



**Minutes FOR A MEETING OF THE
ASHLAND FOREST LANDS COMMISSION**

Tuesday, January 10th, 2012

5:30PM to 7:30PM

**Siskiyou Room, Community Development Building
51 Winburn Way**

I. CALL TO ORDER: 5:30 PM

John Karns, Dan Maymar, Albert Pepe, Stefani Seffinger, Jim Berge, John Williams, David Chapman, Chris Chambers, Gary Pool

II. INTRODUCTIONS

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: December 13th meeting

Motion to approve as submitted by Williams seconded by Pepe.

IV. PUBLIC FORUM

V. ADJUSTMENTS TO THE AGENDA

VI. BUSINESS

A. Trails/Recreation Policy Subcommittee: Approve Application from AWTA for Bandersnatch Trail (BTI Alternative)

Karns explained the items that would be asked of the AWTA for approval of the new trail. Karns would like to see several items including meeting Forest Service trail standards, education, trail maintenance, and usage statistics. The question was asked whether or not dogs would be allowed off leash. Karns favored going with the City ordinance or Parks policy on dogs on trails. Karns handed out a sample of what the trail signs might look like—including some symbols for specific uses. Seffinger expressed concern over the steepness of the trail in small sections that might deter older people from using the trail. A hand rail might help seniors navigate the steep pitches. A bench, or two benches, might help as well. Williams asked if we are encouraging seniors to use trails that might be too steep for them. Stairs were suggested as an alternative to rails. Maymar suggested a switchback; Karns thought this might accommodate bikes more than would be wanted. Maymar would like to see stairs added to the request of AWTA during trail construction. Karns would like to see it in the approval process. The group discussed this section as part of the approval. This would leave flexibility.

Williams motioned the commission approve the trail application from the AWTA for the Bandersnatch Trail, contingent upon submission of trail modifications to address safety concerns on the steeper section of trail between the intersection with the BTI trail west to the Overlook, and including conditions listed in the letter from the Forest Lands Commission dated January 10, 2012. Pool seconded the motion and all approved. Chapman asked about the mileage on the posts that

were previously proposed. Karns intends to include this on the trail signs.

B. City Lands Prescribed Burning and PERC Grant through The Nature Conservancy

Chambers explained how the City has engaged with TNC to implement work similar to what's being done in the AFR project. The City got nearly 300,000 dollars to implement a combination of prescribed burning on lower City lands and thinning on the Winburn Parcel over the next two years. The goal is to burn up to 50 acres in the next two years and implement the Winburn management plan to thin trees by helicopter. The value of the trees will be counted as match to the grant program. Some money will also go to Parks for work in Siskiyou Mountain Park. Chambers will field proposals for a contractor to implement the burning beginning this March. In the absence of this grant, it would have been financially impossible in the current market for the City to complete the work at Winburn. The grant will backfill the cost and coordinating with helicopter work in AFR will create savings on move in costs.

C. Watershed Outreach Plan Review and Discussion

Williams showed a picture of the shirt he's getting made for Iverson. Williams discussed the Community Outreach Plan that Iverson worked on when he was on the commission. Williams asked about the education component. Chambers explained the AFR project is moving ahead with partners to create a proposal that will integrate watershed education in the schools using the Ashland Watershed as a field laboratory. There's a meeting tomorrow at the Fire Station at 4pm. Williams asked what the FLC would like to adopt as a project in community outreach this year. The brochure could be easy, field trips were mentioned, Chambers suggested including a trip in the Parks catalog for summer, and field trips to Winburn were mentioned as well. A website was discussed and Chambers said that as a City commission, the site would likely have to be part of the City's website and conform to the existing design standards. Other options could include power points and slideshows. Chambers will email Williams the application for the Parks catalog in order to advertise a June 16th Winburn field trip for the public. Pool suggested an event to feature a trail building workshop where volunteers would learn about trail construction.

D. AFR Project Update including Community Engagement

Chambers gave an update on the AFR project. Lomakatsi crews are still working in the area of Horn Gap on thinning and piling. Pile burning of last year's work hasn't taken place yet due to air quality concerns and dry weather. Chambers is hopeful that there will be opportunities soon for burning, if not in the spring. The AFR partners have been analyzing data from the past summer's tree marking and consulting with the Forest Service's biologist on how best to meet habitat requirements. In a handful of units, trees may need to be blacked out (unmarked) to preserve more canopy cover for spotted owls. Marty is working on additional areas for future work including the White

Rabbit Trail area up to Four Corners and along Winburn Ridge.

Williams motioned to adjourn at 7:35pm, Pool seconded. Meeting adjourned.

E. Ashland Water Advisory Committee Update

F. Update Commission 3-Year Goals

VII. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

VIII. REVIEW AND SET COMMISSION CALENDAR / NEXT MEETING

A. Next Regularly Scheduled Meeting: February 14th, 2012

IX. ADJOURN: 7:30 PM

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