

**PARKS ADVISORY COMMITTEE**  
**Meeting Minutes – August 13, 2020 at 3:30 PM**  
**Council Chambers**

**Members in Attendance:**

Susan Jenkins (Chair)  
Brian DeLaGrange (Vice Chair)  
Jan Battersby  
Cliff Kuhlman  
Rick Chapman  
Mark Collier  
Chad Thorson

**City/Staff/Council Liaisons:**

Tyler Flaming (City Councilor)  
Brad Clark (Interim CD Director)  
Tony Mecum

**Guests:**

City Councilor Valorie Lovelace  
City Councilor DJ Faszler  
City Manager Aaron Cubic  
Travel Southern Oregon  
Lauren from The Daily Courier

**1. Roll Call:**

- Chair Jenkins called the meeting to order at 3:30 pm and roll was taken.

**2. Introductions:**

**3. Public Comment:**

**4. Approval of Minutes:**

Vice Chair DeLaGrange pointed out needed changes to the June minutes. Mark and Susan noted changes needed to July's minutes.

**5. Action Items:**

- Chair Jenkins: Explained how agenda was built. Action items require certain notice process while matter from the committee and staff are for new items.

**a. Lawnridge Park Follow Up.**

- Wendy: Described options Council reviewed at their meeting. Council will review Lawnridge Park plans further in a future workshop.
- Chair Jenkins: Stated she did not believe the motion from the Parks Advisory Committee sent to Council was the correct motion. Language of the Committee's motion did not match the intent of the Committee. Our intent was to have a proposal brought back to us to be discussed along with the survey results. I hope that all of our previous discussions on this topic will be taken into account if this topic is now being taken up by Council.
- Jan Battersby: a citizen contacted her about the tennis courts and their concern on how the pickle ball courts were lined. Explained that the lines were not professionally done. Jan asked if there was consideration to place pickleball court lines on the basketball court.
- Mark Collier: they will not fit on the basketball court

- Chair Jenkins: The pickleball court lining was approved by the City. Mentioned a survey of the tennis and pickleball communities could happen in the future.
- Mark Collier: Reached out to tennis community about Westholm to get pickleball courts. Same as with Lawnridge and Morrison. Cindy Ogden (spelling?), who is the president of the tennis association filled out an application to join the Parks Advisory Committee last year. So did the pickleball president.
- Chair Jenkins: There should be more dedicated pickleball courts since shared courts can't be used by the public if they don't own a net.
- Mark Collier: The only dedicated pickleball courts are at Fruitdale. Five other courts are shared with tennis. There are 16 tennis courts at parks in the city.

#### **b. Gilbert Creek Walking Paths**

- Wendy Giordano: Copies of Brian DeLaGrange's plan were provided to all in attendance of the meeting. Mentioned that Lora Glover said a proper survey of the wetland zone will be needed. Any new trails will be capital projects. The City Council will review future capital project proposals at their goal setting meetings. There are no dedicated funds currently for new trails at Gilbert Creek.
- Brian DeLaGrange: The path is out of the floodplain. No trees should be removed for the proposed trail. Recommended a phased approach to created the new trails/paths.
- Wendy Giordano: Agreed with a phased approach. Portion behind dog park could be earlier phase. Stated that asphalt paths would be easier to maintain than bark mulch paths.

### **6. Matters from Committee Members and Staff:**

#### **a. Committee Liaison**

- Chair Jenkins: Stated that after discussion she thought a motion for a new liaison may still be needed. This issue could be an action item next month. The new member process might be added to next month as well.
- Mark Collier: Stated that last year the committee attempted to add capacity by approving two additional members to the committee. The additional members were approved by the committee unanimously. The Council Liaison told Council that the additional members would be an issue for staff to process applications. Jack Davis applied last year and again this year.
- Jan Battersby: Stated her membership to the committee has spanned 12 years. The committee always contained 7 members. Stated that she believes the Council looked at the history of the committee's membership when they decided on not increasing the membership capacity. Spoke

favorably of the Council Liaison by stating that he has been one of the more present council members to serve as liaison. Stated that her observation of the liaison's intent for new committee member was to increase diversity of the committee.

- Brian DeLaGrange: Disagreed with Jan. Stated that there have been other times the liaison has undermined the committee. Mentioned history of liaison raising his voice at Rick Chapman. Mentioned false information given to the committee by the liaison and the City Manager. Mentioned continual conflict between liaison and Mark Collier. Stated that liaison knew his remarks to council about the committee's review of the new member applications was a lie.
- Jan Battersby: Would like to hear from Council Liaison Tyler Flaming.
- Rick Chapman: Questioned how the vote went down at council. Stated that he joined the committee after Reinhart passed away and that he cannot remember when two people were approved to the committee in one motion. Stated that he knew Jack Davis since the 1960s. Stated that the council vote did not seem right.
- Cliff Kuhlman: Stated that the committee does not need to increase or decrease in membership. The committee supported Jack Davis for two years. Because Dick Matti retired from the committee, Jack was the correct new member. Stated that he felt embarrassed that things changed after the committee voted unanimously.
- Chad Thorson: Stated he would be happy to discuss the application process. Would like to know the vetting process of the applications and membership to the committee. He stated that he felt as though his application was not read. Would like to know how the process works moving forward.
- Chair Jenkins: Asked the committee if they trust in the process. Stated that the committee is being discredited. Stated that she did not attend the Council meeting due to COVID and was viewing instead online. Stated that Tyler did not inform her or the committee that he was going to advocate against the committee's recommendation. Stated that she does not want to be on a committee that is just a mouthpiece and advice is not brought forward to Council.
- Mark Collier: Stated that Tyler is not part of committee
- Councilor Flaming: Confirmed he is not
- Brian DeLaGrange: Stated he is not sure if vetting applicants is part of the committee handbook. Stated that reading applications is proper vetting.
- Chair Jenkins: Stated that she read the applications but forgot to bring the applications to the meeting. Stated that she was a teacher and always does her homework.
- Chad Thorson: Stated that friendship is not an issue with membership. Stated that Rick was friends with Jack Davis. Stated that he felt his full

background was not reviewed and that none of the applicants were represented except Jack's.

