



# ORIGINAL

# Jacobs

## PARK'S COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES Thursday February 20, 2025, 6:00 p.m. MT

The scheduled meeting of the Park's Committee was called to order by Commissioner at approximately 6:00 p.m. on Thursday, February 20, 2025, in the Council Chambers of City Hall. Committee members present in person were Mike Pratt, Michael Partin, Marc Berg, Michael Braden, Tyler Whitaker & Sandy Shelton; Andrew Maeda and was excused.

Others present in person were, City Manager, Dan Cummings  
Public Works Director, Casey Mordhorst.

Mike Pratt led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

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### AGENDA

This Agenda was posted on February 19, 2025; copies of the agenda and minutes are available at the Public Works Headquarters and on the city's website at [www.ontariooregon.org](http://www.ontariooregon.org).

### MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO ADOPT THE AGENDA AS PRESENTED

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### PUBLIC COMMENT

#### Visitor:

- Tobias Braden
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### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

January 16, 2025

#### **RESOLUTION, ACTION &/OR MOTION**

**THE MOTION WAS MADE BY MR. PARTIN AND SECONDED BY MR. WHITAKER TO AMEND MINUTES TO CORRECT ATTENDANCE FROM PREVIOUS MEETING, MR CUMMINGS WAS ABSENT, AND MARKED PRESENT. JANUARY 16, 2025, MINUTES WERE APPROVED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

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## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **A) A letter of support for the Moore Park restroom Project. – Michael Braden**

- Michael Braden wanted to discuss some feedback, but not to take any action tonight. Two different groups offered some feedback on the idea of a restroom facility at Moore Park. Mr. Terry Doles was mentioned, as was the fear that a public restroom at this location will lead to “Degenerative Use” by those unhoused who frequent this location. The city, as a whole, has seen a continuous rise in loitering and vandalism in public spaces. Dan C. City Manager had similar safety concerns, which came about when the gazebo was installed at the park.
- There is still budget funding for grass, sprinklers, and trees to be installed at this location. Michael Braden included past comments from the chief of police. They would like to see parks designed for public safety, to avoid nuisance calls. Locks for the bathroom are also a concern, as it would require manual checks by officers.
- The “Revitalize Ontario Group” chose not to give a letter of endorsement to this project. They also had concerns about a bathroom at the park.
- The Ontario Saturday market organization will not be using more park for their weekend Farmers Market. They have found a new location. If neither organization is going to endorse the restroom idea, the city would like to withdraw the proposal. This was part of a grant funding opportunity under LGGP, the west half of Moore park was purchased back in 2022. Should the city want to pursue this grant funding again, they have until 2028 to do so. The recent grant under Oregon Department of Forestry will cover many of the funding opportunities, including green space, for the next several years.

### **B) A letter of support and GGLO site plan concept. – Michael Braden**

- Michael Braden gave a recap on a former design presentation. Former City Manager Adam Brown had a study done for Moore Park. A copy was given to the committee to review. The idea was to mimic some of the good design elements found at Indian Creek Plaza (Caldwell, Idaho). Ontario City Council at the time found the completion price tag was too costly. With funding issues looming, the entire project was placed on hold.

## **RESOLUTION, ACTION &/OR MOTION**

## **NO RESOLUTION, ACTION &/OR MOTION**

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## **DISCUSSION ITEMS**

### **A) CIP – Casey**

- Casey handed out a spreadsheet with multiple years of project budgeting; sorted out by each park. With the city budget coming up, he would like to ask all the clubs to prioritize projects that they



would like to see implemented. If all clubs give him their top three requests, JACOBS will place those requests at the top of the parks discussion this year. The grey column is a placeholder, if a grant proposal requires matching funds. The funding can be discussed if a grant application is being submitted.

