

City of Ashland  
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION  
Pool ad-Hoc Committee Meeting Minutes  
October 3, 2018

**ATTENDEES**

**Present:** Community Committee Members Risa Buck, Marc Heller, Mike Hitsky, Rebecca Kay, Susan Miller and Jocelyn Sanford; Commissioners Gardiner and Miller; Director Black; Recreation Superintendent Dials; Senior Services Superintendent Glatt; Parks Superintendent Oxendine; Recreation Manager Flora

**Absent:** Community Committee Member Gary Simms

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Director Black called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m. at the Ashland Senior Center, 1699 Homes Avenue. He said Pool ad-Hoc Committee members applied to serve through the City Recorder's office and were appointed by Parks Commission Chair Gardiner. Black said the mission of the Committee would be to review, at the Commissioners' request, a proposed three-phase construction process for a new pool.

**II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – None**

**III. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AND GUEST SPEAKERS**

**Citizen Carol Voisin** asked about the three-phased project. Black said the phases were identifying a need, identifying a plan if the need could be verified, then developing a strategy for funding the plan. Voisin advocated for a feasibility study to determine whether the Committee was warranted. Voisin said an Olympic-sized pool in that area would be difficult due to parking constraints and the adjacent Walker Elementary School. She hoped the immediate community could be invited to participate in the process. She said Daniel Meyer Pool (DMP) was a community pool for all ages but she acknowledged it needed upgrades. She said taxpayers couldn't afford higher property taxes.

**Citizen Gwen Davies** said there were continuing concerns about public awareness about meeting notices. She was not aware about the Pool ad-Hoc Committee. She pointed out that there were many unresolved budget, healthcare and PERS issues in the City. Davies said a lot of people had already expressed disinterest with a new pool as many citizens wanted DMP to remain a community neighborhood pool, not a place for big events or swim meets. She asked for a moratorium on new APRC projects until more information could be conveyed about current debt, the future of PERS and other dedicated funds for existing projects. She asked for an extensive public process to outline budget plans and prioritize spending.

**Citizen Nancy Boyer** asked who was on the ad-Hoc Committee and what groups they represented. She said she missed the notices about deadlines for applying even though she'd given her email to Ashland Parks and Recreation Commission (APRC). She asked if there were any neighbors on the Committee. Black said the Committee was formed at the Parks Commission business meeting of June 25, 2018.

**Citizen Pat Turner** said she agreed with Voisin, Davies and Boyer. She asked about criteria for serving and voiced surprise that former Ashland City Administrator Dave Kanner had applied and, despite his expertise, was not selected. Black said it was unfortunate that more people applied than seats were available.

#### **IV. ADDITIONS OR DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA**

Black said he would chair the first meeting and keep things moving so all agenda items could be covered. He said the group needed to elect a chair and vice chair but since everyone was meeting for the first time, those items could be handled at the next meeting. Black asked if anyone had objections; there were none. Black asked if anyone had additions or deletions to the agenda; there were none.

#### **V. UNFINISHED BUSINESS – NONE**

#### **VI. NEW BUSINESS**

##### ***INTRODUCTIONS***

- **Michael Black** introduced himself as the Director of APRC.
- **Rachel Dials** introduced herself as the Recreation Superintendent for APRC.
- **Mike Hitsky** said he previously managed a summer swim club for a community-oriented facility in Michigan and currently worked as an attorney.
- **Rebecca Kay** introduced herself as an active swimmer with an interest in refurbishing the Daniel Meyer Pool.
- **Todd Lantry** introduced himself as an active swimmer and Ashland High School Head Swim Coach. He said he was serving on the Committee as a liaison for the Ashland School District.
- **Mike Gardiner** introduced himself as the current Chair of Ashland Parks and Recreation Commission.
- **Risa Buck** introduced herself as a 27-year Ashland resident and a 26-year Daniel Meyer Pool swimmer.
- **Jocelyn Sanford** introduced herself as a physical therapist whose practice included aquatic physical therapy.
- **Susan Miller** introduced herself as an active swimmer and former USA swim coach in California.
- **Marc Heller** introduced himself as a chiropractor in the community and a year-round swimmer.
- **Lonny Flora** introduced himself as the Recreation Manager for APRC.
- **Mike Oxendine** introduced himself as the Parks Superintendent for APRC.
- **Matt Miller** introduced himself as a Parks Commissioner whose four-year term would expire on December 31, 2018.
- **Mark Welch** introduced himself as the City of Ashland Finance Director.

##### **a) Charge of the Committee**

Black said the Pool ad-Hoc Committee had a specific mission or charge. Once its purpose was accomplished, the Committee would be disbanded. Black said their charge was to look into: 1) needs or feasibility with regard to a new pool, 2) a plan for the need and 3) costs involved and how to pay for it (space, resources, cost to build, cost recovery).

Black said the Committee was formed by the APRC and any report generated from the Committee would be taken back to them. All the meetings would be held in the public view, with meeting agendas and notices posted on the City's website according to Oregon Revised Statutes. Toward forming Committee recommendations, Black said the group could form small subcommittees, with the subcommittees reporting their findings to the larger Committee. Black said the recommendations would be shared in public meetings and then directed to the full Parks Commission for review. Black said there would always be an opportunity for public comments at each meeting. Black said this was a working group and minutes would be taken at each meeting. Black suggested that every Committee participant join at least one subcommittee.

Black asked if there were any questions or comments. Buck asked if they would have an opportunity to brainstorm about their dream pool at some point. Black said brainstorming would be included in the process.

Black said the three steps outlined above would be taken in order, with the first step being 1) determining if there was a need. The "need" was a perceived lack of community pools in the area. Black said a Feasibility Subcommittee could be established to address whether there was actually a gap. He said in four or five years the DMP would not be able to continue operating considering its current and growing maintenance problems. Every year APRC spent more money on bigger fixes for the pool and APRC was noticing that the pool's lifespan might be coming to an end.

