

**ASHLAND CITY COUNCIL
BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES
November 21, 2023**

I. CALL TO ORDER

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

1. Land Acknowledgement**

Councilor Hyatt read the land acknowledgement.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Council Hyatt led the pledge of allegiance.

III. ROLL CALL

Mayor Graham & Councilors Hyatt, Bloom, Kaplan, DuQuenne, and Hansen were present.

IV. MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mayor Graham reminded the community that there were vacancies on the Climate and Environmental Policy Advisory Committee, Historic Preservation Advisory Committee, Housing and Human Services Advisory Committee, the Public Arts Committee, and Social Equity and Racial Justice Committee. Graham noted the festival of lights would occur on November 24th 2023 with Small Business Saturday happening on November 25th, 2023. Graham turned the floor over to Councilor Dahle, who provided an update about ongoing research regarding the proposed 5G cell tower ordinance. Dahle added that the update included input from legal and public works, with public comments to be opened before first reading.

V. PUBLIC FORUM

Paul Mozina/Ashland/Voiced concern about a lack of public discussion regarding the potential health issues of mobile networks. Brought up limitations the Telecommunication Act has had regarding discussion around potential health impacts. Urged the city council to create a study session around the health impacts of 5G networks.

Kelly Marikitoli/Ashland/Invited Council to a public meeting on the health impacts of 5G on December 1st, 2023. Spoke about increase in brain cancer rates and decrease in fertility rates. Criticized Council on their lack of communication with the public.

Miriam Reed/Ashland/Mentioned how Stanford, CT declined installing 5G in their town. Quoted from doctor who spoke out against 5G in Stanford, CT. Criticized Council for listening to the telecommunication industry.

Cynthia Zee/Ashland/Expressed concern that the city council was not listening to constituents about 5G.

VI. MAYOR ANNOUNCEMENTS (CONTINUED)

Graham turned the floor over to DuQuenne. DuQuenne announced a vigil and celebration of life being held to honor the 3rd anniversary of the killing of Aidan Ellison on November 23rd, 2023.

VII. APPROVAL OF MINUTES ***

1. Minutes of the November 3rd, 2023 Executive Session

2. Minutes of the November 6th, 2023 Study Session
Councilor Bloom/DuQuenne m/s to approve the minutes from November 3rd, 2023 and November 6th, 2023.

Roll Call Vote: Councilor Hansen, Hyatt, Dahle, Bloom, DuQuenne, and Kaplan, YES. Motion passed.

VIII. **SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS**

Chief Tighe O'Meara presented the Fire and Police Citizen Lifesaving Award to Xander Chappell on behalf of the City Council, the Ashland Police Department, Ashland Fire and Emergency Services, and the people of Ashland. O'Meara and the Council praised Chappell's actions. A photo was taken of Chappell, O'Meara and the Council.

IX. **CITY MANAGER REPORT**

Acting City Manager Sabrina Cotta announced that City offices will be closed on November 24th, 2023, and November 25th, 2023. Normal operations will resume on November 27th, 2023.

X. **PUBLIC FORUM**

Tom Marr/Ashland/Spoke about his recent arrest and issues with connecting with Ashland Utility Department to return power and water to his property. Voiced concerns that the City Council was not taking care of the unhoused and the environment.

XI. **CONSENT AGENDA**

1. Liquor License for Go Bowled LLC at 1469 Siskiyou Boulevard
2. Public Arts Committee Appointment

Councilor Bloom/DuQuenne m/s to approve the consent agenda.

Roll Call Vote: Councilor Hansen, Hyatt, Dahle, Bloom, DuQuenne, and Kaplan, YES. Motion passed.

XII. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

1. Resolution- 2023-26 BN 23-25 Budget Transfer

Finance Director Maryanne Berry and Department of IT Director Jason Wegner requested that \$222,000 be transferred from the general fund contingency to the IT budget for the replacement of City network switches. Berry said that the switches were initially included in the budget as an optional funding item but needed replacement after a fire due to the age of the equipment. Wegner spoke about the importance of the switches regarding Ashland's infrastructure, and the importance of replacing them. Berry mentioned that the funds would not be pulled from the telecommunication fund and that IT's own budget was not adequate to pay for the replacement. DuQuenne noted that this type of situation is the reason that the City has a contingency fund. She asked how much money would be left in the fund after the transfer. Berry stated that this fund request is for about \$222,000 of the \$2.8 million in the contingency fund. Dahle asked about the expected life cycle of the new equipment. Wegner answered that the projected life cycle is between five to ten years, adding that most switches currently in use are already out of

production. Hyatt asked if there would be a need for a supplemental budget in the future, which Berry confirmed.

Councilor Bloom/Hyatt m/s to adopt resolution 2023-26 BN 23-25 Budget Transfer

No Discussion

Roll Call Vote: Councilor Hansen, Hyatt, Dahle, Bloom, DuQuenne, and Kaplan, YES. Motion passed.

2. Amend Resolution 2023-06 to Change the Forest Lands Standing Advisory to the Forest Lands Management Advisory Committee

Ashland Fire Division Chief Chris Chambers explained the changes within the committee as well as the changes in scope regarding trail management. Hyatt spoke about the changes in the committee and her support for the motion. Kaplan asked what public hearings and public representation would look like for this committee. Chambers explained that there was no change regarding the committee holding public forums, despite it changing from a Standing Advisory Committee to a Management Advisory Committee.

Councilor Hyatt /Bloom m/s to amend resolution 2023-05 to change the Forest Lands Standing Advisory to the Forest Lands Management Advisory Committee.

