



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

Tuesday, September 10th 2013

5:30PM to 7:30PM

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

I. CALL TO ORDER: 5:30 PM

John Karns, Marty Main, John Williams, Albert Pepe, Dan Maymar, Dave Brennan, Chris Chambers, Dennis Slattery, Frank Betlejewski, Stefanie Seffinger

II. INTRODUCTIONS

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: August 13th minutes

B. Ashland Forest Plan revision item C. The first sentence “Frank discussed...” should be deleted and replaced with “The existing policy documents Restoration II and III say we will generally manage for dispersal habitat but are inconsistent with each other as to what specifically we intend.” The rest is eliminated and replaced with “The US Fish and Wildlife Service have authorized pilot projects to shoot barred owls in California and Oregon.” Also add “Barred owls are present in the watershed and may cause conflicts between the species.”

B. section d refers to Seffinger as if she’s at the meeting and she was not present. The item may reflect an email or is a mistake altogether.

Under C. AFR Project Update item c, Frank would like to get rid of the word “upcoming” in sentence 1 and in sentence two add “enough trees cut around the legacy trees to increase their chances for survival.” Replace “heavy duty” with “solid” and add that the results are going to be published in a peer reviewed journal soon.

Under D. Outreach Plan section A. 1 should read “get a bead on” instead of “get a beat on”.

Motion to approve the minutes as amended made by Brennan and seconded by Pepe, no opposed. Seffinger abstained due to not being there.

IV. PUBLIC FORUM

V. ADJUSTMENTS TO THE AGENDA

VI. BUSINESS

A. Trails/Recreation Update

Karns is waiting to meet with Dave Lewis who wrote the Parks Trails Master Plan. They will talk about combining the two plans into one master plan.

B. Ashland Forest Plan Revision

Williams received updates/drafts from Brennan and Seffinger. Chambers was able to find the old Word document files for the Ashland Forest Plan and they are available to all through Williams. Pepe talked about the increase in recreation and referred to the Forest Plan, which said that 41% of people used the watershed for recreation. Chambers suggested using Mark Shibley's report for the AFR project that might have updated recreation survey data. Williams suggested talking to the Ashland Woodlands and Trails Association. Pepe is also looking at the current Parks Trails Master Plan. There's a lot more community involvement. Chambers suggested adding the major events. Seffinger said that data from the last public opinion survey at <http://ashland.or.us/Files/Public%20Perceptions%20of%20AFR%20Forest%20Restoration.pdf> showed that the public wasn't as aware of the importance of the watershed as the City's water supply. Brennan brought up dog waste as a potential problem for water quality. Williams discussed a water quality study where TID water coming into the city was found to be relatively clean and by the time it hit Ashland Creek the water was contaminated. Part of the agreed upon plan approved by Council is to pipe that section of the TID canal. Williams will add that to the streams and water quality section. Seffinger said that waste collection stations have been having an impact on the contamination issue, and also there is less camping, but some homeless have dogs as well.

Brennan had emailed the first draft of his work on monitoring prior to the meeting. He has done a summary and is now looking at the attribute data with Frank to discuss the use of baseline data, desired future conditions, etc... Frank suggested that the group think about recalibrating the timeline and amount of work they have accepted. Frank pointed out that some acres are missing between the AFP map and the original plan acres. The difference is 140 acres that are not included in the plan narrative.

Frank discussed the current work on the attribute table with input from Chambers and Main. The dilemma is how to enter data in such a way as to minimize the size of the table while allowing for the range of attributes and dates to make it useful and detailed enough. Multiple inventory dates and repeated treatments in the same unit over time make it challenging. Chambers is going to work with the City GIS staff to look at options.

Frank is still looking at combining units and is still talking with Main about this issue. Frank suggested a Lithia Demo Forest on the Lithia Hillside where there are lots of trails and pedestrian traffic. Seffinger would like to see more information for the public on specific issues that are pertinent and important. Frank asked the question about how to finally edit the whole document and put it together. There are several options for editing, but that's not a decision to be made just yet. Frank is collecting the glossary and data dictionary for standardizing terms.

Seffinger has made several drafts on the social section. She focused on some of the history of the United States that has affected the Ashland Forests such as the Forest Service creation and the 10am policy of fire suppression. This was done to give background to the conditions we have on the ground and the course of management we've taken. She also added info from the 2011 public opinion survey on wildfire attitudes done through the Rogue Valley Fire Prevention Co-op and SOU. There is quite a difference between Ashland resident's opinions than other communities. She included excerpts from that survey into her write up. The surveys indicate that the public doesn't have as good of an understanding about the watershed from a perspective of water supply versus recreation or other values. Williams encouraged the group to look at Seffinger's and Brennan's submissions. Main said that Ashland has had its own evolution of thinking about forests than the nation or other local communities. He suggested talking with Vicky Sturtevant about the national perspective in relation to Ashland's. Ashland has a lot of good examples of community forestry to share. Williams suggested a small section on the mills that used to operate in town.

Williams hopes to have a draft by the end of this month on his section. He'll email it if he can't make the next meeting. He's looking at the last Bear Creek watershed assessment and also adding more info from the recent Ashland Water Advisory Committee effort. Steelhead actually made it far up Ashland Creek this past year, which is something notable for the narrative.

C. AFR Project Update

Chambers discussed the recent Supplemental Project Agreement to bring in new funding for AFR that will fund legacy tree treatments in the Research Natural Area as well as roadside fuels treatments on 10 miles of roads in the watershed. Additional fuels treatments will be planned using carry-over dollars and the bulk of the City dedicated funding of 175,000 dollars each of the current and next fiscal years. AFR partners are in planning mode right now to design and field this work in hopes of treating 1000 acres by next fall.

D. Fire Adapted Communities

Chambers gave a quick overview of the Fire Adapted Communities (FAC) program. FAC is a nation-wide initiative supported by all the federal land agencies, State Foresters, International Fire Chiefs, and The Nature Conservancy. The National Fire Administration (under FEMA) put on a six day course that Chambers attended in August on the FAC program. Fire Adapted Communities is an umbrella for all fire prevention and mitigation programs in a community from planning to response, it covers it all. The primary avenue is the Community Wildfire Protection Plan, or CWPP. The CWPP establishes the community's risk and hazards, develops priorities, and establishes a strategic action plan. Ashland has a CWPP, but it was created largely to satisfy the need to qualify the community's Forest Resiliency Alternative for consideration by the Forest Service. The tight focus and limited timeframe for completion made for a narrow-in-scope CWPP that tended to gloss over other issues out of necessity. Written in 2004, the CWPP is also just out of date. The primary task will be to expand and update the

CWPP and the Fire Department would like to use the Firewise Commission as the Steering Committee for this effort. Chambers and Karns will keep the Forest Commission up to date on the progress and fold in the current efforts to update the Ashland Forest Plan and ongoing activities on City Forestlands. The FAC overview is being presented to Council in early October.

Meeting Adjourned 7:31pm.

VII. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

VIII. REVIEW AND SET COMMISSION CALENDAR / NEXT MEETING

A. Next Regularly Scheduled Meeting, October 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).