- Rick Chapman: Stated that Jack was his lawyer.
- Chad Thorson: Stated that friendships shouldn't matter.
- Wendy Giordano: Stated that vetting should come through the committee. It used to go through Council. Stated that she was out the week of the last committee meeting and could not provide copies of the applications to the meeting.
- Rick Chapman: Stated that the mayor questioned the vote.
- City Manager Cubic: Thanked the committee. Stated that the situation was a symptom of a system that requires further explanation. Recommended each committee should have their own criteria for application vetting. Recommended that committees judge and rank applicants, similar to the City's RFP process. This could allow Council to know the committee's process. I could also limit "group think" in the approval process. If committees would like a selection sheet, they can be provided. Recommended that the process slow down when needed to make the process right.
- Councilor Flaming: Stated that the Council took action and that the motion was Council driven. Stated that he expressed his opinion at the Council meeting. Stated that the Bike and Ped chair said they did not read their applications.
- Chair Jenkins: Stated that Tyler told council that not one person on the parks committee read the applications.
- Councilor Flaming: Mentioned Dollar Mountain receiving federal funds for fire mitigation. Stated there is a lack of knowledge on trails on the committee and such knowledge is needed.
- Chair Jenkins: Acknowledged diversity of committee and Councilor Flaming's opinion. Stated that committee's opinion was misrepresented to Council.
- Councilor Flaming: Stated that this was not a tribunal
- Chair Jenkins: Stated that Councilor Flaming threw the committee under the bus. Asked Councilor Flaming if he could separate his opinion from the committees.
- Councilor Flaming: Stated that councilors have their own circles of influence.
- Chair Jenkins: Asked if the liaison is a conduit of information.
- Councilor Flaming: Stated that the liaison is one way. Stated that the process that took place marginalized the applicants who were not mentioned.
- Chair Jenkins: Stated that she lost trust in the process. Suggested that Councilor Flaming go back and listen to his comments at the Council meeting.

- Brian DeLaGrange: Brought a Point of Order and stated that if committee members want to speak, they need to be recognized by the chair.
- Chair Jenkins: Stated that after discussion she thought a motion for a new liaison may still be needed. This issue could be an action item next month. The new member process might be added to next month as well.
- Jan Battersby: Stated that there needs to be a new process to vet applicants. Stated that she does not feel the need to replace the liaison. Stated that the committee needs to move on.
- Chair Jenkins: Stated that the committee can move on if only their voice matters.
- Mark Collier: Mentioned the process and committee trust.

#### **MOTION/VOTE**

**Vice Chair DeLaGrange moved and member Collier seconded the motion to vote for a new liaison. The vote resulted as follows: “AYES”: Chair Jenkins, Mark Collier, Vice Chair DeLaGrange, Cliff Kuhlman and Rick Chapman. “NAYS”: Battersby and Thorson.  
Abstain: None. Absent: None.  
The motion passed.**

- Wendy Giordano: Questioned if the motion could be voted on at this meeting.
- Brian DeLaGrange: Stated that he wanted his motion to stand.

#### **b. Beacon Hill Survey**

- Chair Jenkins: Stated that the BMX facility will no longer be at the park.
- Wendy Giordano: Reviewed survey results. Found that out of 128 respondents, approximately 78% voiced opposition to the BMX facility while approximately 22% voiced support. Wendy stated that TMZ Racing has a new location and that the Beacon Hill Park Plan from before the BMX facility consideration is back.

#### **c. Caveman Pool Survey**

- Chair Jenkins: Moved this to next month’s agenda due to time.
- Rick Chapman: Asked why the parks agendas do not contain “Old Business” and requested it, or something similar, be added to future agendas.
- Chair Jenkins: Requested Wendy to look into this.
- Jan Battersby: Stated that the survey for the pool was not a good representation and stated that there needs to be more people responding.
- Brian DeLaGrange: Stated that one idea for more respondents is to include an insert with the water bill. Stated that the committee needed to add action items.

- Chair Jenkins: Asked why the agenda cannot be amended.
- Brian DeLaGrange: Requested that Beacon Hill be added to next month's agenda due to the budget crisis.
- Mark Collier: Suggested the discussion on the budget crises be broader than Beacon Hill.
- Brian DeLaGrange: Agreed
- Jan Battersby: Asked if county or school parks will be part of the discussion
- Chair Jenkins: Stated that budgetary priorities will be added to the agenda.
- Brian DeLaGrange: Agreed
- Rick Chapman: Stated that he remembers the Beacon Hill project will be a phased approach.
- Chad Thorson: Requested that Travel Southern Oregon be included on the next agenda as tourism may impact budget of parks.
- Wendy Giordano: Mentioned that the Dollar Mountain consultant will be in town and could join the meeting.
- Chair Jenkins: Reviewed the agenda items for next month, which included the budgetary park priorities, how best to include tennis and pickleball input, travel Southern Oregon, and Dollar Mountain.
- Brian DeLaGrange: Stated that the city might amend the agenda process.

**7. Future Agenda Building for Next Meeting:**

**8. Adjournment**

- Susan Jenkins adjourned the meeting at 4:55 p.m.

**Next scheduled meeting: September 10, 2020**

Minute notes provided by City Staff and minutes prepared by Jayme Hyatt PCD (Parks and Community Development) Office Assistant.