

MINUTES FOR REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING
ASHLAND PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION

September 23, 2019

Council Chambers, 1175 E. Main Street

Present: Commissioners Gardiner (Chair), Landt (Vice Chair), Bell, Heller, Lewis; Director Black; Recreation Superintendent Dials; Parks Superintendent Oxendine; Senior Services Superintendent Glatt; Manager Flora; Analyst Kiewel

Absent: City Council Liaison Mayor Stromberg

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

APRC Study Session – August 19, 2019

Motion: Landt moved to approve the Minutes from August 19, 2019 as provided by staff. Heller Seconded.

Vote: The vote was all yes

APRC Regular Meeting – August 26, 2019

Motion: Landt moved to approve the Minutes from August 26, 2019 as provided by staff. Bell Seconded.

Vote: The vote was all yes

PUBLIC FORUM.

Brian Almquist of Ashland spoke regarding support for Lincoln School playground. He also stated that the parks look better than they have in a long time.

Melissa Mitchell-Hooge of Ashland spoke regarding Lincoln School playground. She would like to see an Inter-Governmental Agreement with APRC and the Ashland school district to keep Lincoln school playground a public park. Please see attached public comment.

David Subia of Ashland spoke regarding the Golf Course being a site for a new swimming pool.

ADDITIONS OR DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA

None

CONSENT AGENDA

1. Subcommittee Minutes Acknowledgment
 - Current Parks, Conservation, and Maintenance Subcommittee, June 17, 2019
 - Pool Ad-Hoc Subcommittee, August 7, 2019

Motion: Landt moved to approve the Consent Agenda. Lewis Seconded

Vote: The vote was all yes

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

2. **Pool Ad-Hoc Committee Recommendations (Action)**

Rebecca Kay and Matt Miller from the Pool Ad-Hoc Committee presented ([see Attachment I](#)). The presentation included the following points:

- A brief history of pools in Ashland.
- With the closure of SOU pool Daniel Meyer Pool has had increased usage.
- Repairs are increasing due to the age of the pool.
- Conducted an Aquatic needs analysis and held listening sessions in Feb and Mar 2019. Community desires were a 25 x 25-yard pool to accommodate more activities, activities for all age groups and limiting the cost for Ashland tax payers.
- Site Analysis considered several locations and determined that the current Daniel Meyer Pool site is the best option.
- The Ad-Hoc Committee is recommending replacing the current Daniel Meyer Pool with a new outdoor 25 yard x 25 meter pool at the current location. Recommendations also include a warming pool and ADA access.
- The Committee gave supplemental recommendations including that the pool be operational year-round.
- Matt Miller read the following to be added to the final recommendations
 - A recent survey of Oregon aquatic facilities shows that 89 of the 104 cities in Oregon with a population of 4,000 residents or larger have access to a year-round public pool within 30 minutes of driving. Ashland, with a population of 20,733 residents, does not. In fact, there is no year-round public pool in the Rogue Valley. For comparison, Astoria, with a population of 9632, has four year-around public pools; Madras, with a population of 6552, has three year-round public pools; and La Grande, with a population of 12,999, has two year-round public pools. Corvallis and Albany, with populations of 56,224 and 52,007 respectively, are separated by only about 10 miles and both have indoor, year-round aquatic facilities with 50-meter pools and additional recreational pools.

Flora reviewed the staff report including in the [meeting packet](#).

Public Comment

Paul Rostykus spoke in support of an aquatic facility in Ashland and stressed the importance of children learning to swim.

Glenna Stilles spoke representing Water Polo. She stated there is nowhere to compete in Ashland and must travel for matches. Spoke in support of a new pool and would like to see it double deep to accommodate more activities.

Mary Downs spoke about being a youth swimmer in Ashland and the hardships of having practice late. Spoke in support of a new pool.

David Subia spoke in support of an indoor pool facility at a different location closer to the freeway. Thinks the current location is too crowded. Suggested the Golf Course would be a good location for a new indoor pool.

Pam Dows is a swim coach with Superior Swimmers and feels there is enough interest in Ashland for a competition pool.

Celeste Marokus spoke in support of a community pool. She spoke to the benefits of swimming and that it is a multi-generational activity.

Brandon Ross spoke about swimming as a life skill and a multi-generational sport. Spoke in support of a new facility.

