



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

Tuesday, March 11th, 2014

5:30PM to 7:30PM

Fire Station #2 Conference Room

1860 Ashland Street

I. CALL TO ORDER: 5:30 PM

II. INTRODUCTIONS

Frank Betlejewski, Chris Chambers, Dan Maymar, Albert Pepe, Marty Main, John Karns, Stefanie Seffinger, Keith Whitman

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: February 11th minutes

Add list of attendees. Frank suggested add removing “lands” for “inventory data formats” in #2. Frank motioned to accept as amended, Pape seconded and all ayes except Seffinger who was not at that meeting.

IV. PUBLIC FORUM

V. ADJUSTMENTS TO THE AGENDA

Moved the farewell to Dan Maymar to the first item.

VI. BUSINESS

1) Farewell to Dan Maymar

Thank you Dan for your service on the Commission!

2) Trails/Recreation Update

a) Unauthorized trails

- i) Chambers presented photos of unauthorized trails below BTI and above the Glenview pit above the start of the Bandersnatch. Another trail goes from the water tank at Loop Rd and Terrace St up to the Alice in Wonderland Trail. Chambers asked the commission for policy direction on how to deal with unauthorized trails before any contact with AWTA to talk about obliterating unauthorized trails due to their role in maintaining existing trails and advocating for new trails. Main has noticed that water bars are not being maintained on BTI and Alice trails. Increased use has resulted in the need for increased maintenance that is not happening. Seffinger mentioned that bikes are coming down Granite St very fast and forcing hikers/walkers to contend with the bikes or get off the road onto a dangerous trail. Chambers proposed mapping the unauthorized trails and bringing back the map and asking AWTA to the next meeting. Whitman has had experience in California in working with local groups or agencies to authorize trails, but only those that went through official channels. The commission agreed that Chambers should move ahead and consult with the City and AWTA, bringing in Parks.

Chambers read a letter from Jerry Solomon, owner of Ashland Electric Bikes who proposed letting electric bikes on trails. Williams asked Chambers to contact the Forest Service to see if they are considering it and what part of the NEPA process the trail plan is in right now. Seffinger didn't know if Parks would allow e-bikes on their forested parcels. They currently don't allow motorized vehicles. There was concern that electric bikes have a lot of torque that could create as much damage as a gas powered bike. As electric bikes advance, Seffinger asked how it would be regulated in the future.

3) Ashland Forest Plan Revision

Frank proposed a review process via email for editing and finalizing the chapters in the updated forest plan. Frank has no feedback on his sections as of yet so there are 30 days for comments, please comment soon. Seffinger is waiting for an update of the AFR social survey due out any day. Frank would like to get the drafts moving to final as soon as possible. Albert will try to access the library computers and email his section.

4) City Lands Work Update: Proposed Underburns 2014

Chambers showed a map of burn units by year in the lower City lands and explained the units proposed for burning this spring under a grant from The Nature Conservancy. Two units are cross boundary burns with units in the AFR project on Forest Service, though small at 10 acres and 5 acres on the City side. The other unit is five acres and along private land above the swim reservoir. Williams asked about the burning this week in AFR. Chambers said it was located above Four Corners and also across the watershed in the Horn Gap area. There were also private land burns in the area. Main said the conditions were plenty wet for burning despite a windy and dry forecast. Seffinger said Parks burned pine slash in Lithia from beetle killed trees. Main said that there is a lot of die off coming and already taking place in Siskiyou Mountain Park.

Meeting Adjourned 7:30pm.

5) AFR Project Update

6) Fire Adapted Communities

VII. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

VIII. REVIEW AND SET COMMISSION CALENDAR / NEXT MEETING AGENDA

A. Next Regularly Scheduled Meeting, April 8th 2013

IX. ADJOURN: 7:30 PM

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you need special assistance to participate in this meeting, please contact the Public Works Office at 488-5587 (TTY phone number 1 800 735 2900). Notification 48 hours prior to the meeting will enable the City to make reasonable

arrangements to ensure accessibility to the meeting (28 CFR 35.102-35.104 ADA Title I).