

City of Ashland
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
Regular Meeting
Minutes
July 23, 2018

Present: Commissioners Gardiner, Landt, Lewis, Miller; Director Black; Superintendent Dials; Executive Assistant Dyssegard; Assistant Manuel

Absent: Commissioner Heller; City Council Liaison Mayor Stromberg

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Gardiner called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. at Council Chambers, 1175 E. Main Street in Ashland.

APPROVAL OR ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF MINUTES

Lithia Park Master Plan, June 15, 2018—acknowledged

Commissioner Landt said he submitted changes to the minutes as follows:

Was:

Landt talked about the eastside slope and its sensitivity to changes in the climate. Native plants do not thrive there and other ideas for vegetation in the area would be helpful. He asked the MIG consultants to look at the Grants Pass Parkway in terms of its single zone plantings. Landt advocated for similar plantings, stating that the vegetation seemed to thrive without irrigation.

Changed to:

Landt talked about the eastside slope and its sensitivity to changes in the climate. Native plants are struggling there and other ideas for vegetation in the area would be helpful. He asked the MIG consultants to look at the Grants Pass Parkway in terms of its plant selections that are found one zone hotter than locally. Landt advocated for similar plantings, stating that the vegetation at the Parkway was thriving without ever having been irrigated.

Landt noted that the change was subject to acknowledgement rather than approval.

Regular Meeting, June 25, 2018

Motion: Landt moved to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes as presented. Lewis seconded.

The vote was all yes.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

- *Open Forum*

Leslie Gore of 92 Church Street in Ashland, OR, was called forward

Gore reported on a July 1 incident that occurred at 8:00 a.m. on the tennis courts in Lithia Park. She and her friends had been playing tennis regularly there for approximately three years but on that day, a pickleball player came onto the courts with equipment and disrupted the tennis. When asked to leave, the person declined, as did his fellow players. Gore stated that her tennis game had been drawing to a close but they chose to disrupt the game rather than wait for it to end. She voiced support for pickleball but said she was concerned that as the sport grew, there might be continued conflicts. She stated that she wanted to make APRC aware of the issue and lack of civil discourse. Gore advocated for dedicated pickleball courts as a possible solution to overcrowding on tennis courts.

Landt directed staff to find a way to resolve the issue and to propose a plan for any future conflicts if possible. He suggested that staff problem-solve to ensure that court rules were adhered to and incorrect assumptions were addressed. If the issue could not be resolved internally, Landt asked that the matter be brought forward to the Commissioners for further review. He noted that, oftentimes, conflicts happened due to misunderstandings.

ADDITIONS OR DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA

There were none.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was none.

NEW BUSINESS

a. Bike Polo Special Event Amplification Request (Action)

Dials introduced Eric Michener of the Rogue Valley Bike Polo Club, noting that he had requested amplification for the 3rd annual bike polo event proposed for Saturday September 1, 2018, and Sunday, September 2, 2018. Set up for the event would be handled the day before (Friday) and take down would occur on Monday morning.

Dials said the group was once again asking for exclusive use of tennis courts #5 and #6 at Hunter Park. The actual event would be held on Court #5, with Court #6 utilized for team registration, equipment staging and court access.

Dials said the Club asked for flexibility in choosing dates for the event, depending upon the air quality in September.

Eric Michener of the Rogue Valley Bike Polo Club was called forward.

Michener thanked the Commissioners for approving the prior year's event and said it was successful. He explained that they would prefer an open-ended request with the flexibility to change the dates for the event should the air quality become unhealthy. If it was necessary, one week's notice to do so was deemed sufficient and postponing the event by a couple of weeks might allow for cooler, healthier air.

Michener also requested amplification for the event. He noted that the event would no longer host food vendors, thereby simplifying the request to APRC.

In response to a comment by Dials, Michener noted that the previous year approximately 70 people attended, with some turned away because of the limited venue. This year the intent was to facilitate approximately 50 players. He stated that each player participated in all of the games and assisted with setup and tear-down as well. Attendees included players from Seattle, Salt Lake City, France and Australia.

In response to a question by Lewis, Dials noted that APRC had approved the dates specifically and that no complaints had been received because of prior amplification. She stated that there were no other events slated for the month of September and APRC would be able to accommodate a flexible schedule. She stated that the request was reasonable given the unique circumstances in terms of air quality.

Gardiner inquired about whether the amplification would be the same as in previous years. Michener replied in the affirmative. Gardiner also asked about food vendors. Michener replied that although APRC had approved vendors last year, the event became a potluck instead, with no vendors used. He stated that it had worked well and this year organizers planned to provide a local BBQ.

Landt asked about previous complaints regarding lack of court availability and about the feasibility of using only one court rather than two. Michener replied that the second court provided room for referees and spectators as well as access to courts.

Motion: Lewis moved to approve the request for a bike polo special event to be held on a flexible date. Miller seconded.

