

MINUTES FOR REGULAR STUDY SESSION
ASHLAND PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION
August 2, 2023
Electronic Meeting – 6:00 p.m.

Present: Commissioners Landt (Chair), Eldridge (Vice-Chair), Adams, Bachman, Lewis; Deputy Director Dials, Senior Service Superintendent Glatt, Interim Parks Superintendent Sullivan, Analyst Kiewel

Absent: Commissioner Eldridge (Vice-Chair)

I. CALL TO ORDER

Landt called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

II. PUBLIC FORUM

None

III. VACANT APRC COMMISSION SEAT APPLICATION PROCESS

Landt told the commission that APRC has a vacant Commissioner seat, Commissioner Eldridge has resigned Seat #1 effective July 31, 2023 and will assume the role of Interim Director as of August 21, 2023. The seat needs to be filled within sixty days. Landt is recommending using the same process from the last vacancy with a two-week application period then conducting interviews. Landt is suggesting after interview to have the Commissioner vacancy decided in a Business Meeting.

Adams would like to have time to review the interview questions. The Commission will discuss any changes to the interview questions at the next meeting.

IV. BUTLER PEROZZI FOUNTAIN PLAQUE REQUEST

Dials introduced chair of The Ashland Parks Foundation (APF) Mike Gardiner. APF is proposing to place a plaque at the Butler Perozzi Fountain location that would commemorate the restoration project the foundation is currently raising funds for.

- APF has been doing community outreach and tabling at the 4th of July and City Band concerts
- Fundraising goal of \$800,000 and have currently raised \$428,950.
- Currently three plaques at the Buttler and Perozzi
- \$10,000 donation to have name on the plaque.
- This is a nonstandard plaque that will require Commission approval.
- Would like to let donors know that names would be added to the Fountain after restoration

Landt stated that the restoration of the Fountain is estimated to cost \$600,000 with the additional \$200,000 to be set aside for ongoing maintenance.

Bachman asked if this would incentivize higher giving. Gardiner said that with previous campaigns this has been a successful strategy. Bachman stated that this is a common practice with fundraising campaigns.

Lewis stated that this is coming to the Commission early in the process to get approval. This could be the last plaque we need with the addition of a maintenance fund.

Adams stated that this makes sense as a fundraising strategy and is a standard of major fundraising campaigns. This is consistent with the plaques already at the Fountain and is happy that there is a maintenance fund included with this campaign.

Landt is supportive of the project but is concerned that this plaque is in perpetuity and advocates for a larger gift to be on the plaque. Adams would like to have a conversation in the future regarding threshold levels for donation and plaques. Lewis added that that the ice rink is named after the Rotary due to their donation and that each project is unique and wouldn't want to limit donations for projects. And take them on a by case basis.

Gardiner said he understands that this is a nonstandard request and understands that the Commission would like to set the parameters. The APF is working on the fundraising and needs incentives to be able to secure larger donations. The goal is to complete the fundraising by the end of the year

Landt stated that the Commission will make a decision at the next meeting.

V. CONVERSATION CLUSTER SEATING PROJECT

Glatt gave a presentation to get feedback about the Conversation Clusters proposal.

- In April 2023, staff presented details of a grant application to the AARP Community Challenge to create “conversation clusters” seating in parks. AARP did not fund this application.
- This is a modified proposal. Former Director Black had set aside \$6000 in funding from APRC’s CIP budget to fund conversation clusters.
- Potential locations staff is recommending for conversation clusters
 - A set of 20 stacking chairs in Lithia Park bottom green, at front west corner.
 - A semi-circle of three 5’ benches in Garfield Park
 - A circle of 4 fixed wooden 6’ benches in Glenwood Park
- The concept is to do publicity and get feedback from the community regarding location and the concept of the project.

This item will come back at the next meeting for possible action.

Adams asked about the current CIP funding due to the property acquisitions. Landt stated that CIP will need to be modified and will come back to the Commission in September to discuss possible reallocation.

VI. DISCUSSION REGARDING RESTRICTIONS ON ALCOHOL IN PARKS

Dials presented a draft of recommendation for Alcohol in Parks restrictions.

- January 27, 2020 the Commissioners approved the recommendation for a municipal code change to 10.68.090 Intoxicating Liquor Prohibited as presented by staff, including amendments presented in the staff report. The motion included that it would not go to the City Council until the Commissioners have reviewed and approved the rules and guidelines.
- Then the Covid-19 pandemic occurred, and our work and progress were sidelined. As part of the current Biennium goals, the Commission seeks to “support opportunities for community building through programs and events in our parks, open spaces and trail networks that celebrate art, music, sports and nature.” A proposed change to the alcohol policy would support that goal.
- This will need to be reviewed by the City Legal Department
- Staff is looking for feedback about locations, and types of events that we would allow alcohol. Perimeters of when security to be required and define size of events and fees.
- Staff is recommending that we use the OLCC guidelines for events.

Bachman said we are already limited with enforcement and has concerns adding to. Dials said that Medford requires security for events. Bachman wants to make sure we have insurance requirements and permits. Dials said we already require general liability insurance for events, and this would require a liquor permit as well.

Adams said there are three kinds of alcohol use in public spaces, sale of alcohol at events, serving alcohol and open container. Admas suggested that the commission consider the sale of alcohol first.

Lewis said we already have exceptions with the Calle Guanajuato and Oak Knoll Golf Course and thinks that we would expand the existing policy.

Adams would like to see the policy include any Park. Bachman would like to see it limited to Parks that have adequate facilities. Dials said that this is important for fundraisers and business. The next step is to bring to the Commission for further review at another meeting.

VII. LOOKAHEAD REVIEW

Dials reviewed the Lookahead with the Commission

VIII. ITEMS FROM COMMISSIONERS/STAFF

I. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7.26 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted
Tara Kiewel, Administrative Analyst