Dials said discussion had been circulating about replacing the pool in the same footprint. She said current major maintenance issues included tiles coming up, a malfunctioning boiler and a pump that failed in the 2018 season. Black said there were also soft spots in the pool that could lead to erosion. Dials said the pool building itself needed to be replaced and an HVAC system might be needed due to the smoky summers.

Black said trying to operate an outdoor pool with ongoing summer smoke was a challenge in terms of meeting the needs of the community while making ends meet.

Oxendine, a former SOU employee, said SOU had decided they were not going to repair their pool and a subset of stakeholders decided they didn't need the pool. Oxendine said if APRC chose to "band aid" the DMP for the next five years then that was possible but at some point it wouldn't be worth the expense of the repairs.

In terms of a needs assessment, Black said needs could be measured by national standards, community surveys and in other ways.

Flora said he had tracked summer usage since 2012. Over the years it became clear that more demands were being placed on the pool. He offered to provide hard numbers to show the growing need.

Lantry said that when the SOU pool closed, it was a hardship for Ashland High School and Phoenix High School because they'd used it for their workouts and swim meets. Thankfully, APRC was able to work together with the school districts and masters swimmers and had allowed them to utilize the DMP

during the off-season, with user groups paying for usage. Lantry said Phoenix and Ashland worked out at DMP but could not host any meets there so had to travel to Eugene or beyond.

Rebecca Kay said that while she agreed with everything being said, there would be an increase in traffic and parking concerns due to the narrow streets.

Black invited everyone to tour the pool.

#### **b) Tour of the Pool**

Black said he previously invited Myrtha Pools (a standard vendor for competition pools) to visit DMP and they indicated that gutter systems were no longer used. He said APRC staff laid out a 25-meter by 25-yard pool in the DMP area and felt a new pool could be kept in the same location. Black said it would be covered in the winter the same way the ice rink was covered. The pool would be shaped like an L and would provide a large flat area for grass. Black said the existing pool building walls had been insulated and a heater was installed. Black said there were additional restrooms 25 feet away.

Flora pointed out that over past years, tiles had popped up and contractors had come in to reset them after draining the pool. Flora said the tiles were an ongoing issue due to the age of the pool. In terms of safety, Flora said the tiles had sharp edges and grout had cut some swimmers' feet in the past. It was asked whether the nearby pine tree would have to come out; Black said it was in a location where it was probably in the way.

Black said the pool was 40 years old. The pool building was well constructed but an analysis would have to be conducted.

Flora said another maintenance concern was light fixtures that did not work and were hazardous.

Flora showed the pump room and said it included a \$5,000-dollar Chemtrol thermometer that had been used to monitor chlorine, PH and pool temperature but was no longer in use. Dials said one of the requirements when operating the pool from June through the end of August was the need for certified pool operators. Currently APRC had two CPOs on staff. Dials said CPOs visited the pool every day of operations and checked chemical levels. In the off season with the leased groups, Rogue Valley Masters had several CPO-certified members who assisted with the task.

Black said the relationship to the Senior Center was important. Dials said she and Flora had discussed a covered pathway from the back door of the Senior Center to the pool. Glatt asked if the cover was meant to have sides; Black said yes. Glatt said a warm therapeutic pool would be beneficial for seniors.

Heller asked if the pool was ADA accessible. Black said there was a lift and the pool could not be operated without it.

It was suggested that Black include a community neighbor on the Committee. Black said it was a good point and he would speak to the Commissioners about it.

### **c) Roundtable Discussion**

Black suggested another subcommittee for outreach strategies. The subcommittee could start by looking at the existing feasibility analysis and needs assessment for the area, including Medford. Black said the subcommittee would consist of no more than three voting members and a few staff to work on assessing the needs analysis, gather information and make a recommendation to the Committee on how to proceed with the next step. Black said there was no budget for the Committee and any funding requests would have to go through him. He could make a recommendation to the Parks Commissioners if funding were needed during the ad-Hoc Committee process. Black said if they decided to do a CIP project, they could use CIP funds. Black said he would not allow the fact that there was currently no budget to stop the Committee members from making recommendations. When asked who conducted the needs analysis, Black responded that it was the City of Medford. Black said if the study showed a lack of area pools in 2010 or 2014, that was likely still the case.

Black asked if they had any volunteers for the Feasibility Subcommittee and Rebecca Kay, Todd Lantry and Susan Miller agreed to serve. Black asked Flora and Oxendine to serve as staff support, with Black and Dials on reserve as needed.

It was suggested that large stakeholders such as SOU be invited to participate in the process. Black agreed and suggested including that on the next agenda.

In terms of a timeline, Black said it depended on Committee members' availability and how quickly they could move forward. Black said if the Feasibility Subcommittee could get together soon and prepare a report for the next meeting, that item could be checked off the list. If it came down to hiring professionals to handle the needs analysis, the project would have to wait until the new biennium.

Black said by summer 2019 they would know the direction they were going and have a funding strategy. Black said the Ashland Parks Foundation could be considered as a funding tool for the pool.

Black asked for a motion to create a Feasibility Subcommittee as discussed earlier.

**Motion:** Miller moved to approve the formation of a Feasibility Subcommittee to include Todd Lantry, Rebecca Kay and Susan Miller; Gardiner seconded. Discussion: none. Vote: all yes.

### **IV. SET FUTURE MEETING DATE**

It was stated that Susan Dyssegard would send out a poll to help decide the next meeting date and time. Black said they might want to discuss any other necessary subcommittees at the next meeting.

### **V. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Anna Wysocki, Temp Office Assistant  
Ashland Parks and Recreation Commission