

**MINUTES FOR REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING  
ASHLAND PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION  
June 8, 2022  
Electronic Meeting – 6 p.m.**

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

Absent: None

This meeting was recorded by Rogue Valley Television (RVTV). Links to recorded meetings can be found on the [City of Ashland website](#).

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

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

**II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

APRC Study Session – May 4, 2022

**Motion:** Bachman moved to approve the minutes from May 4, 2022. Seconded by Lewis.

**Vote:** The vote was all yes

APRC Regular Business Meeting – May 11, 2022

**Motion:** Lewis moved to approve the minutes from May 4, 2022. Seconded by Eldridge.

**Vote:** The vote was all yes

**III. ADDITIONS OR DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA**

None

**IV. PUBLIC FORUM**

None

**V. CONSENT AGENDA**

- a) Subcommittee Minutes Acknowledgment
  - [Current Parks, Conservation, and Maintenance Subcommittee – December 7, 2021](#)
  - [Ashland Senior Advisory Committee – March 14, 2022](#)
  - [Trails Master Plan Review Committee – April 14, 2022](#)
  - [Trails Master Plan Review Committee – May 2, 2022](#)
- b) Ashland Senior Advisory Committee Member Appointment

**Motion:** Eldridge moved to approve the consent agenda. Seconded by Lewis.

**Vote:** The vote was all yes

**VI. DIRECTORS REPORT**

Black reported on the following items:

- The Senior Services Division's collaboration with the Britt Festival returns this year with a Britt Fellows Concert at the Senior Center on June 14 at 7:00pm and a fieldtrip to the Britt Festival on June 17, with bus transportation leaving from the Senior Center
- The Daniel Meyer Memorial Pool will open for the season next Tuesday June 14
- Registration is open for the 46th Annual 4th of July Run. Two routes will be offered, a 10K and a 2-mile fun run. This event benefits in part the Ashland and Phoenix High School Cross Country Teams
- The Lithia Park Guided Walks will start for the season on Thu, Jun 9 and continue each Thursday and Saturday morning through the end of September. The walks are led by volunteers and offered at no charge

## VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

### a) Oak Knoll Irrigation – Use of Culinary Water (Possible Action)

Dials referenced the [staff report included in the meeting packet](#) which included the following points:

- At the May 11<sup>th</sup>, 2022, Regular Business Meeting, Commissioners unanimously voted in favor of suspending the watering of Oak Knoll Golf Course with culinary water
- The board of the Talent Irrigation District is scheduled to make a decision on the amount of water that will be made available on June 13
- There is an existing pollinator garden that was recently established outside of the club house that is being maintained by volunteers. This area is currently being hand watered. Staff would like to install a drip irrigation system
- Staff is seeking permission to use culinary water to maintain the landscape surrounding the club house, including the pollinator garden
- This area would be irrigated using the clubhouse meter and would not require using the golf course irrigation system
- Staff stated that it may be necessary to irrigate the golf course to mitigate the threat of wildfire under certain conditions and would like permission to use culinary water for this purpose

Landt read a suggested motion that differs from the potential motion included in the staff report for Commissioners to consider making:

*Move to approve the use of culinary water to maintain current conditions around the Oak Knoll Golf Course clubhouse including the pollinator garden. Use of culinary water is also approved for an extreme fire event as determined by staff. Commissioners will be notified as soon as possible after an event is declared.*

## PUBLIC COMMENT

Jim Hatton of Ashland read a [prepared statement](#) that was also submitted for the record.

**Motion:** Bachman moved to approve the use of culinary water to maintain current conditions around the Oak Knoll golf club house, for weekly use of a drip irrigation line for Oak Knoll golf club house pollinator garden and in the event of an extreme fire event as determined by staff with the Commission to be notified of the use of water as soon as practical. Seconded by Bell.

**Discussion:** Bachman stated that when the motion was previously passed to suspend watering Black stated there could be unintended consequences and Bachman was not thinking of the area around the club house and that clearly in the event of a fire emergency it would be prudent to use culinary water.