Harry Ross spoke about being a Water Polo player and is in support of a new facility. Discussed that it is a hardship to practice late.

Mark Heller thanked APRC for keeping aquatics going in Ashland after the closing of the pool at SOU. He spoke to the current condition of Daniel Meyer Pool and is in support of the Ad-Hoc Committee recommendations.

Discussion on the topic included the following points:

- Bell asked about funding regarding the recommendations for a new pool. Black mentioned funding will be discussed at the next meeting.
- Heller spoke about the importance of other community stake holders including SOU and the Ashland School District. Black discussed that this recommendation would be replacing a community pool for APRC.
- Lewis asked for clarification about a double deep pool. Miller explained that this is a type of pool that is deep at both ends.
- Landt asked is we had a CIP budget for the DMP project. Black explained that the Daniel Meyer Pool is an approved CIP project and funding sources will be discussed at the next meeting.

- Heller asked about timeframe and Black said this would be discussed at the next meeting.

Motion: Landt Moved to accept the recommendation of the Pool Ad Hoc Sub Committee with changes including adding number three to include the information regarding other Oregon cities under assessment and changing the supplemental recommendation number two to B. Heller Seconded.

Vote: The vote was all yes

The changes made to the recommendation per the motion are reflected in [Attachment II](#).

3. Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Annual Review (Information)

Oxendine presented a yearly update to the IPM (see [Attachment III](#))

The presentation included the following points:

- Parks Operations is focused on healthy urban forests, mulching, and mechanical trimming.
- Recently acquired battery powered equipment including blowers and trimmers.
- The APRC Volunteers Program had 6,014 volunteer hours of weed pulling for the 2018/19 year.
- Parks staff have tested some Organic Materials Review Institute (OMRI) listed products. There are still risks associated with organic pesticides. Currently staff is limited to only using OMRI listed products.
- Invasive species are a concern on APRC properties.
- Discussed current IPM exemption areas including the North Main entryway for staff safety, North Mountain Park Sports Fields, and Oak Knoll Golf Course.
- New innovations - Audubon Credential for Oak Knoll Golf Course, Ashland Creek Park Fleur de Lawn test program, Organic land management program test sites, composting, and propagation programs.

Discussion on the topic included the following points

- Landt discussed that in 2011 when the IPM policy was created it did not address healthy soil and should be explored further.
- Black mentioned using the new innovations at Ashland Creek Park as a test site.
- Bell asked if we have used corn cloth instead of black plastics. Oxendine said we have not used corn plastic, but discussed that organic plastics break down into smaller pieces and this can be problematic.
- Black mentioned the IPM Policy will be discussed at a future meeting.

ITEMS FROM COMMISSIONERS/STAFF

Landt asked for an update regarding the Trails Master Plan. Black said it would come back to the Commission in October.

Landt asked if APRC could get a report regarding the status of the Community Center repairs from the City. Black stated he would bring that information back to the Commission.

Black will give the Commission an update regarding the Lincoln School Playground regarding discussions with Ashland School District.

Dials mentioned applications for the Recreation Division Advisory Committee (RDAC) are being accepted until Oct. 15, 2019 5:00 pm. Dials announced the Bear Creek Salmon Festival will be October 5at North Mountain Park.

Gardiner updated the Commission regarding the art installation of the Japanese Lantern from Terry Doyle. Installation will be before next June and a new location was selected which still meets the guidelines of the Commissions approval.

UPCOMING MEETING DATES

4. Ashland Senior Advisory Committee – October 14, 2019
 - Ashland Senior Center, 1699 Homes Ave—3:30 p.m.
5. Golf Course Subcommittee – October 8, 2019
 - Oak Knoll Golf Course, 3070 Hwy 66—2:00 p.m.
6. APRC Study Session—October 21, 2019

- The Grove, 1195 E. Main St, Ashland – 5:30 p.m.
7. APRC Regular Meeting—October 28, 2019
- Council Chambers, 1175 E. Main St., Ashland—7:00 p.m.

EXECUTIVE SESSION (pursuant to ORS 192.660(2)(e))

The executive session was called to order at 9:09 pm . the executive session adjourned at 9:17 pm.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 9:17pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Tara Kiewel
Administrative Analyst