

**MINUTES FOR REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING  
ASHLAND PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION**

**October 13, 2021**

**Electronic Meeting – 6:00 p.m.**

Present: Commissioners Gardiner (Chair), Landt (Vice-Chair), Bell, Eldridge, Lewis; Director Black; Deputy Director Dials; Senior Services Superintendent Glatt, Analyst Kiewel; Manager Sullivan

Absent: None

This meeting was recorded by Rogue Valley Television (RVTV). Links to recorded meetings can be found on the [City of Ashland website](#).

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

APRC Study Session – September 1, 2021 and APRC Regular Business Meeting – September 8, 2021

**Motion:** Landt moved to approve the Minutes from September 1, 2021 and September 8, 2021. Seconded by Lewis

**Vote:** The vote was all yes

III. ADDITIONS OR DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA

None

IV. PUBLIC FORUM

None

V. CONSENT AGENDA

Item c was removed from the Consent Agenda to correct an error in the memo.

- a) Subcommittee Minutes Acknowledgment
  - Bee City USA Subcommittee – June 30, 2021
  - Ashland Senior Advisory Committee – July 12, 2021
- b) Ashland Senior Advisory Committee, Revisions to Bylaws

**Motion:** Landt moved to approve items a and b on the Consent Agenda. Seconded by Lewis

**Vote:** The vote was all yes

- c) Bee City USA Subcommittee, Member Appointment

Dials stated the motion to approve this item should have stated Katherine Jackson as the person being appointed to Bee City USA Subcommittee

**Motion:** Landt moved to approve item c as amended. Seconded by Eldridge

**Vote:** The vote was all yes

VI. DIRECTORS REPORT

Electric Mowers

- The three electric mowers Commissioners recently approved to purchase have arrived. We received one 74" and two 60" mowers. All three are zero turn
- The maintenance crews are getting acquainted with the mowers which are in use in Lithia Park, North Mountain Park and many of our smaller neighborhood parks. Runtimes are more than sufficient to use the mowers for an entire workday

Ice Rink tent is going up starting October 20

- It will take 2 ½ days to install. Key Manufacturing will be doing the install with support from Parks staff in Lithia. The ice rink is scheduled to open the week of November 15

North Mountain Park Soccer

- With the support of parks staff, the JV baseball field is being converted into a soccer field. Staff are currently removing surface material in the infield and leveling in preparation for addition of 100 yards of new material being delivered this week. The field should be ready sometime this coming spring

## Pickleball

- Pickleball resurface/permanent nets: All courts open, awaiting permanent post and nets from the manufacturer. Current update still shows 2 weeks out for the delivery of these items

## Japanese Garden Update

- A significant amount of granite boulders are being placed in the garden. There will be a more thorough update of the Japanese Garden project at the next business meeting

## Senior Services

- The Senior Services Division is hosting a Halloween Drive-Through for Seniors and their Families on Friday, October 29, 1-2:30pm.
- Senior Services is seeking more volunteers to expand access to the Ashland Senior Phone Buddy program. Interested volunteers should call 541-488-5342

## Community Volunteer Opportunity

- Saturday, October 23, 9-11 a.m. in Lithia Park., working alongside students from the Environmental Education Master's Program at SOU (Southern Oregon University) for a joint park beautification work party. Volunteers will remove invasive species, help with trail upkeep, remove trash and more. Tools, gloves, snacks, and guidance will be provided. All ages are welcome. After the event, the Environmental Education Master's Program students will lead an educational activity in the park. If interested, please do RSVP to ensure adequate supplies for all. For more info, and to sign up, please contact APRC Volunteer Coordinator Sulaiman Shelton at 541.552.2264 or [Sulaiman.shelton@ashland.or.us](mailto:Sulaiman.shelton@ashland.or.us).

## VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

### a) Say Their Names Collective – Artist Presentations (Information)

Black reviewed the [staff report included in the meeting packet](#) and introduced Jessica Freedman from the *Say Their Names Collective* (Collective) who will give a brief presentation and will introduce the artists who will also be presenting. The Collective is working on placing a permanent art installation in a park. The final selection of the artists will be carried out by the Collective with final design approval being handled by the Public Arts Commission and City Council. The presentations to the Commissioners tonight are for informational purposes. Commissioners will be asked to provide approval for placement of one of the two art proposals on APRC property at a future meeting. The locations under consideration are Railroad Park and Ashland Creek Park.

Freedman gave a summary of the process to date and what the next steps are, which include the following points:

- The community was invited to vote on the four proposals that were submitted to the Collective
- The proposals submitted by Micah Blacklight and Jerryck Murrey (AKA J. Roc) were selected by the community to move on to the next phase of consideration. Both artists will be presenting their proposals and preferred locations to the Commissioners
- The next step in the process is for a selection panel, created by the Collective, to choose which proposal will move forward. Ideally, a final decision will be made by this panel once the location has been approved so the art and the location can be considered together

Micah Blacklight, a local artist, teacher, and community member, presented on his proposal, which is a winged figure sitting before a tome entitled, *Ancestor's Future: Crystallizing Our Call* (right). The full presentation begins at [timestamp 15:03 in the recording](#) and is best experienced in the artist's own words.

- Blacklight presented [slides that include information on the proposal](#)
- Blacklight stated the area beneath the installation could be hardscaped to reduce landscape maintenance requirements
- Blacklight's preferred location for this installation is Ashland Creek Park
- Blacklight clarified that the structure, made of stainless steel, will not be damaged if people climb on it and would not present safety issues from sharp edges



Murrey, a local mixed media artist, presented on his proposal, which is to create a series of large-scale dominos oriented in a variety of positions serving as a focal point for community entitled, "Domino!" (right). The full presentation begins at [timestamp 41:00 in the recording](#) and is best experienced in the artist's own words.



- Murrey presented [slides that include information on the proposal](#)
- Murrey's preferred location for this installation is Ashland Creek Park
- Murrey clarified that the surface underneath the installation would be impervious
- Mass timber is the planned material for the installation that could be covered with a resin for additional protection
  - Landt raised a concern about the need for this material to be maintained over time and APRC may not have the expertise to do so
  - Murrey stated other materials can be explored

Gardiner stated that Ashland Creek Park looks to be the most viable location for a permanent installation. Commissioners stated support for a permanent art installation.

Freedman clarified that the next step is to form a selection panel that will vote on the proposal that will move forward. The latest the selection panel will be brought together is January 2022. That project will then be vetted through the Public Arts Commission process.

## VIII. NEW BUSINESS

### a) Wastewater Treatment Plant Outfall Relocation Project in Public Works Easement through Ashland Pond Property (Information)

Black reviewed the information included in the [staff report](#) and introduced Project Manager Kaylea Kathol, City of Ashland Public Works. Black clarified that the presentation tonight is to provide information on a Public Works project. Kathol [displayed slides](#) and gave a presentation that included the following items, some of which are covered in the [staff report](#):

