

MINUTES
ASHLAND PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION (APRC)
Trails Master Plan Review Subcommittee Study Session
May 2, 2022 – 10 a.m.
In Person Meeting – Lithia Park Butler Memorial Bandshell

Present:

COMMITTEE MEMBERS: APRC Commissioner Rick Landt, APRC Commissioner Leslie Eldridge, City of Ashland Councilor Stephen Jensen, Ashland Forest Lands Commissioner Luke Brandy, Jeffrey McFarland

APRC & CITY STAFF: APRC Director Michael A. Black, City of Ashland Fire Department Forestry Division Chief Chris Chambers, City of Ashland GIS Specialist Lea Richards, APRC Open Space Supervisor Jason Minica, APRC Executive Analyst Dorinda Cottle

Absent:

Ashland Forest Lands Commissioner Priscila Franco, Ashland Woodlands & Trails Association Torsten Heycke, David Chapman, Brooke Hansen, Rogue Valley Mountain Bike Association Member Casey Botts

[View recording of meeting](#)

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 10:12 a.m.

II. ADDITIONS OR DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA

Eldridge added an item:

- Input from the group on Trails Process (how trail proposals are reviewed, approved and designed) for the completed proposals/concepts from the Working Groups
 - Currently, the Wonder and Alice Working Groups have submitted proposals. The plan is to share the concepts with the Forest Lands Commission (FLC) to solicit feedback. The concepts do not include design, engineering or geology-review information. Ultimately, the trails will be built by special user groups, in partnership with APRC, who will provide this information
 - Jensen pointed out that the Trails Master Plan Review Subcommittee needs to codify the process so that there are clear steps for the trails process, and to ensure the process stays under APRC's purview
 - The subcommittee will look at the FLC Trails Application for ideas for an APRC Trails Application
 - At the next meeting, Eldridge and Landt will present a Trails Process draft that could potentially be codified by this Subcommittee
 - Landt pointed out that many of the trail building costs will be covered by the user groups; however, APRC would help to pay for special services. Black stated that the work would have to be prioritized. Jensen asked if TOT (Transient Occupancy Tax) dollars could be utilized. Black said that we could in Lithia Park
 - Eldridge will look into local races/events that could potentially bring in dollars for trails. Black stated that those dollars could potentially go through the Ashland Parks Foundation and be earmarked for trails in the Ashland Watershed
 - Richards pointed out that the Imperatrice property is not under the guidance of the FLC, so this property will require a separate process from the FLC review/feedback

III. PUBLIC INPUT

[Written comments](#)

Comments during the meeting – None

IV. IMPERATRICE UPDATE and NEXT STEPS

- Brandy presented a [cost/benefit worksheet](#) and [literature review](#) to look at the Grass Sparrow, the Southern Oregon buttercup and the Round Leaf Filaree
- Black shared that the property is still managed by the City of Ashland Public Works Department. The grazing permits on the property are still in place. Landt will get clarification from Public Works on the terms of the permits/lease agreement
- Black stated that the City of Ashland did a conceptual design for the property. The design is advanced, but still preliminary
- Black said the first item that needs to happen is APRC would work with Public Works and let them know that they would not be required to do maintenance on land that is being utilized for recreational purposes. APRC will need to clarify which sections of the property that Public Works may want to utilize in the future
- Landt pointed out that the management of this property would be high
- Jensen stated that if this area becomes a destination area, a plea could be made for TOT dollars for the property
- Brandy favors the proposal with conditions
- Landt pointed out that the Southern Oregon Land Conservancy should be more involved in the Working Group as a member of the group. They could potentially be an easement-holder and could raise money
- Jensen pointed out the group will need to look at land ownership for connectivity from Imperatrice up to Grizzly Peak. Brandy stated that the expansion of the Cascade Siskiyou National Monument not only included biodiversity, but recreational opportunities as well, and the connection to Grizzly Peak would be in line with that mission

Eldridge asked the group if there was any interest in the Acid Castles property as a point of connectivity for trails? Minica pointed out that there are a lot of illegal trails in this area. Eldridge asked if there was potential for the group to look at implementation of legal trails in this area, perhaps another Working Group? Black stated that the group may want to become a standing committee so that they can look at trails outside of the original proposal. Brandy pointed out that Acid Castles is not in the Forest Lands but will be added at some point.

V. ADJOURNMENT – Meeting Adjourned at 11:16 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Dorinda Cottle
APRC Executive Analyst