

ASHLAND PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION

340 S PIONEER STREET • ASHLAND, OREGON 97520

COMMISSIONERS:

Rick Landt
Jim Bachman
Justin Adams
Jim Lewis
Stefani Seffinger



Leslie Eldridge
Interim Director
541.488.5340
AshlandParksandRec.org
parksinfo@ashland.or.us

STAFF MEMORANDUM

TO: Ashland Parks and Recreation Commissioners

FROM: Leslie Eldridge, Interim Director

DATE: November 2, 2023

SUBJECT: CONSENT: Subcommittee Minuets, RDAC New Committee Member Approval, Approval of Alice in Wonderland Mountain Bike Trail Reroute

Four items need acknowledgement for consent for November 8, 2023:

1. Trails Committee Minutes 5.15.23
2. RDAC Committee Minutes 8.17.23
3. RDAC new committee member approval
4. Approval of Alice in Wonderland Mountain Bike Trail Reroute

Possible Motion

I move to acknowledge the consent agenda.

Attachments

Trails Committee Minutes 5.15.23
RDAC Committee Minutes 8.17.23
RDAC New Member Approval Memo
Approval of Alice in Wonderland Mountain Bike Trail Reroute Memo

ACTION MINUTES
ASHLAND PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION (APRC)
Trails Master Plan Review Subcommittee Meeting
Thursday, May 15, 2023
Lithia Park Cabin, 340 S. Pioneer St
2 - 3:30 p.m.

Present:

COMMITTEE MEMBERS: APRC Commissioner Rick Landt, APRC Commissioner Leslie Eldridge, City of Ashland Councilor Eric Hansen, Ashland Forest Lands Commissioner Priscila Franco, Ashland Forest Lands Commissioner Luke Brandy, Brooke Hansen, David Chapman, Rogue Valley Mountain Bike Association (RVMBA) Member Casey Botts, Ashland Woodlands & Trails Association Torsten Heycke

APRC & CITY STAFF: Michael Black, Chris Chambers, Lea Richards, Jason Minica, Jeff McFarland & Sean Sullivan

Absent:

Michael Black

[Audio Recording of meeting](#)

I. Call to Order

Landt called the meeting to order at 2:05

II. Approval of Minutes

a. [Trails Master Plan Review Subcommittee June 2, 2022](#)

Motion: Eldridge moved to approve the minutes as presented. Seconded by Botts.

Vote: The vote was all yes

III. Additions or Deletions to the Agenda

Landt stated that at the last meeting Chapman reported he needs to step down as a member of the subcommittee. Since that time, Chapman's situation has changed and will remain a voting member of the subcommittee.

IV. Public Input

Egon Dubois of Ashland stated he is a trail user and requested that the committee consider ensuring access for uphill mountain bike riders and pedestrians. Dubois' full statement is included on the recording of the meeting.

V. Election of Chair and Vice Chair

Heycke nominated Eldridge for Chair. Seconded by Franco. The vote was all yes

Chapman nominated Landt for Vice Chair. Seconded by Franco. The vote was all yes

VI. "Wonder Bailout" Trail Updates / Official Name

- The trail construction was carried out by Earth Works and is now complete, but still closed to the public until the trail can be properly signed for safety
- Eldridge reviewed the [trail proposal process](#) and noted that this proposal went through this process
- Eldridge stated the proposed name for this trail is Wasabi and will need to be approved by APRC Commissioners. The name, Wasabi, was chosen through a contest managed by RVMBA
 - It was noted that there are two trails, and it could be confusing if there is only one name. A possibility would be to use "Upper" or "Lower"
- Heycke stated that traditionally trails were named through a process managed by the Forest Lands Commission and sometimes names have been rejected. It was determined that the naming process will be moved over to the trails committee who would make a recommendation to APRC for final approval. Further refinement of this process will be necessary
- It was determined that the trails will not be officially designated with a difficulty rating, but there could be signage that uses general descriptors such as "easiest", "hardest: "caution", etc.

Motion: Hansen moved to recommend to APRC to name the new trail Wasabi with the distinction of Upper and Lower Wasabi. Seconded by Eldridge.

Vote: The vote was all yes.

Eldridge noted that Hansen is the new Council Liaison and McFarland is no longer a voting member because he is working part time for staff.

Eldridge noted that new bylaws will be presented to the subcommittee in the future as part of the process of forming a standing committee.

VII. Updates on Property Acquisition for Trail Connectivity

APRC recently purchased the Palen which is the missing link to maintain legal use of the Alice in Wonderland Trail

VIII. Update on Alice in Wonderland Ridge Trail

Adjacent property owners would like the unauthorized sections of Alice in Wonderland to move onto the existing legal easements located. The new pedestrian alignment is now open. The new mountain bike alignment needs to be completed. It was noted that adjacent property owners would like to explore moving the bike alignment further downslope from the existing easement. APRC staff will explore the process of changing the easements if the property owners will allow bikes on the existing route in the meantime. Heycke will communicate this to the property owners

IX. Potential Future Projects and Priorities Discussion (including existing or the formation of new working groups)

Working groups can be proposed by any member. The majority of the group would determine if the proposed working group covers trails that are a priority for the community. The group can be comprised of four or less voting committee members. It was also noted that outside groups can still submit requests for new trails/alterations to existing trails through official [trail proposal process](#) and the subcommittee will review those as they come in, which may require the formation of a working group. The proposed working groups from the subcommittee were as follows:

- Heycke proposed the creation of an Alice Ridge Working Group
- Eldridge proposed Siskiyou Mountain Park Working Group
- Hansen proposed the Glenview/Lithia Hillside Working Group
- Chapman proposed Imperatrice Working Group
- Chapman proposed an Acid Castle Working Group

The subcommittee members ranked their top choices and turned them into staff to tally. Eldridge will send out the results and call for volunteers to participate in the working groups.

X. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 3:32 p.m.

Respectfully submitted
Sean Sullivan, Business Operations Manager

MINUTES
ASHLAND PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION
Recreation Division Advisory Committee (RDAC)
August 17, 2023 4:00 p.m.

In-person meeting at Lithia Cabin 340 S. Pioneer St. Ashland, OR 97520

Present: Committee Members: Commissioners Lewis and Bachman, Members Grimm and Buck

APRC Staff: Deputy Director Dials, Recreation Manager Flora

CALL TO ORDER

Grimm called the meeting to order at 4:00p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Buck moved for approval of the June 15, 2023 RDAC minutes. Lewis seconded. All in favor.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None

BUSINESS

Discussion of Nature Center -Short Term and Long Term (Deputy Director Dials & All)

Dials updated the committee regarding the current staffing at the Nature Center. We have one staff member (Jen Aguayo) who is running the Nature Center and site maintenance. We are down one full time position at the Nature Center. **Dials** gave the history of the positions at the Nature Center. Prior to COVID, the Nature Center had three-full time staff. 1 Manager, 1 Coordinator and 1 office assistant. The Office Assistant position was laid off during COVID and was never refilled. Currently, 1 office assistant position is shared between The Grove, Senior Center and Nature Center.

The committee suggested that a presentation be done to the Commission that reminds them what positions were lost. A "Past, Present and Future of staffing" presentation.

Update on the Grove

Flora reviewed the upcoming schedule for use of the gym in the Grove. The Grove gym continues to be a popular venue for a variety of classes and used by a number of organizations including the Senior Center, OLLI programs, and private instructors.

Members discussed the impact of City of Ashland Utility Billing Office occupying the Otte-Peterson classroom which was previously used for recreational programs requiring a classroom setting.

Other Items from Committee Members

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 5:27p.m. Next meeting will be October 19 at 4pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Rachel Dials & Lonny Flora
APRC

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STAFF MEMORANDUM

TO: Ashland Parks and Recreation Commissioners
FROM: Rachel Dials, Deputy Director
DATE: November 2, 2023
SUBJECT: RDAC Member Appointment (Action)

There is currently a vacancy on the RDAC committee left by a resignation last year. One of the duties of the APRC Chair is to appoint members to APRC established committees.

Sophia Blanton submitted her application (attached), and the committee has recommended her. Sophia is an Event Planner and is heavily involved with Rogue World Music.

A motion to approve the Consent Agenda would adopt the following motion for this item:

I move to acknowledge the appointment of Sophia Blanton by the Chair of APRC to the RDAC committee.

APPLICATION FOR APPOINTMENT TO CITY COMMITTEE/COMMISSION

Please type or print answers to the following questions and submit to the City Legal Department at City Hall, 20 E Main Street, or email melissa.huhtala@ashland.or.us. If you have questions, please feel free to contact the City Recorder at 541.552.2084.

Attach additional sheets if necessary.

Name _____

Requesting to serve on: _____ (Committee/Commission)

Mailing Address _____

Physical Address _____

Occupation _____ Phone: Home _____

Work _____

Email _____

Fax _____

1. Education Background

What schools have you attended? _____

What degrees do you hold? _____

What additional training or education have you had that would apply to this position?

2. Related Experience

What prior work experience have you had that would help you if you were appointed to this position?

Do you feel it would be advantageous for you to have further training in this field, such as attending conferences or seminars? Why? _____

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STAFF MEMORANDUM

TO: Ashland Parks and Recreation Commissioners

FROM: Leslie Eldridge, Interim Director

DATE: November 8, 2023

SUBJECT: Approval of Alice in Wonderland Mountain Bike Trail Reroute

With the recent APRC purchase of the “Palen” property, a continuous public route for the Alice in Wonderland trail has finally been achieved with a combination of city land and legal easements on two private properties. The existing Alice trail is scheduled to be closed-off to public access in January 2024 and two new separate single-track trails for bikes and pedestrian/equestrian have either been built or are planned for completion.

The new pedestrian trail alignment was built Spring 2023 by the Ashland Woodland and Trails Association (AWTA) and is now open to hikers. A new mountain bike trail alignment has been proposed by the Rogue Valley Mountain Bike Association (RVMBA).

On October 10, 2023, the Trails Subcommittee voted to approve the Alice in Wonderland bike trail reroute as presented in the accompanying map. Later the same day (Oct 10, 2023), the Forest Lands Management Advisory Committee also voted to approve the trail alignment.