Bell stated that the clubhouse should meet Firewise conditions and water should be available to fire fighters when needed. Black clarified that in a fire event, the irrigation system could be turned on to help slow or stop a fire that could move through the golf course and that city water is always available to fire fighters.

Bachman stated a willingness to amend the motion to read verbatim to what Landt read earlier.

Lewis stated that there are trees on the property that would likely die if they were not to be watered and would like to see watering newly planted trees as an approved use culinary water. Dials stated that the APRC arborist continues to check trees on the golf course, and some are currently being watered with water bags. Black reiterated that trees are being watered and sees the intent of the motion as direction to not use culinary water to keep the golf course playable because the expense is too high.

Landt suggested making a separate motion to direct staff to use their discretion to water trees throughout the whole park system. Black noted that there are no standing orders for a specific park aside from using culinary water for golf course lawns and suggested that there is not a need for a motion for the rest of the park system. Landt stated that trees at the golf course should be treated like any other tree in the park system. Bell stated that since the main purpose of the property is for golf, if culinary water is going to be used, it should be used to maintain the greens and other areas to make the course playable.

Bachman and Bell agreed to withdraw the motion on the table.

Landt stated the following: Oak Knoll is more than a golf course. It is a walking area and is used like a park in many ways other than golf. There is a need to protect trees at the golf course similar to any other park. They provide a carbon sequestering service and should be kept alive.

Eldridge stated the reason there is a standing order for this property and no others is because of overwatering that occurred and caused concern among Commissioners and that the intent of the motion passed in May was to avoid the level of watering that occurred last season.

**New Motion:** Landt moved to approve the use of culinary water to maintain current conditions around the Oak Knoll Golf Course clubhouse including the pollinator garden. Use of culinary water is also approved for extreme fire event as determined by staff. Commissioners will be notified as soon as possible after an event is declared. As with the rest of the parks in our system, staff is directed to use their discretion to water trees and Oak Knoll Golf Course as well. Seconded by Eldridge

**Discussion:** Lewis stated that he would like to have a future discussion on how to respond to proposals from golfers to keep greens and tee boxes alive.

**Vote:** The vote was all yes

Black stated that TID should be available soon and the golf course will be immediately irrigated once TID is made available. Black clarified that the loss of water in the pond was not due to negligence. It is an old system and pipes do break and are then repaired by staff.

## VIII. NEW BUSINESS

### a) Review of Committees and Subcommittees of APRC (Possible Action)

Black referenced the [staff report included in the meeting packet](#) and made the following points:

- Black clarified that staff was not looking for action at the meeting
- The staff report lists the existing nine subcommittees that APRC supports and provides expertise for
- It is becoming more apparent that the lack of staff is affecting what can be accomplished and time is becoming more of a valuable resource, and something has to give
- The Intent is to look at which committees can be reorganized which could include freezing, consolidating, or moving to an as needed meeting schedule
- Discussion on APRC committee structures occurred and it was determined that this item will be further reviewed and brought back to Commissioners at a future meeting

Landt announced the membership of the Parks, Trails and Open Space Map Update Subcommittee and also made the following points

- This will not a long-term process
- Landt stated that recommendations should be able to be brought back to Commissioners in August
- Names of appointees: Katie Larson, Eric Hansen, Joanne Eggers, Commissioner Eldridge and Commissioner Landt

## IX. ITEMS FROM COMMISSIONERS/STAFF

Bachman reminded Commissioners that City Council is meeting on June 14 to wrap up the City Manager's budget recommendations. Landt noted that he will be out of town on this date and encouraged other Commissioners to attend.

## X. UPCOMING MEETING DATES

- a) APRC Study Session—July 6, 2022
  - Electronic Meeting—6 p.m.
- b) APRC Regular Business Meeting—July 13, 2022
  - TBD—6 p.m.
- c) Bee City USA Subcommittee—June 30, 2022
  - Electronic Meeting—9:00 a.m.
- d) Recreation Division Advisory Committee—June 16, 2022

- Electronic Meeting—4:00 p.m.

## **XI. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 6:54 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted  
Sean Sullivan, Business Operations Manager