

IMPORTANT: Any citizen may orally address the Parks Commission on non-agenda items during the Public Forum. Any citizen may submit written comments to the Commission on any item on the Agenda, unless it is the subject of a public hearing and the record is closed. Time permitting, the Presiding Officer may allow oral testimony. If you wish to speak, please out the Speaker Request Form located near the entrance to the meeting room. The chair will recognize you and inform you as to the amount of time allotted to you, if any. The time granted will be dependent to some extent on the nature of the item under discussion, the number of people who wish to speak, and the length of the agenda.



AGENDA FOR TRAIL MASTER PLAN UPDATE COMMITTEE

ASHLAND PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION
February 24, 2017
Fire Station #1 Conference Room, 455 Siskiyou Blvd.

10:00 a.m.

- I. CALL TO ORDER
- II. ADDITIONS OR DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA
- III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES
- IV. UNFINISHED BUSINESS
- V. NEW BUSINESS
 - a. Short Discussion: High-Level Impressions about the 2006 Document
 - b. Update Mission Statement
 - c. Update Vision Statement
 - d. Update Goals and Objectives
- VI. CONFIRM NEXT MEETING DATE & LOCATION
 - a. March 10 at 10:00 a.m., Siskiyou Room of the Community Development Building, 51 Winburn Way
- VII. ADJOURNMENT

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you need special assistance to participate in this meeting, please contact the City Administrator's office at (541) 488-6002 (TTY phone number (800) 735-2900). Notification 72 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).

City of Ashland
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
TRAIL MASTER PLAN UPDATE COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
January 25, 2017

PRESENT: **Parks Commissioners:** Mike Gardiner and Jim Lewis
 Additional Committee Members: Luke Brandy, David Chapman, Torsten Heycke, Stephen Jensen and Jim McGinnis
 City and APRC Staff: GIS Specialist Lea Richards, Forestry Division Fire Chief Chris Chambers, APRC Director Michael Black, APRC Interim Parks Superintendent McFarland and APRC Executive Assistant Dyssegard

ABSENT: None

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mike Gardiner called the meeting to order at 12:45 p.m. in the Otte-Peterson Room of The Grove, 1195 E. Main Street in Ashland.

II. INTRODUCTIONS

The group introduced themselves and identified current agency associations and past involvement with the 2006 Trail Master Plan Committee and the Ashland trails system.

III. NEW BUSINESS

a. Overview of 2006 Trail Master Plan & Brief Discussion

McFarland reviewed the 2006 plan and talked about trail routes and their associated creek corridors. He acknowledged the work of GIS Specialist Lea Richards in creating maps for the original document and her ongoing map updates. McFarland asked committee members to review the existing document and consider potential changes such as:

- a. New chapters
- b. Visionary insights
- c. Future climate change affects

McFarland said he hoped the document could be updated within a six-month period.

Discussion

Lewis said some landowners along the TID previously resisted allowing easements. He talked about the community's enjoyment of the Ashland trails system, his excitement about looking for future possible connections and the visionary, long-range nature of the Trail Master Plan document.

Richards suggested including a City Planner in the project. If a planner could not be identified initially, she offered to create a GIS layer that could be handed over to Planning.

Black said Ashland Parks and Recreation Commission (APRC) had funds on hand for purchasing property. He said a contracted realtor had been tasked with seeking properties for APRC. He

reported on the recent APRC purchase of the Hitt Road property, a parcel not identified on the City's Open Space Acquisition Plan but still valuable.

Lewis spoke about Ashland Woodland and Trails Association's four-year process in creating a master trail plan in the watershed. He suggested referring to their plan to identify helpful tie-ins.

It was stated that the Forest Lands Commission recently underwent a four-year update process for its Ashland Forest Lands Plan, relying heavily on the 2006 Trail Master Plan and the AWTA plan.

For the Trail Master Plan update, Jensen suggested a chapter on trails outside City limits (not included in the 2006 version).

Richards said the City's 2012 Transportation Plan could serve as a good resource for the project.

McFarland talked about two required approvals for the Trail Master Plan Update upon completion: Ashland Parks and Recreation Commission and Ashland City Council.

Black said the plan updates would be handled in-house due to the project's small budget. He expressed that the group would create a good product.

Heycke spoke about AWTA's fruitless efforts to obtain easements along Bear Creek and the TID. He said AWTA would not approach trail building in association with creek corridors because they often didn't work out.

b. Selection of Committee Chair and Vice Chair

The group discussed selecting a Chair and Vice Chair.

Chapman moved to appoint himself as **Chair** of the Trail Master Plan Update Committee; McGinnis seconded the motion.

Discussion: Heycke stated that the chairmanship of the original document was a big job that proved to be overwhelming. Lewis said the updated document would be a smaller undertaking.

Vote: All yes

Gardiner moved to appoint Stephen Jensen as **Vice Chair** of the Trail Master Plan Update Committee; Jensen seconded the motion.

