



# Parks, Trees, and Trails Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes February 21, 2024

**Committee Present** Jan Diamantine, Linda Ziedrich, Rick Barnett, Cindy Kerby, Anna Creel, and Rodney Sell.

**Committee Absent** City Councilor, Dave Workman

**Staff Present** Interim City Manager Ron Whitlatch, and Public Works Operations Manager, Jason Rush.

**Call to Order** Chair Barnett called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m. in the Santiam Travel Station Board Room.

**Approval of Minutes** The committee approved the meeting minutes from October 18, 2023.

## **Discussion**

- City of Lebanon Update

Jason Rush and Ron Whitlatch provided the City of Lebanon update:

- The skate park fence is almost complete, just waiting on bollards to be installed.
- There has been an uptick in vandalism, crews are navigating this the best they can and getting it cleaned up in a timely manner.
- Annual tree trimming has been completed.
- Tree removal will be completed on 12<sup>th</sup> Street near Christopher Columbus Park, this tree is impacting the sidewalk and street. The City will complete the tree removal, sidewalk removal, and street repair while the property owner will complete the sidewalk replacement.
- River Park trail extension complete next fiscal year
- The city is currently working through the budget and is down two park staff members they will not be hiring back this year; operations will continue with 1.5 staff members.
- The Cheadle Lake plan still needs a refined plan, but currently water and sewer have been installed. The OPRD Local Government Grant is being looked at to assist with development, due to grant release dates construction dates are on hold.

- March City Council Update

On March 13, 2024, Rick Barnett will be providing an update to the City Council on behalf of the Parks, Trees, and Trails Committee; Build Lebanon Trails will also attend this meeting and provide an update to the Council. A short update will include what the committee has been working on in the last year.

- OPRD Local Government Grant

Oregon Parks and Recreation has large government grants available this year that has a total of 28 million dollars available this year. Barnett mentioned this would be a great opportunity for the development of Cheadle Lake Park. There is a 40% match required, which Lebanon already has available which current fund available. Sell made a motion: The Parks, Trees, and Trails Committee supports the city's efforts to apply for a local government grant large Grant program for the improvements at Cheadle Lake Park. Kerby provided a second; the committee were all in favor.

- BLT Gills Landing Grant Application

Sell stated BLT pulled their grant application due to receiving funding to complete the project. This Gills Landing connector trail project is expected to go out for bid June 2024.

- BLT Update – Rod / Jan

- Build Lebanon Trails has received 5 properties that are all associated with Trail #4 within the Lebanon Strategic Trails Plan. BLT is proposing to design and build a fully accessible trail that connects River Park to Santiam Street. This trail would then been donated to the City of Lebanon once completed. Funding options are being considered.

*Barnett made a motion: The Parks, Trees, and Trails Committee supports Build Lebanon Trails moving forward with the Georgia Pacific Trail, with further discussion on long-term maintenance; Ziedrich provided a second; committee was all in favor.*

- Build Lebanon Trails has an opportunity to obtain an easement that would be used for the South Shore Trail connection trail to the Lebanon Soccer Fields. Thad Nelson provided public comment regarding this topic; he mentioned the connector trail provides an off-road option for transportation to the soccer fields. There is funding available currently for development and construction standards show to hold up for years to come.

*Barnett made a motion: The Parks, Trees, and Trails Committee is supportive of Build Lebanon Trails strategic effort to extend the trail system to the Lebanon soccer fields and to acquire and develop easement at the future South Short Trail Connection; Kerby provided a second; committee was all in favor.*

- Ongoing trail maintenance

- ✓ Cheadle Lake gravel trail rehab
- ✓ Regularly scheduled trail workdays
- ✓ Graffiti removal (The Wipe Outs)
- ✓ Old Mill Trail, 8 tree plantings (Replace dead and damaged and add new trees).
- ✓ BLT is funding a City of Lebanon Seasonal Trail Maintenance Worker for 4 years.
- ✓ BLT has been working on building an endowment fund, which could be used for future trail maintenance costs.

- Ziedrich nominated Porter Park for a Lowes Grant for playground equipment.

- Creel asked about comments made about a Parks District and if it would be possible to create a Parks District within Lebanon; Whitlatch mentioned that with the current population

it is not feasible at this time. Rush stated Lebanon would also have to combine with the aquatic district, because there can only be one special district per area.

- Ziedrich asked about the development of Franklin and Russell Street, she would like to see a signal for pedestrians and bicyclists; Whitlatch stated there would be no flashing light or crosswalk in this intersection, that intersection functions as if it has a crosswalk in it already and the pedestrian has the right of way.

- **Public Comments**

None

**Next Scheduled Meeting**

**April 17, 2024 (2:00 – 3:30 p.m.)**

**Adjournment**

Barnett Adjourned the meeting at 2:59 p.m.

DRAFT