

PARKS ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Meeting Minutes – January 14, 2021 at 3:30 PM
Council Chambers

Members in Attendance:

Susan Jenkins (Chair) - Remote
Vacant (Vice Chair)
Jan Battersby
Cliff Kuhlman - Remote
Rick Chapman
Chad Thorson - Remote
Michael Sellers - Remote

City/Staff/Council Liaisons:

Joel King (City Councilor) - Absent
Wendy Giordano (Parks Superintendent)
Ken Garrison (Parks Supervisor) - Absent
Tony Mecum (Urban Forester)

Guests:

Grant Whipp - Remote
Jon Paul - Remote
Dan Miller - Remote

1. Roll Call:

- o Chair Jenkins called the meeting to order at 3:33 pm and roll was taken.

2. Introductions:

3. Public Comment:

Grant Whipp: Spoke about the Grants Pass Skate Park. He is related to a 13-year-old boy who is very well known at the park. The park has a handful of users and is often near capacity. For example, it can be full by 2:30 P.M. The skate park has national reputation. Tony Hawk has been to the park. It is in need of repair and expansion. Parents are planning to fundraise for this. It was mentioned that the City is looking to use this location for the new water plant. What are the next steps?

- a. Chair Jenkins discussed the committee's goal of listing maintenance priorities
- b. Liaison Giordano requested Grant call or email her to follow up

4. Approval of Minutes:

MOTION/VOTE

Member Battersby moved and Member Chapman seconded the motion to approve the minutes from November 12, 2020 as presented. The vote resulted as follows:

“AYES”: Chair Jenkins. Members Kuhlman, Thorson, Chapman, Sellers and Battersby. **“NAYS”:** None. **Abstain:** None.
Absent: None. **The motion passed.**

5. Action Items:

a. Update on Dollar Mountain:

- 1. Liaison Giordano summarized the history, purchase date, fire management, technical assistance grants, and fire mitigation grant of Dollar Mountain. She also discussed volunteer efforts to collect data on the mountain. BLM and Josephine County have been at the table with the City and are partnered for the trail system. The parking lot project is moving forward and has been a Council goal. She continued by explaining the expenses and current project funding.
- 2. Dan Miller presented a recap of the technical assistance of the National Parks Service. He then highlighted survey results which showed a strong preference for hiking and mountain bike trails, better parking, and viewpoints on the mountain. He then discussed issues facing adjacent landowners. Of

those respondents, 44% were supportive of the trails, 34% were indifferent, and 22% were unsupportive. Dan then discussed the pilot trail project, which the City can start on first. This will acclimate adjacent landowners.

3. Member Battersby inquired how close in proximity to the trails are the unsupportive adjacent landowners. She asked if there will there be fencing or other protections.
4. Dan discussed that the trails are not near backyards.
5. Member Thorson asked if the unsupportive respondents were more concerned about misuse of the land or fire?
6. Dan stated that most concerns were of fire danger. He then noted that reputable trail users help reduce the chance of fires. Reputable trail users displace activities that are unwanted.
7. Member Thorson stated that Cathedral Hills has shown this to be true.
8. Dan stated that landowners are always concerned.
9. Jon-Paul then explained outreach efforts with the public, including adjacent landowners. He reviewed tourism opportunities with Dollar Mountain. He then discussed organizational advocacy ideas, such as the creation of a 501c3 fundraising organization.
10. Member Chapman asked if "Friends of Dollar Mountain" has been formed?
11. Jon-Paul stated that such a group has not yet formed.
12. Liaison Giordano stated that the project is not at that stage yet, but to standby.
13. Member Thorson discussed the historic one-mile trail and that volunteers have helped, but engineers will be needed. He asked if the pilot project will help fix issues along the trails.
14. Dan said that it will because a trail loop will be made and that mountain biking will be uphill, with downhill on a dedicated path.
15. Member Thorson asked how much the pilot will cost.
16. Liaison Giordano stated it will cost approximately \$150,000.
17. Jon-Paul stated that the pilot project is a good idea to show City investment, especially for future grant opportunities.
18. Member Battersby asked if the City needs to wait for the money from the Rogue River Reserve for the trail pilot project to move forward? She then asked where the City will we get the money for the project.
19. Liaison Giordano stated that even without River Road Reserve money, the City has money in the project fund.

MOTION/VOTE

Member Thorson moved and Member Battersby seconded the motion to send to Council to approve the Pilot Project of Dollar Mountain. The vote resulted as follows: "AYES": Chair Jenkins, Members Thorson, Sellers, Chapman, and Battersby. "NAYS": None. Abstain: None. Absent: None. Recused: None. The motion passed.

20. Chair Jenkins mentioned that the goal that we had agreed to send to Council prioritized deferred maintenance over new parks, so she questioned our timing of sending support for a new park project.
21. Member Sellers stated that he supports the motion because it helps with the Committee's recommended actions to raise awareness and get the ball rolling.

22. Member Chapman stated that he doesn't see why the Committee can't go forward with the project as it was already a goal and money is already available.

b. Revisit priority list for park deferred maintenance: Chair Jenkins decided to move this to next meeting, with no objections from the Committee.

c. Review applications

MOTION/VOTE

Member Battersby moved and Member Chapman seconded the motion to recommend Jon Blackett to Council for consideration of membership on the Parks Advisory Committee. The vote resulted as follows: "AYES": Chair Jenkins, Members Thorson, Chapman, Kuhlman, Sellers and Battersby. "NAYS": None. Abstain: None. Absent: None. Recused: None. The motion passed.

d. Election of Chair and Vice Chair:

MOTION/VOTE

Member Chapman moved and Member Kuhlman seconded the motion to nominate Susan Jenkins as Chair. The vote resulted as follows: "AYES": Members Thorson, Chapman, Kuhlman, Sellers and Battersby. "NAYS": None. Abstain: None. Absent: None. Recused: None. The motion passed.

MOTION/VOTE

Member Chapman moved and Chair Jenkins seconded the motion to nominate Cliff Kuhlman as Vice Chair. The vote resulted as follows: "AYES": Chair Jenkins, Members Thorson, Chapman, Sellers and Battersby. "NAYS": None. Abstain: None. Absent: None. Recused: None. The motion passed.

6. Matters from Committee Members and Staff

- a. Liaison Giordano mentioned the potential need for a policy on how to honor a person by naming a park or park structure after them.
 - 1. Member Battersby spoke in support of honoring Dick Matti. She then asked what the policy would be.
 - 2. Chair Jenkins and Liaison Giordano said the item will be on the next agenda.

7. Future Agenda Building for Next Meeting

- a. Member Thorson mentioned a proposed Rogue Valley Mountain Bike Association project for Loveless Park. Would like to discuss this at a future meeting.
- b. Chair Jenkins stated there will be a presentation on Strategic Goals.
- c. Member Chapman said he does not want the Committee to meet online again.
- d. Chair Jenkins added that the Committee will revisit priority list for parks needs

8. Adjournment: Chair Jenkins adjourned the meeting at 4:54 p.m.

Next scheduled meeting: February 11, 2021

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