

City of Ashland
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
TRAIL MASTER PLAN UPDATE COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
June 2, 2017

PRESENT: **Parks Commissioners:** Mike Gardiner and Jim Lewis
 Additional Committee Members: David Chapman, Stephen Jensen, Jim McGinnis
 City and APRC Staff: APRC Director Michael Black; Division Chief-Forestry Resource Chis Chambers; APRC Interim Parks Superintendent Jeffrey McFarland

APRC Minute-taker: Betsy Manuel

ABSENT: **Committee Members:** Luke Brandy, Torsten Heycke
 City Staff: GIS Analyst Lea Richards

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Chapman called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. at 51 Winburn Way, Ashland OR.

II. ADDITIONS OR DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA

There were none.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

a. Committee Meeting - May 19, 2017

Jensen asked that the Minutes of May 19, 2017, be changed as follows:

Paragraph 2, sentence one: “Jensen suggested that the pertinent discussions and observations of the Trail Master Plan Committee be logged as a reference document for future insertion into the original Trail Master Plan.”

Changed to: “Jensen suggested that the pertinent discussions and observations of the Trail Master Plan Committee be logged as a reference document to inform the updated Trail Master Plan to avoid repetitive discussions when writing the actual document.”

Motion: Gardiner moved to approve the Committee Meeting Minutes for May 19, 2017, as amended. McGinnis seconded and the motion carried by unanimous vote.

IV. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

a. *Open Forum*

There was none.

V. ADDITIONS OR DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA

There were none.

VI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

a. TID Ditch Corridor

➤ PINECREST TO GRANDVIEW

McFarland reviewed trouble spots along Pinecrest and Park streets (Paradise Area). He talked about challenges such as the lack of easements along the TID ditch from Pinecrest to Park Street—stalled, in part, because they are currently under TID jurisdiction and the Bureau of Reclamation. McFarland agreed to research the agreement for references to recreational activities along the ditch.

McFarland stated that in the area where the City of Ashland maintains the TID ditch, APRC built a bridge across the ditch on what is referred to as the Cottle property. He pointed out an area southeast of Starlite, where TID does the maintenance, noting that several years prior, four private property owners with land along that section agreed to provide easements; however, TID and the Bureau of Reclamation declined to participate and would not authorize a trail.

➤ ASHLAND LOOP ROAD

A detailed discussion followed regarding trail connectivity to Ashland Loop Road, the Morton Street area and the Wolfe property. McGinnis asked about the possibility for residential development in the Morton Street area. Chambers noted that the Wolfe property (#26) might provide additional connectivity, suggesting that a trail there could become a high priority for extension of the TID corridor.

Jensen asked about extracting the detail for the updated Trail Master Plan. It was agreed that identifying sections of the TID corridor—where further efforts are needed to complete the Ditch Trail—would be of value. In that context, properties #20, 21, and 23 were reviewed.

Black highlighted two options for capturing detail in the plan, either by identifying the sections not yet connected to the trail or by making note of the areas where easements could provide trail continuity. He noted that a list of the properties to pursue could be referenced by tax lot number, with a priority order established.

➤ GUTHRIE TO SISKIYOU MOUNTAIN PARK

McGinnis noted that trail portions, beginning at Guthrie and traveling south, were well used by residents of the neighborhood. He pointed out a section where an easement was granted to APRC that could be exchanged for nearby property that might be positioned along the Ditch Trail. He stated that it would be instructive to scout the area for potential trail development.

Chapman indicated that many trail connections to Siskiyou Mountain Park were important to the Ditch Trail. McFarland stated that a portion of the Siskiyou Mountain Park drainage area was deemed by geologists as too fragile for a trail.

Lewis noted that the overall strategy would be to talk again with TID about maintenance for the ditch. If the City could maintain areas currently handled by TID, it would benefit both parties. Chapman stated

that fecal counts would go down, contributing to the ecological health of the waterway. Jensen indicated that he would be amenable to initiating a general discussion with TID after a review of the maintenance agreement.

➤ **CLAY CREEK LOOP TRAIL**

Discussion focused on private properties and easements along the Ditch Trail. McFarland identified two non-perpetual easements including the Clay Creek loop trail that are maintained by APRC. He said APRC was hopeful that the easements would remain for trail connectivity.

➤ **REGIONAL CONNECTIVITY**

McFarland said there are two opportunities for connecting with the Greenway: 1) a TID route on Crowson Rd to the Greenway; and 2) easements from two property owners on the Imperatrice Property. McGinnis noted that the Neil Creek connection could become part of a future regional development strategy with connectivity to the Greenway being the eventual goal. He advocated for moving forward by securing easements or property prior to any residential development in the area. McGinnis noted that identifying the other entities working with TID might enable a regional strategy that would ultimately connect TID with Emigrant Lake. McFarland said making contact with the City of Talent regarding the TID Trail system in Talent might also be helpful.

McFarland distributed a worksheet designed to informally capture the main ideas that would later be integrated into an updated Trail Master Plan. He stated that the information would be part of a packet of information utilized by consultant Mark Mularz. Mularz, a graphic designer, would be charged with incorporating the data into the updated Master Plan. His work would include updating existing chapters, the development of new chapters, a compilation of corresponding maps and preparation of an index and glossary.

In response to a question by Jensen, Black said he wanted to complete the wordsmithing in-house, with the final organization completed by Mularz.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

a. Review and Discuss Trail Corridors

- **Roca Creek**
- **Hamilton Creek**
- **Clay Creek**

VIII. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Betsy Manuel, Minute-Taker
Trail Master Plan Update Committee
Ashland Parks and Recreation Commission