will be held on January 21, 2020 in the Lithia Cabin at 2:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 3:27 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Sean Sullivan, Office Assistant II