

MINUTES
ASHLAND PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION
Current Parks, Conservation, and Maintenance Subcommittee
January 21, 2020
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.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- Current Parks, Conservation, and Maintenance Subcommittee – December 10, 2019

Motion: Lewis moved to approve the minutes from December 10, 2019 as presented. Bell Seconded.

Vote: The vote was all yes.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Open Forum

None

BUSINESS

APRC/City of Ashland Coordination on the Climate and Energy Action Plan (CEAP) (Informational)

Discussion on this item included the following points:

Stu Green, from the City of Ashland Conservation Division stated that the CEAP has been adopted by Ordinance and is applicable to all City of Ashland and APRC activities. Black stated that APRC follows all requirements outlines in the CEAP, such as considering alternative fuels when purchasing vehicles.

Bell stated the goal of the Built Environment Subcommittee is to insert aspects of the CEAP into the City's Comprehensive Plan. Black clarified that once goals included in the CEAP are adopted into the Comprehensive Plan, the goals can then be implemented through the planning process for the general public.

Green stated that City of Ashland subcommittees working on conservation issues are still working through the process of how to implement the CEAP to the wider community. Black requested that information on proposals coming out of the subcommittees be communicated to APRC.

Black stated that an opportunity for collaboration between APRC and the City of Ashland could be on design practices that APRC is seeking to implement that would reduce the level of maintenance required and would therefore reduce energy consumption.

Bell inquired if there is a policy related to artificial turf. Black stated that there are no policies in place regarding artificial turf; however, using artificial turf is an option on APRC properties.

Green is planning on releasing a summary report in the spring detailing the activities of the Climate Division.

Black stated that a discussion at the next APRC Business Meeting could be held regarding a dedicated APRC position on the Climate Policy Commission and Bell's role in this process. Bell was appointed to this Commission by the Mayor as a private citizen.

Black stated that APRC will be in touch with Green regarding the pool construction project regarding reducing the use of natural gas.

Public Input:

Joanne Eggers of Ashland spoke regarding establishing an oak/riparian habitat as a non-manicured component of Ashland Creek Park.

APRC Fuel Consumption Analysis (Informational)

Black reported that the fuel consumption analysis is ongoing. The data that has been collected was not provided in a format that can be easily analyzed. Staff will continue to work with the data to bring back findings to the subcommittee. Black reported that fuel consumption has been reduced at the golf course.

Bell requested that natural gas consumption in facilities be analyzed. Green has this data and can provide it to APRC staff. Green stated that as facilities are retired, improved and constructed, an opportunity to reduce natural gas consumption becomes possible. Significant changes to use in existing facilities is limited.

Additional Sustainability Measures Discussion (Informational)

Oxendine reported that he received a questionnaire from Osbourne Organics as a first step in establishing the test plot(s) using organic maintenance practices. Staff is working on completing this and will submit it to Osbourne Organics so they can move onto creating a prescriptive plan for the test plot(s).

Bell inquired if there is a list kept of pollinator-friendly shrubs that can be used as a guide for plantings in parks, such East Main Park. Black stated that there is a list maintained by the Water Conservation Department. Oxendine will retrieve this list and send it out to the group for review. Black stated that the designer of East Main Park is being given direction to use planning principles that will reduce maintenance. Black invited Green to participate in the planning process for East Main Park, which may consist of an Ad-Hoc working group.

Minica stated that permits are in place to burn the piles created by the Lithia Park Hillside Fuels Reduction Project. Burning will start in March and will proceed until all the piles are burned or when burning season is over, whichever comes first.

SET NEXT MEETING DATE / TIME / PLACE

TBD

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 3:15 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted
Sean Sullivan, Executive Assistant