

MINUTES FOR STUDY SESSION
ASHLAND PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION
September 7, 2022
Electronic Meeting – 6 P.M.

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

Absent: Commissioner Eldridge

This meeting was recorded and uploaded to the APRC YouTube Channel: <https://youtu.be/pPn1Dfaj48Q>

I. CALL TO ORDER

Landt called the meeting to order at 6 p.m.

II. OAK KNOLL GOLF COURSE IRRIGATION REPORT

Black displayed photos of the course and gave a presentation that included the following points (starting at 1:10 in the [meeting recording](#))

- City water (potable / culinary) is not being used on the golf course
- The TID water season ran from July 2 – August 19, there was residual TID water in the pond that was being used on the greens. That water will run out September 8
- The greens are not in good shape due to a lack of available TID water
- Revenue is falling – people are choosing to golf elsewhere. The numbers are not official, and Black will bring the numbers back to the Commissioners at a later date
- Some of the greens are in better shape than others when TID water was able to be used earlier in the season. The greens will require replanting to bring them back
- Filling the pond with city water would cost approximately \$18K -\$20K and would provide approximately 35 days of water for greens only. Black is presenting for information only and was not asking for a decision at the time of the meeting
- Previous direction from Commissioners was to not use city water on the golf course
- Black stated that staff has met with the superintendents of private golf courses to get input on how to bring the greens back if water is authorized for use

Landt suggested staff bring this item to Commissioner at the next business meeting to make so a decisions can be made on the greens. No objections were raised.

Black stated that he will also be providing information on the potential to put out a request for proposals (RFP) that would allow private entities to submit plans to manage the property

III. WILDLIFE SANCTUARY EDUCATIONAL INTERPRETATION

Dials displayed [maps on screen](#) and gave a presentation which included the following points:

- At the July 6, 2022 Regular Meeting the Commission directed staff to work on maps that outline specific areas to designate as Wildlife Sanctuary areas. Dials recommended not using the term wildlife sanctuary, because that kind of designation often comes with special protections and long term planning that is species specific and this is an educational endeavor. Wildlife habitat zone is being used on the draft maps and is subject to change
- New signs for the areas would be installed with the idea of educating users as to why certain rules are in place and how certain activities can have a negative impact on wildlife
- Draft maps of Riverwalk, North Mountain Park and Ashland Pond were displayed and potential sign locations were discussed
 - Landt suggested designating Rocky Top as a distinct, separate park since it is generally understood that North Mountain Park is dog free and yet we allow dogs in Rocky Top.
- Dials stated additional areas for review include Lithia Park and Siskiyou Mountain Park
- Black and Landt clarified that new rules would not be adopted. This program would be an educational program about existing rules
- Bell stated there are signs in Lithia Park that state dogs are not allowed, but they are not very prominent and should be made so in some areas such as the swim reservoir

Dials will continue working on this project and will bring it back to Commissioners at a later date

IV. BLUEBIRD PARK SEATING AND ALCOHOL IN PARKS – CALLE POLICY EXTENSION

Dials gave a presentation which included the following points:

- Staff presented a request to allow seating and alcohol sales in Bluebird Park on [July 13, 2022](#)
- At the July meeting, staff was directed to bring back additional information regarding the Calle Guanajuato Policy including the following
 - There are currently seven restaurants on the Calle that have a license agreement that can operate between 5-7 days per week. Hours of operation on the license agreement are 7am-10pm
 - Restaurants are required to obtain an OLCC license specific for their approved outdoor seating location that is submitted with their signed license agreement
 - Current licensees use as little as 100 sf up to 1300 sf depending on the approved area and location on the Calle
 - Season of operation is mid-March through Mid-November with a charge of \$8.00/\$5.00 per square foot.
- Staff is looking for direction from Commissioners on whether or not to continue moving forward on this request
- Dials clarified that the usable space is around 400 square feet total
 - Landt questioned this, stating the area that was marked seemed much smaller
 - Black later stated that this number needs to be confirmed
- Lewis stated that proceeding with this request would likely take a significant amount of resources for limited gain
- Landt stated that comparing this area to Calle Guanajuato is disingenuous. The Calle was a funky alley that has been recreated into a nice space. This area (Bluebird Park) is already a nice pocket park and is used as a respite area. Removing vegetation and setting up tables is not beneficial for the park
- Bachman stated there is not adequate space to make this a worthwhile endeavor

Public Input

A request to speak from an attendee of the webinar was made

Sean Mark Nipper of Ashland and owner of Local 31 Pub who made this request to staff spoke in favor of the use and stated that this will not only allow outdoor seating, it will also be a benefit to other restaurants by drawing attention to the area. Nipper added that increased use could reduce impacts from transients.

Discussion:

Black stated that Commissioners are not being asked to make a decision at this point but are being asked to provide staff direction on whether or to continue working on the request.

Staff was directed to verify the amount of space that is usable in the park. Bachman asked for clarification on what types of improvements would be made and what the cost would be to facilitate this use. Landt asked for clarification on who would pay for improvements and asked how much of the park is currently landscaped.

Landt suggested that staff provide information on the requested clarifications at the October business meeting and Commissioners could vote on the request at that meeting

I. ITEMS FROM COMMISSIONERS/STAFF

Bell reiterated the need for better signage regarding dog restrictions

Lewis stated the PlayGuide was recently released and it shows the amount of recreation opportunities APRC is providing.

Landt requested adding the Charter Amendment and Food and Beverage Tax Ordinance Referendum to the next business meeting agenda

V. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:02 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Sean Sullivan, Business Operations Manager