- The locations on the spreadsheet include:
    - Beck Park
    - Rotary Park
    - Lions Park
    - Moore Park
    - Lanterman Park
    - Optimist Park
- If needed, Casey uses a company (Cascade Fencing) for some project installations.
- City Manager mentioned that the security cameras around town had previously been upgraded. There will also be budgeting for additional security features/cameras.
- Dan also commented that Lions Park will be deciding on an “urban trail” through the middle of the grass. Any sidewalk that is used as part of the trail needs to be 8 feet wide. If any park wants to request sidewalks, one design idea is to create ADA pathways to be installed, up to the existing (or future) playground areas. One grant in particular disqualified the city, because there was no existing ADA pathway up to the playground. Jacobs suggested putting on each wish list, “ADA access” sidewalks up to the playground.
- City Manager had previously emailed out a spreadsheet to all the clubs, for tracking expenses that need city matching funds for reimbursement. He also reiterated that it is a two-year total of \$20,000, that each park has access to. It is not a total per club. (Kiwanis club volunteers at Beck/Kiwanis Park and the Lanterman Park). Clubs are able to use the city spreadsheet and confirm the remaining amount for any park, and to confer with the city on their expenses.
- Casey also mentioned that this year, there will be no necessary equipment purchases on the Public Works list.
- Another suggestion was to add a general “sidewalk” cost into the budget items; one that could be used at any location.
- City Manager is requesting all the clubs to come back to him with their top three priorities, for each park. The sooner they know what is on the wish list, the better of a starting point it will then give the city, for the budget discussion.
- Playground Assessments
- The Lions club shared a contact. They asked a playground salesman to come to the parks meeting and present. They explained some of the inspections they began at the beginning of the year.

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- In general, Nick described how much of the playground equipment is out of date and out of compliance. They are certified for playground inspections. If any club would like to get an in-depth evaluation at any of the parks, he can give suggestions, explain code requirements, and advice (safety floor material, etc). In general, older equipment has about a 25-year lifespan.
- The heat and cold can slowly loosen bolts, which can lead to injury. Smaller gravel is non-compliant, considering the depth of material. Their preliminary evaluations (out in the snow) are provided at no cost. Full inspections, maintenance calls, can run \$500-\$1,500. They can be annual, or less frequent.
- Their company adheres to American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM) standards, as well as the certification he completed as Certified Playground Safety Inspector (CPSI).

**B) Member reports on Grants in Progress**

- No new grants to report to the committee.
- Michael Braden commented that the ODF state grant will eventually get dozens of new trees at all the city parks, starting next year. But they first have to do the tree assessment and consultation with an arborist.

**C) Trail Mapping Update Status**

- Nothing new to report, other than the Lions Park is working to determine the location of their new trail.
- Marc B. mentioned the mapping software for the ODF grant called Tree Plotter Inventory. Volunteers can locate and record the size, species, and health of any trees in the city. More information will be available when the weather warms up.

**RESOLUTION, ACTION &/OR MOTION****NO RESOLUTION, ACTION &/OR MOTION**

### COMMENTS FROM COMMITTEE MEMBERS

- Mike Pratt gave an update on Lions Park. They held an online meeting with some park members and a landscape designer (the one from Alameda Schoolyard Project). New parking and urban trail are yet to be finalized.
- Kiwanis club thanked the city for their quick turnaround on repairing the vandalism damage on the Japanese Bridge at Beck Pond. A Kiwanis member asked about a floating cross in the pond, which was previously removed. The city is aware who is placing this into the water, and the individual knows that this memorial item is not allowed.
- City Manager also commented on the Ontario Recreation District. Their current director is Andrew Maeda. He sits on several committees and has not been to a park meeting this year. If another ORD committee member or representative would like to be added to the Parks Committee, the city would appreciate that.

### ADJOURN

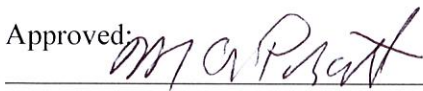
#### **RESOLUTION, ACTION &/OR MOTION**

**THE MOTION TO ADJOURN WAS MADE BY MICHAEL PARTIN AND SECONDED BY TYLER WHITAKER: MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

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**NEXT MEETING SCHEDULED FOR MARCH 20, 2025, AT 6:00PM.**

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature



3/20/25  
Date

(Chairman Michael Pratt, Vice-Chairman Michael Partin)