

MINUTES FOR REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING
ASHLAND PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION
November 9, 2022
Electronic Meeting – 6 p.m.

Present: Commissioners Landt (Chair), Lewis (Vice Chair), Bachman, Eldridge: Director Black; Senior Services Superintendent Glatt; Analyst Kiewel; Manager Flora, Business Manager Sullivan

Absent: Commissioner Bell; Deputy Director Dials

I. CALL TO ORDER

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

APRC Special Business Meeting – October 5, 2022

Motion: Bachman moved to accept the minutes as presented. Seconded by Lewis

Vote: The vote was all yes

APRC Regular Business Meeting – October 12, 2022

Motion: Eldridge moved to approve the meeting minutes from October 12. Seconded by Lewis

Vote: The vote was all yes

III. ADDITIONS OR DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA

None

IV. PUBLIC FORUM

Cat Gould of Ashland displayed images of birds found in the Ashland Pond area and spoke in favor of enhancing habitat there. Gould stated that there are Eagle Scouts who are willing to volunteer to create nesting boxes and other enhancements. Gould asked if the pond will be deepened and if so, this would be a good opportunity to potentially create an island in the pond to serve as a refuge for birds.

Black stated that staff will investigate this to determine if and when the pond will be drained and if there are plans to deepen the pond and/or construct an island

Alex Krause of Ashland stated he is working on his community service project to attain the level of Eagle Scout and is willing to work in improving the bird habitat at Ashland Ponds

V. DIRECTORS REPORT

Black provided the following updates.

- Business Meetings will be held in Council Chambers starting December 7, 2022. It has yet to be determined if Study Sessions will be held in-person or via Zoom.
- Over two thousand people toured the Japanese Garden on October 22 at the grand opening event. This was a great event for the community and for everyone who worked on the Japanese Garden.

VI. BUSINESS

a) Major Maintenance / Rehabilitation of the Pool for Current Operational Needs (Action)

Black stated that Daniel Meyer Pool is reaching the end of its functional life. Repairs are ongoing to keep the pool operational. Black introduced Manager Flora reviewed the [information included in the staff report](#), including the following points:

- The issue being brought to Commissioners is to address the critical rehabilitation of the pool for day-to-day operations
 - The proposed rehabilitation is not a long-term solution and is not a substitute for a full replacement of the pool, which is still moving forward
- Photos of existing damage to pool liner and tiles were displayed which are a safety concern to users
- A stock photo of a cross section of a pool was displayed to help illustrate the issue, which is water leaking between the liner and the concrete form. Left unchecked, the liner will continue to fail and will eventually leak through the concrete form
- Photos of insulating blanket or pool cover were displayed showing the deteriorated state it is in. The blanket has reached end of life and no longer meets safety standards
- The estimated cost to replace the blanket and pool liner is \$100,000. Replacement reduces the risk of critical failure which could result in closure and will allow the pool to remain operational while funding for the long-term replacement or rehabilitation is secured

Black provided following additional information:

- The pool liner replacement would be \$61,000 - \$62,000 based on the latest quote received with the rest of the \$110,000 spent on replacing the insulating blanket
- These two items are necessary to continue operating the pool. If these replacements are not made additional repairs will need to be made and it becomes more and more likely that the pool will become non-operational
- The warranty of the liner is 10 years
- Staff is expecting that full pool replacement is at least 2-5 years away from now
- Replacing the blanket will reduce energy costs to heat the pool
- The money for a project like this can come out of the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP). There is a line item in the CIP for Daniel Myer Pool with money set aside that is currently available

Discussion

- Eldridge inquired what other potential maintenance needs are foreseen over the next 5 years
 - Flora stated a consultant recently inspected the facilities and reported that it would be possible to slightly revamp the circulation system, otherwise there is nothing else that is expected to fail. The boiler requires ongoing maintenance, but nothing that will need a full replacement and is still functional at this time
- Black clarified that the cost of the liner includes installation of the liner by an outside contractor
- Flora clarified that the lifespan of the insulation blankets is approximately 7 – 8 years. The current blanket is well beyond that lifespan
- Bachman stated that if \$100,000 can get us through the planning process and installation of the new pool, this seems like a reasonable expense
- Flora clarified that it is likely installation will occur in the fall of 2023 (based on the availability of the company that provide the quote). It is possible that another contractor replies to the Request for Proposal with the ability to do it quicker
- Black stated it is difficult to determine if the pool can be opened over the summer. It is wholly dependent on how much the liner deteriorates over the winter (it is used over the winter)

Motion: Bachman moved to approve an expenditure up to 100,000 to replace the liner and the cover, contractor, and final details to be determined. Seconded by Lewis

Discussion: Bachman stated that it seems that the pool is rapidly deteriorating and will become less and less available for use and that these replacements will bridge the time between now and a full replacement/remodel. Bachman hopes that it can be completed prior to Fall 2023. Lewis stated municipal pools are extremely important to communities and this will limp the pool along until a full replacement can be realized. Eldridge stated if we can find a vendor that can do it earlier, that would be desirable and suggested that staff look into the possibility of partnering with the YMCA to allow the general public to use their pool if the Daniel Meyer Pool closed for an extended time prior to the replacement of the liner and blanket. Black responded that this has been attempted in the past and was not successful but does not mean that it cannot be tried again if the need arises.