Landt proposed a friendly amendment, stating that staff should be given discretion to determine an alternative date if needed.

Gardiner asked about the advanced notice needed to inform the public about the event and any rescheduling that might occur. Dials noted that little notice was needed for cancellation and approximately two weeks would probably suffice for rescheduling.

Landt stated that according to his understanding, staff would have the discretion to say no to use of the courts if adequate notice was not given.

Motion: Lewis moved to approve the request for a bike polo special event to be held on date to be determined or as requested. Rescheduling the event would be at staff's discretion once adequate notice was received. Miller seconded.

The vote was all yes.

b. S-PAC Committee Member Approval (Action)

Black noted that the Senior Program Advisory Committee (S-PAC) had been created and approved by the Commissioners in February 2018. He said "S-PAC" had become the officially adopted name for the Committee.

In a previously held business meeting thereafter, the Commissioners approved four citizen Committee members of which two were community members and two were participant members. Black announced that one position remained open with one candidate submitting an application. Black recommended approval of the application – stating that the applicant would fit the position very well as a community partner. The applicant was Anne Bellegia and she had also participated in the Ad-Hoc Senior Advisory Committee. Black indicated that she had served as Executive Director of OLLI at SOU and had extensive experience serving seniors. With her appointment, the S-PAC roster would be complete.

Landt advocated for approval, stating that Bellegia would be a great addition.

Motion: Landt moved to appoint Anne Bellegia to S-PAC. Lewis seconded.

Discussion of Motion

Gardiner asked about the term of service for the position. Black proposed a three-year term – indicating that there were currently two members serving 1 ½ years and two members serving three years. Bellegia's appointment would provide the overlap needed for staggered appointments.

Gardiner proposed the term of three years as a friendly amendment.

Motion: Landt moved to appoint Anne Bellegia to S-PAC for a three-year term. Lewis seconded.

The vote was all yes.

SUBCOMMITTEE AND STAFF REPORTS / ITEMS FROM COMMISSIONERS

a. Ad-hoc Pool Subcommittee

Black announced that preparations were underway to advertise for volunteer members of the Ad-hoc Pool Committee. He stated that APRC had received several inquiries and it was hoped that there would be a number of interested applicants. Black noted that the applicants would be presented at APRC's next regularly scheduled business meeting.

b. Air Quality

Dials reported that the current unhealthy air quality was affecting APRC's recreational programs, with the Daniel Mayer Pool particularly hard hit. She said it was currently closed due to heavy smoke and noted that air quality was being monitored daily for signs of improvement. Dials reported that programs might need to be shortened or cancelled if air quality did not improve. She stated that if the pool could be reopened, staff might be assigned shorter hours to limit exposure to the elements. Dials emphasized that it was important to be sensitive to health risks for employees and participants alike. Masks were provided to staff and program participants upon request.

Gardiner asked about a threshold for monitoring the air quality. Dials replied that staff used the EPA color coded system. When air quality was in the red, the pool was closed. For yellow and orange, the visibility of the pool was assessed and a determination was made depending upon the effect of air quality on staff.

Lewis advised that the Alrnw.org website detailed the exact number of particulates in the air.

Landt stated that it seemed that there were more and more air quality issues affecting Ashland throughout the years. He suggested placing a field house on the parking lot list for discussion during goal setting. Landt indicated that such a facility would be expensive but it would provide a place for Ashland residents to recreate when the weather was inclement or air quality was poor.

Black agreed, noting that goal setting work would begin in November and December for the next biennium.

c. Staff Report

Black stated that he had been working with the School District on a maintenance Memorandum of Understanding. He relayed that the document was currently under review and might possibly be on the agenda for the August business meeting. Black noted that the agreement would be retroactive to July 1, 2018, as would the fee structure.

• Trails Master Plan Update

Gardiner reported that with former Interim Parks Superintendent Jeff McFarland's retirement, he intended to appoint McFarland to the Trails Master Plan Update Committee as a citizen member. He stated that the Master Plan was nearing completion and might come before the Commissioners for approval at the August meeting. He also noted that Jason Minica would be taking over McFarland's position as Interim Parks Superintendent and would continue to be the Committee's liaison.

UPCOMING MEETING DATES

- S-PAC Meeting, August 13, 2018 @ Ashland Senior Center, 1699 Homes Avenue—3:00 p.m.
- Study Session, August 20, 2018 @ The Grove, 1195 E. Main Street—5:30 p.m.
- Regular Meeting, August 27, 2018 @ Council Chambers, 1175 E. Main Street—7:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Betsy Manuel, Assistant

These Minutes are not a verbatim record. The narrative has been condensed and paraphrased at times to reflect the discussions and decisions made. Ashland Parks and Recreation Commission Study Sessions and Regular meetings are digitally recorded; the recordings are available upon request.