- Public Works is completing engineering for a project to relocate the outfall of the Wastewater Treatment Plant from Ashland Creek to Bear Creek as required by state water quality regulations
- The new outfall pipeline will run under the access road/walking path that many people in the community use to access Ashland Ponds
- While this project will provide a net benefit to the environment and the community, there may be a negative public response over the reality that the pond must be temporarily drawn down to complete the project
  - The nature of the work will require dewatering from about late May 2022 through approximately February 2023
- Kathol presented three alternatives to complete this project:
  - Sluice - This alternative involves closing the pond intake, then opening the low-level outlet on the pond and sluicing its contents into Bear Creek. The timing would occur near the start of construction, sometime in late May of 2022
  - Pump - Under this alternative, the City would close the pond intake, then operate a screened diesel or gas pump to move water from the pond to either Bear Creek or the adjacent infiltration basin located to the north of the pond. The City would likely initiate pumping in late April or early May of 2022
  - Natural Drawdown - This alternative provides for utilization of natural seepage, evaporation, and evapotranspiration to draw down the water surface over many months. The pond intake would be closed in or around mid-October 2021 and gradual drawdown would occur through the end of May 2022. Some additional pumping may be needed right before construction starts
    - Public Works, in consultation with Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife, has chosen the Natural Drawdown alternative
- Kathol stated that the area will be signed, and other measures will be taken to inform the public of the project
- During active construction, the property will need to be closed. Safety measures will be taken when workers are not on-site to monitor the construction zone
- Kathol stated that it is unknown if the longer run of the outflow will result in a decrease in temperature of the effluent. Public Works is considering including a way to measure the temperature at the end of the outflow pipe
- Kathol confirmed that the riparian restoration project is still moving forward

### b) Calle Guanajuato Season Extension – Winter Use (Action)

Dials reviewed the information included in the [staff report](#). The following items were discussed:

- The current rental season on Calle Guanajuato ends on November 14, 2021. Both the Lithia Artisans Market and all but two of the current restaurants with seating on the Calle are interested in extending their season through the end of 2021
  - Those restaurants are: Mix, Greenleaf, Oberon's, Louie's Bar and Grill, Little Tokyo, La Briccolla and Skout
- The Lithia Artisans Market is interested in utilizing the space they have occupied all summer season on the Calle Guanajuato, the hard spaces in front of Lithia Park, the space in front of the Community Development building as well as the Parking Lot
- All renters will be responsible for moving all items on Calle Guanajuato in the event of a flood
- Black noted that work has been done on Calle Guanajuato to reduce the likelihood of flooding on the low end
- Bell suggested looking into the feasibility and demand for renting outside space year-round
- Dials noted that the staff recommendation included in the staff report has been changed as follows:

*“staff is recommending that APRC extend the season through December 31, 2021 for any current Calle Guanajuato lessees and charge the current rates of \$8/\$5/\$5.50 per square foot, pro-rated for one-month of rent based on the current site plans submitted for the 2021 season. APRC would also require liability insurance, a waiver and a flood plan for removal of equipment, chairs and tables be in place by November 15<sup>th</sup>.”*

**Public Input:**

Marcus Scott, Artisans Market Manager, thanked the Commissioners for being flexible with the length of the season and extending the area where artisan booths are allowed to set-up. Scott spoke in support of the staff recommendation.

**Motion:** Landt moved that APRC extend the season for Calle Guanajuato through December 31, 2021 for current lessees and charge the current rates of \$8/\$5/\$5.50 per square foot, pro-rated for one-month of rent based on the current site plans submitted for the 2021 season. APRC would also require liability insurance, a waiver and a flood plan for removal of equipment, chairs and tables be in place by November 15. Seconded by Lewis.

**Discussion:** Landt stated the rental fees for the extension are not being charged at full price, which is reasonable, and that lessees paid only 3 months for the previous 8-month season because APRC would like to support local businesses through a difficult time. Gardiner stated that prior to COVID, restaurants did not want to be outside year-round. Bell reiterating the suggestion of looking into the feasibility of renting space out year-round. Landt raised a concern about the need to use propane heaters if the space is used through the entire winter and that season extensions are being approved as a stopgap measure to deal with COVID.

**Vote:** Vote was all yes

IX. ITEMS FROM COMMISSIONERS/STAFF

None

X. UPCOMING MEETING DATES

- a) Recreation Division Advisory Committee — October 14, 2021
  - Electronic Meeting—4:00 p.m.
- b) APRC Study Session — November 3, 2021
  - Electronic Meeting—6:00 p.m.
- c) APRC Regular Business Meeting—November 10, 2021
  - Electronic Meeting—6:00 p.m.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted  
Sean Sullivan, Business Operations Manager