APRC staff has been working with RVMBA and private landowners to prepare for the trail build, which will be completed with volunteer labor on Nov 11 and Nov 18, 2023.

APRC has agreed upon the following specifications for the trail build on public land.

2013 Geology Report - Recommended Mitigations for Trail Design/Construction:

11-1-2023

1. Construct the new bike trail within the 15’ easement corridor.
2. Construct the new segments of trail by hand.

3. Cut as little vegetation as possible to retain root strength and reduce potential for surface erosion/slope failures.
4. Where possible construct trail above trees and brush species.
5. Place log cribbing where side slope gradients exceed 65% and/or severe erosion or tension cracking occurs.
6. If tension cracks develop in soils in or along the trail fill slopes, utilize 5% bentonite clay mixed with on-site soils to seal soil cracks.
7. Out-slope proposed trails from two to four percent, unless erosion or old landslide headwalls occur below.
8. Utilize slight up and down undulations in trails to help direct water away from the most severely eroded sites.
9. Pile existing and cut brush in steep draws or eroded areas below the new trail and drain away from steep slopes above old slope failures as much as possible.
10. Drain water away from steep slopes above old slope failures as much as possible.
11. Place tree limbs and/or angular rock at switch back corners and below drain off areas to dissipate energy of surface flows.
12. It is recommended that trail gradients not exceed 20% slope on either trail.

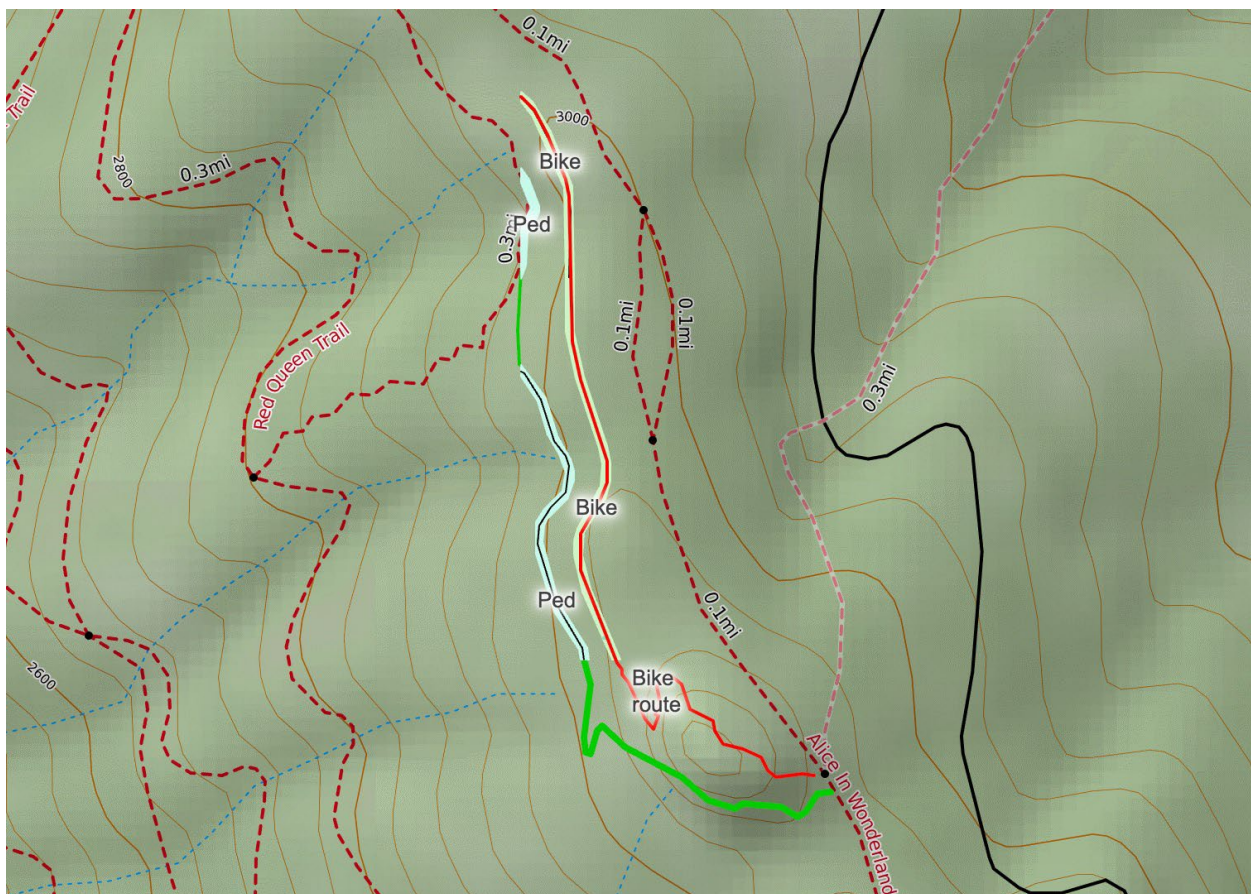


Figure 1. Existing pedestrian re-route (green) alongside proposed MTB reroute (red).