Discussion: None

Vote: All yes

IV. ASSIGNMENT FOR NEXT MEETING

a. Review 2006 Trail Master Plan and Suggest Updates

McFarland asked the committee to study the 2006 document and bring back suggested updates.

V. SET NEXT MEETING DATE AND LOCATION

The group discussed meeting twice per month throughout the term of the project, preferably on Friday mornings from 10 -11:30. The next meeting date and location was tentatively set for Friday, February 10, at 10:00 a.m. in the Siskiyou Room of the Community Development Building, 51 Winburn Way [later cancelled].

Final Discussion

McGinnis said he no longer served on the Transportation Commission. He asked if it would be helpful to include someone from that commission in the Trail Master Plan update process. He said his employment with the Forest Service would provide "cross-pollination" during the project.

Brandy spoke about his work with the BLM and said they were currently building new trails, including the pedestrian-only Jack-Ash Trail connecting Jacksonville to Ashland and the Applegate Ridge Trail from south of Grants Pass to the Jacksonville Woodlands.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:47 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Dyssegard, Executive Assistant
Ashland Parks and Recreation Commission

MISSION

The committee finalized its mission in January of 2004:

- Describe a system of trails for pedestrians and non-motorized vehicles on public lands and privately granted easements;
- Increase trail connectivity between Ashland's neighborhoods and its varied environments, including downtown, commercial, educational, and surrounding rural areas;
- Enhance Ashland's quality of life through improved recreation, health, and transportation opportunities;
- Establish appropriate trail standards based on approved uses, site opportunities, and constraints

In addition, the committee outlined a twelve-month work plan and created four subcommittees that would do the work necessary to fulfill its mission. The four sub-committees were: Vision, Mapping, Document Development, and Public Process.

VISION

The Ashland trails vision was developed by the Ashland Parks and Recreation Commission and reflects the tenor of Ashland citizenry, Ashland Parks and Recreation Commissioners, and city personnel:

Vision — A diverse network of trails that connects downtown, schools, neighborhoods, and surrounding areas.

Building on public input from community workshops and neighborhood forums, the Vision Subcommittee identified supporting goals and objectives. The resulting goals are:

- Transportation
- Trail Access and Connectivity
- Mitigating Concerns
- Planning for Trails
- Trail Management
- Partners and Collaborators

See Chapter 2 — Vision for the associated objectives of each goal, and Chapter 14 for implementation recommendations.

These goals parallel those of the State of Oregon as delineated in the 2005-2014 Oregon Statewide Non-motorized Trails Plan.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

A. Transportation.

Goal A: Trails are an inherent part of Ashland's transportation system.

Objective A1: Provide pedestrian and bicycle commuter routes throughout Ashland.

Objective A2: Provide a diversity of trail types. Objective

A3: Provide safe routes to schools.

Objective A4: Provide linkages to municipal transit systems.

B. Trail Access & Connectivity.

Goal B: A continuous network of trails that is easily identifiable and readily accessible.

Objective B1: Provide trails that are readily accessible from all neighborhoods.

Objective B2: Provide parking at major trailheads.

Objective B3: Provide cross-town connectivity and links to trail systems in the surrounding public lands and communities.

Objective B4: Provide connections to important community centers and environmental features.

Objective B5: Provide trail access information at major bus stops.

C. Natural Environment and Citizens' Rights.

Goal C: Stewardship of the natural environment, and rights and concerns of citizens are addressed.

Objective C1: Consider aquatic, plant, and wildlife habitat and needs when designing trail locations.

Objective C2: Address the concerns of residents and property owners on or near trail corridors in planning, construction, and trail management.

Objective C3: Create and promote a "trail etiquette" protocol.

D. Planning for Trails.

Goal D: Trail planning is thoroughly integrated with city planning and vice versa.

Objective D1: Determine mechanisms for funding land acquisition for trails and trail maintenance.

Objective D2: Create planning guidelines for new trails in subdivisions and rezoned properties, including the creation of a system for flagging parcels of interest for trails.

Objective D3: Create privacy guidelines for trails.

Objective D4: Publish details of legal implications of trail right-of-way across private property, and legal implications of trespass on private land.

E. Trail Management.

Goal E: Trail management and maintenance is an integral part of city activities.

Objective E1: Provide resources for trail maintenance and management.

Objective E2: Continue development of trail maintenance safety and quality guidelines, including dog stations and receptacles (where appropriate).

Objective E3: Adopt trail management guidelines.

Objective E4: Create a "Trails Ambassadors" program of citizen volunteers to ensure implementation of guidelines.

Objective E5: Ensure that trails are well marked throughout the city.

F. Partners and Collaborators.

Goal F: The City of Ashland encourages and promotes collaborative partnerships regarding trails planning, implementation, management, and maintenance.

Objective F1: Develop trail partnerships with Federal, State,
and local jurisdictions, businesses, public
and private schools, and citizen