

City of Ashland
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
TRAIL MASTER PLAN UPDATE COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
April 6, 2018

PRESENT: **Parks Commissioners:** Mike Gardiner, Jim Lewis
 Additional Committee Members: David Chapman, Torsten Heycke, Stephen Jensen, Jim McGinnis
 City and APRC Staff: APRC Director Black; Interim Parks Superintendent Jeffrey McFarland; GIS Analyst Lea Richards
 APRC Minute-taker: Betsy Manuel

ABSENT: Luke Brandy; Chief-Forestry Resource Chis Chambers

I. CALL TO ORDER

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

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

a. *March 23, 2018*

Motion: Lewis moved to approve the Minutes of March 23, 2018, as presented. McGinnis seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

III. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION & GUEST SPEAKERS

a. *Open Forum*

There was none.

b. *Review Any TMP Comments Received Since Last Meeting*

McFarland noted that an email commentary had been received from Jim Falkenstein with ideas to consider for the Master Plan. Falkenstein wanted to see a vision for the future – one that identified future trails and proposed infrastructure supported by the Master Plan. He suggested that the Committee advocate for initiatives to facilitate greater access to the wilderness and propose solutions for issues such as trailhead parking.

The second email commentary expressed a concern that the TID Ditch project would shut down existing trails located in the piping area.

There followed a brief discussion about the proposed construction and whether the piping would impact the Master Plan.

IV. ADDITIONS OR DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA

In response to a request by Richards, it was agreed that questions about mapping, the Wright's Creek Corridor and the proposed Open House would be addressed. She noted that the two-mile stretch of the TID

Ditch should be referred to as the Ashland Canal. She proposed that the Chapter in the TID Ditch should also refer to the Ashland Canal where appropriate. Jensen agreed, noting that the term should become more widespread.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

a. *Plan/Coordinate May 2 Open House for TMP Public Document Review (McFarland)*

McFarland reported that the meeting would be held at the Senior Center at 6:00 p.m. on the 2nd. The space would be available for setting up at 3:30 pm

McFarland noted that the Open House would be focused on maps depicting Ashland's trails, corridors and forestlands. He suggested that Committee members be prepared to answer questions at stations where maps were displayed.

McFarland announced that Dorinda Cottle had prepared an advertising campaign for the Open House that would include announcements via TV, radio, Internet, Facebook and the *Sneak Preview* along with additional printed materials such as a Save the Date postcard and flyer. Suggestions regarding local distribution of printed materials were noted.

Discussion focused on other details about the event. Richards asked for direction regarding the maps – including whether the maps should represent the original maps or updated maps. Black advised that the newer maps be displayed in their rough draft form to stimulate open discussions.

It was agreed that Black, Chapman, McGinnis, McFarland and Richards would meet to finalize preparations for the event.

b. *Reassign Three Trail Corridors: Roca/Paradise, Hamilton/Clay and Tolman*

Chapman stated that the final editors were in need of additional materials to edit.

Jensen stated that most of the general chapters had been prepared and edited. He indicated that the corridors needed to be finalized. Chapman agreed to complete the Tolman Corridor. Heycke stated that he would take the remaining corridors under consideration.

V. NEW BUSINESS

a. *Committee Review of Appendix A: Trail Safety and Etiquette*

Jensen proposed that the title be re-named *Trail Safety and Protocol*. Heycke suggested that the word *overland travel* be substituted for “*overland bushwhacking*”. Other changes that were agreed upon included an excerpt in General Safety and Trail Protocols that directed hikers to acknowledging their presence verbally if approaching an equestrian. Doing so would minimize potential hazards because horses would respond less negatively if they were able to recognize a disturbance.

b. *Committee Review/ Approval of Chapter 7: Wright's Creek Trail Corridor*

Richards noted that the map of the Wright's Creek Corridor did not include areas west of the Ashland City limits. A possible conflict could arise because the narrative referred to places/names outside the Corridor

such as Ashland Mine Road. After some discussion, it was agreed that the narrative would mention areas outside the City's boundaries as opportunities for additional connectivity.

Heycke proposed changes to the narrative under LINKAGES by removing references to links for Westwood (remove the word proposed) and Hald-Strawberry (remove existing).

