

From: Dan Van Dyke [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, November 17, 2020 9:46 AM
To: Sean Sullivan <sean.sullivan@ashland.or.us>
Subject: Public Testimony for November 18 Regular Meeting

To the Ashland Parks and Recreation Commission:

I am writing to request action on wildfire risk and park property, and to express concern about the poor rollout of the new Mace property. The issues are tied together for homeowners living near the new park.

You are considering the use of drones at your meeting this week. I think the use of drones during periods of high fire danger would be acceptable, especially if it facilitates a quick response to any evidence of smoke. But the use of drones alone is not enough. You and the city in general must make a commitment to do something about illegal camping and fire.

I will focus on the Mace parcel. A neighbor and I provided testimony earlier this year about the need for Parks to manage this property thoroughly and effectively from the start--knowing that how things start are how they end up. The exact opposite has taken place. I have not witnessed the presence of any park staff on the property, and the few signs that have been posted were placed slowly over summer AFTER people began developing habits of use. Just this morning I observed a jogger with an unleashed dog.

I am going to reiterate six stewardship actions that I requested already. I direct your attention to the last bullet below. Neighbors need a phone number to call if we see serious problems, something other than 911 obviously, but something that will lead to a response. Please be a good neighbor and adopt these actions.

The Mace park path and safety zone must be set at least 150 feet back from the creek. Auxilliary trails can lead down to the creek.

- The city must adopt and enforce a no camping policy on park property along Bear Creek. Campfires must result in immediate enforcement.
- There must be a police patrol of the Mace park property every night of the week to enforce no camping. This can be a simple bike patrol around midnight.
- Parks must have a line item in the budget to manage blackberries in the greenway extension to reduce wildfire risk
- Parks must have a line item in the budget for trash pick up throughout the year.
- ***There must be an after hours phone number available for residents to call to report problems especially after 5pm and on weekends for quick response.***