Vote: The vote was all yes

b) Parks and Open Space Map Subcommittee Update (Information)

Black [displayed a draft map](#) that has been developed by the subcommittee. Landt outlined the work of the subcommittee by reading the following statement.

The Parks & Open Space Comprehensive Plan Map is before this body again to give the process a wider audience.

The existing Map is the product of a past effort of APRC and City Council who approved the existing Map and ultimately approves any changes to the Comp Plan.

In an effort to match the Map to existing financial realities and the Comprehensive Plan goals, and to honor the goal of 10-year review, APRC has undertaken the Comp Plan Map review.

The Parks & Open Space Sub-Committee, made up of members of the community Eric Hansen, Katie Larsen, Torsten Heycke and Joanne Eggers, along with Commissioner Eldridge and myself, have determined that a significant number of acres, approximately 261, can be removed from the Map without compromising Comprehensive Plan goals, most of which have been met or practically speaking met, including the goal of a park within a quarter mile of all residents. The Map before you reflects that sentiment of being able to decrease the acreage.

The Sub-Committee will meet again, and next year a public open house will be organized to give the public a more hands on view of the proposed Map changes.

After the Sub-Committee reviews the input from the public open house and makes appropriate modifications, the Map changes and narrative will go to APRC Commissioners for review and approval. After approval the Map changes will be forwarded to the Planning Department for the beginning of the City process that hopefully will end with City Council approval.

I look forward to this process and completing a successful, fiscally responsible review of the Comprehensive Plan Map.

Discussion

- Black clarified that the purple properties were on the previous plan and are currently identified for a possible recommendation to remove them from the map. Landt clarified that the property identified as G on the map, has been developed
- Landt clarified there are a few properties identified for possible recommendation for addition, identified with hatch marks
 - Landt stated that not very many properties are identified as additions because enough of the properties that were identified in the 1980's have been acquired to bring the Ashland parks system to where it is now, with little need for expansion
 - In the 1980's, Ashland had less parks per capita than Medford, Roseburg, and Klamath Falls. Ashland now has acreage per capita than those towns and the parks have been spread throughout Ashland in an equitable way
 - Other additions could include easements for trail connectivity/expansion
 - Landt clarified that the public meetings will be planned after the next meeting of the subcommittee
- Eldridge stated that the large white space to the right of the map is intended to house more text about specific properties

VII. ITEMS FROM COMMISSIONERS/STAFF

Eldridge asked about the process for onboarding the new Commissioner filling seat #4 in January and what the goal setting process will be

- Landt clarified that the new Commissioner will join the Commission in January and the goal setting process will begin in 2023
- Landt suggested being laser focused on goals because there are things that really need to be accomplished, which may mean having a smaller list than in the past. Landt added that any items left off the next goals list can be picked up again in the future. Landt called out the Lithia Park Master Plan as something that needs to be accomplished
- Eldridge inquired if is there a regular biennium review of accomplishments
 - Black stated there has not been a regular review of the goals for some time and staff will get back on a schedule to report progress on goals
 - Landt directed staff to report on this in December

Landt made the following statement and was subsequently supported by Commissioners to proceed with the path outlined in the statement.

As you are aware from today's email from Mayor Akins, she has reached out to me to discuss "next steps," since the results of the election will maintain the historic and somewhat unique relationship between APRC and the rest of the City. I welcome her outreach.

I envision a discussion that includes consideration of options for addressing the insurance and human resources issues that have been raised but that voters did not want to see managed via the radical approach of changing the City Charter and that I see best resolved by agreements, resolutions, and memorandum of understanding between APRC and the City.

Although no binding agreements or policy changes can occur between the two elected bodies without a vote of the five Commissioners and the City Council, I believe first exploring possibilities between the mayor and myself is a productive approach.

I am asking for your support in this exploratory effort that will hopefully lead back to the full Commission with strong options that will be a springboard for positive action.

VIII. UPCOMING MEETING DATES

- a) APRC Regular Business Meeting—December 7, 2022
 - Council Chambers—6 p.m.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 6:46pm

Respectfully submitted
Sean Sullivan, Business Operations Manager