Discussion focused on common names for properties versus references to private lands by owner. Gardiner suggested that the *Billings family property* be replaced by designating it as private property. Black noted the common use of names in a historical context, proposing instead to refer to the historic Billings Ranch property.

In response to a question by McGinnis, it was agreed that Ashland Pond was considered *open space* and that the proposed route on the south side of North Main Street would link to several *open space sites*.

Heycke advised that mention of *Strags Peak* and *Ostrich Peak* should be stricken (*Strags Peak* does not exist and *Ostrich Peak* is on private land) and reference to forest service road 2050 be changed to FS Road 2060-500. After a quick review, it was agreed that the sentence "*As the trail continues south, it would connect to Hitt Road, Birdsong Lane, Strags Peak, Ostrich Peak and to the existing FS 2050 Road*" would be shortened to "*As the trail continues south, it would connect to Hitt Road and Birdsong Lane.*"

There followed discussion regarding the newly named Acid Castle forestlands. It was agreed that the reference to Acid Castle would be covered in the narrative for the West Side.

c. Committee Review of Chapter 13: Trail Standards and Basic Design Elements

It was agreed that the heading **GENERAL** would be tentatively changed to **OVERVIEW**. The first sentence would be changed to read "*The Ashland Parks and Recreation Commission (APRC) strives to be a responsible and collaborative neighbor...*" The wording "*The City of Ashland through the Ashland Parks and Recreation...*" would be removed. Reference to "*APRC will provide creative long-term solutions...*" will be changed to *APRC may provide creative long-term solutions...*

After a detailed discussion, it was agreed that the sentence "*APRC will offer details of the benefits and legal rights-of-way across private property including the legal implications of trespass on private land*" would be removed from the overview. The next sentence states that "*Existing public processes will properly notify...*" would be changed to "*Existing public processes can properly notify...*" APRC's role was described as public process for easements and/or trail mitigation or negotiations to establish new trails. Black stated that the overview should ensure stakeholders that there are benefits for property owners who are interested in facilitating trail development or allowing trails to traverse private property. Jensen agreed to work with Black to craft language to replace portions of the first paragraph of the **GENERAL** section.

Black suggested that the sentence "*APRC will continue to shield neighboring property owners from possible undesirable impacts of trails.*" should be reworded to imply that APRC would continue to work with property owners to mitigate possible impacts. Black noted that protecting the rights of private

property owners was a sensitive issue, one that APRC could assist with but not always solve or completely mitigate. The sentence *“Trail corridors that come close to existing residences should be mitigated...”* was changed to read *“Trail corridors that come close to existing residences could be mitigated through fencing, buffering, screening, signage and other buffering measures ...”* with removal of the words *“to maintain privacy and insulation from undesirable trail use”*. The next sentence should read as follows *“The trail system will use existing trails and easements where they are available.”*

McGinnis proposed changing the sentence *“The maintenance and construction of City trail systems are recommended to be an integral component...”* to *“The maintenance and construction of City trail systems is an integral component...”*

A short discussion about **ACCESSIBILITY** followed. *“Every attempt”* was changed to *“reasonable attempts.”*

Discussion about **TRAIL USER GROUPS** included the definition of a multi-use trail. Black stated that when references to a multi-use trail pertain to transportation, it was generally accepted that the trails were paved. McGinnis noted that the opening sentence that states *“Nature trail users will usually include walkers, bicyclists and a limited number of equestrians...”* should be changed to *“Nature trail users include...”*

It was determined that the paragraph describing urban trail users would reference *motorized vehicles* rather than a list of the different power assisted devices. Black suggested additional work on defining the user groups, partly because of the similarities between urban trails and multiuse trails. Jensen proposed an informal meeting to further discuss the terminology.

The section on equestrian users was removed from the section.

VII. UPCOMING MEETING DATE

d. April 20, 2018

- The Grove, Otte-Peterson Room @ 10:00 a.m.

Chapman announced that the next meeting regarding the TID Piping Project would be held on April 18, 2018, at 5:00 p.m. at the SOU Arena. He encouraged participation for informational purposes.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT – 11:30 a.m.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Betsy Manuel, Minute-Taker

These minutes are not a verbatim record. The narrative has been condensed and paraphrased at times to reflect the discussions and decisions made. Ashland Parks and Recreation Commission Subcommittee meetings are digitally recorded and available upon request.