

MINUTES
ASHLAND PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION
Current Parks, Conservation, and Maintenance Subcommittee
June 3, 2021 – 2:00 p.m.
Electronic Meeting

Present: Commissioners Bell, Lewis; Director Black; Supervisors Casale, Miller; Analyst Kiewel; Assistant Sullivan

Absent: Supervisor Minica

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Lewis at 2:00 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Current Parks, Conservation, and Maintenance Subcommittee – January 12, 2021

Motion: Bell moved to approve the minutes from January 12, 2021. Seconded by Lewis.

Vote: The vote was all yes.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None

BUSINESS

Non-Standard Memorial Recommendation (Action) – Background information included in packet

Sullivan reviewed the request outlined in the [staff report](#) to install a bench that would remain a permanent amenity, which is what makes this request fall under the non-standard memorial category. on the recently acquired Cynthia Lord property. A 1x4 inch plaque would be installed with the inscription below. A donation of \$5,000 would be made to establish the memorial.

John & Jean Sully

They spent their lives working on nature's behalf,

As noble a mission as we can imagine.

Louise Mintun and Bob Palzer spoke in favor of recommending approval for the memorial bench.

Motion: Lewis moved to approve the

Vote: The vote was all yes

Standard Memorial Approval (Action) – Background information included in packet

Sullivan reviewed the request outlined in the [staff report](#) to install a plaque on an existing table and an existing bench, both in Lithia Park. The inscriptions on the plaques are as follows.

Request 1:

A true & trusted friend

to all who loved him

Michael James McClain

Request 2:

Charles CB Brent

Sullivan reported that both requests meet the guidelines of standard memorials and that staff recommends approval.

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

Vote: The vote was all yes.

Greenhouse Gas Reduction Options (Information) – Background information included in packet

Black stated the recently approved CIP budget included \$150,000 for infrastructure that will reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The Current Parks, Conservation, and Maintenance Subcommittee was charged with reviewing proposals on how these funds should be spent and that final approval will be made by the Parks Commission.

Black added that battery powered hand tools, such as string trimmer and leaf blowers, do not perform well enough to replace gas powered equipment across the board and that technology is likely to advance in the coming years, which would allow APRC to move in the direction of transitioning away from gas powered hand tools. Staff has put together information, included in the [staff report](#), on larger ticket items that could be purchased to meet the goal of greenhouse gas reduction.

Sullivan reviewed the details in the [staff report](#), which included the following:

- Replace gas powered mowers with electric mowers
- Partner with the City of Ashland to install EV Charging Stations
- Replace gas powered heating systems with electric HVAC systems
- Explore opportunities to install solar arrays on APRC buildings

Discussion included the following points:

- Sullivan clarified that the mowers can be fully charged overnight using a 240 outlet
- Sullivan stated the mowers will be loaned to APRC to test them for a week in late June
 - Lewis suggested taking the purchase of the mowers to the full commission if staff finds the performance acceptable after the 1-week test period
- Lewis suggested researching the feasibility of switching out the gas-powered utility carts with electric models for future procurements
 - Black clarified that APRC has 3 electric utility carts currently in use and that the gas/diesel powered utility carts could be replaced if there are electric replacements that offer similar performance, such as towing capacity
- Black clarified that APRC currently utilizes electric blowers and string trimmers where feasible, but there are battery and functionality issues that would make it difficult to fully switch to electric hand tools at this time
- Sullivan clarified that the staff report does not include quotes for HVAC replacement. There is data in the staff report detailing facility size as well as annual expenditures for electricity and natural gas.
 - Bell suggested getting quotes to replace the HVAC systems at the Senior Center and Golf Course Pro Shop
 - Lewis suggested replacing the oldest systems first, which are likely the least efficient. Bell agreed with this method
 - Black stated staff will look into getting quotes
- Lewis stated the best suited areas on APRC properties should be identified for the placement of solar arrays, which may not be on the roofs of buildings
- Bell stated the City of Ashland primarily purchases hydroelectric powers which would make the value of reducing greenhouse gas emissions through the installation of solar arrays relatively modest and that the focus should be on replacing HVAC systems and maintenance equipment
 - Lewis suggested that the region would benefit from APRC installing solar arrays since that would free up hydroelectric power for other users secure and that the City of Ashland has installed solar arrays. Lewis added that cooperation with the City of Ashland on installing EV charging stations is also beneficial and should be pursued

The discussion moved to specific about the pool design which included the following points:

- Black clarified that the pool design team is looking into additional heating options that will be presented to the Parks Commission at a future date. Black added that the design team will also be looking at reducing the size of the pool as an option to present to Commissioners

Set next meeting date

The next meeting was tentatively set for June 29, 2021 at 2:00 p.m. If the evaluation for the mowers is not complete the meeting will be rescheduled.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 2:59 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Sean Sullivan, Executive Assistant