Discussion. Hyatt reiterated the initial reason for changing the committee along with the plan to evaluate the committee at a later date. Bloom added that the change had the support of the committee and staff. Kaplan expressed his lack of favor towards Management Advisory Committees but acknowledged the group's efforts to adhere to public openness.

Roll Call Vote: Councilor Hansen, Hyatt, Dahle, Bloom, and DuQuenne, YES. Kaplan, NO Motion passed.

3. Special Procurement contract with Lomakatsi Restoration project for Forestry Services

Chambers and Forest Lands Management Advisory Committee member Priscila Schuyler-Franco provided a presentation (see attached presentation) and spoke about the planned forest restoration projects. DuQuenne asked if a copy of the presentation could be provided to the Council, which Chambers agreed to. Graham asked about a funding source for the restoration project and the associated contract. Chambers responded that the City would have to have a contract before a cost could be calculated, adding that after this initial step, it would be possible to make changes as needed.

Public Comment

Eric Navickas/Ashland/Raised concerns about slope stability and soil issues with removing trees from the remediation area. Raised issues regarding lack of forest restoration with previous projects due to soil issues caused by the removal of trees. Requested the City look for alternatives that would remove salvage logging from the project and a cost analysis.

Cynthia Zee/Ashland/Suggested the City consider atmospheric disturbances and proposed the Council investigate the effects of aerosol injections regarding deforestation. Recommended the City investigate arson control.

Heron Boyce/Ashland/Voiced agreement with leaving trees and natural decay in place to help preserve soil stability, and properties. Expressed concerns that salvage logging was considered because of financial benefits. Brought up concerns of environmental effects of the logging operation.

Graham suggested Chambers and Schuyler-Franco consider alternative ideas during the tree-marking process. Chambers responded that work would be on an area-by-area basis regardless of method, adding that it while it would limit cost, it would require additional meetings over time. Dahle asked about the potential of delimbing as opposed to removing trees. Chambers responded that he would investigate but mentioned that it could potentially cause additional issues with fire hazards. Hansen asked Chambers what he felt would happen if the Council invested \$250,000 into the initial assessment which Chambers affirmed would be enough for initial work to begin. Hansen asked if individual elements of the project could be taken care of if the total funding request was not met or was delayed. Chambers responded that some work could be done, but it would extremely limit interest from contractors due to a lack of initial investment. Hyatt asked if the initial assessment could prioritize sections closer to homes as well as sections that were on unstable land. Chambers confirmed that the assessment could easily prioritize those areas first.

Councilor Hansen/Bloom m/s to approve special procurement contract to Lomakatsi Restoration project not to exceed \$250,000 through June 30, 2025, for forestry work critical for watershed and community safety.

DISCUSSION: Hansen spoke to the money already being budgeted and the importance of the project towards the safety of the community. Hansen thanked Chambers and his team for their efforts and presentation. Bloom added the importance of the current forestry situation and education of the people of Ashland about the issue. Kaplan suggested an amendment or additional direction be created for the full project, which Hansen and Chambers clarified would be included as part of the contract.

Roll Call Vote: Councilor Hansen, Hyatt, Dahle, Bloom, Kaplan and DuQuenne, YES. Motion passed.

4. First Reading or Ordinance 3227 – An ordinance allowing Alcohol Use in Parks

Interim Parks and Recreation Director Leslie Eldridge gave a presentation outlining Ordinance 3227 (See attached presentation). Bloom asked where weddings would fall under the ordinance. Eldridge responded that it depends on the age range. If the event was 21 and over, then there wouldn't be a designated area. If it was mixed age, then there would have to be a designated "beer garden" for people to consume alcohol. Bloom also asked about the absence of oversight from legal and the Chief of Police in the security requirements for an event. Eldridge responded that the ordinance was a generalized ordinance, with the procedures being under the authority of the Ashland Parks and Recreation Commission, with legal and the Chief of Police being included. Bloom expressed concerns of possible liability. Dahle asked about any potential downsides to the ordinance seen by the Parks' Commission. Eldridge spoke about the Parks' Commission proceeding extremely cautiously if this ordinance were to pass. Hansen thanked Eldridge and the Commission for listening to community voices while also asking if there were plans in place to re-evaluate the ordinance over a certain timespan. Eldridge responded that she foresaw the policy being reviewed every six months, with the Parks Commission working alongside event coordinators and keeping the public informed of any

potential changes.

Public Comments

Eric Navickas/Ashland/Raised concerns about commercialization and privatization of parks. Felt that the ordinance ran contrary to the principle of the Parks movement within America as a whole. Also raised concern of a sense of privilege regarding who can and cannot drink in the park.

Councilor Hansen motioned to approve the first reading of Ordinance 3227 and move to second reading. No second motion was made. Motion failed.

Councilor Hansen/DuQuenne m/s to approve the first reading of Ordinance 3227 and move to the second reading.

Discussion Hansen spoke to the ordinance as a way to improve vibrancy and activities within the greater community. He applauded Eldridge and the Parks Commission for listening to the community. DuQuenne praised Eldridge and the Parks Commission for listening to the community. Bloom expressed his intent to vote no because of the possible liability issues with private security companies, but expressed support of a second reading if changes were made involving legal and police oversight with security. Dahle agreed with Bloom's concerns about security. Kaplan praised the testimony from Navickas. Hyatt expressed hesitancy around the security concerns but also praised the Parks Commission for their vision. She suggested using the Japanese Garden or the Bandshell as small-scale trial locations. Hyatt moved to approve the first reading of the ordinance to include changes to vet security and identify a small number of approved trial locations.

Councilor Hyatt/Bloom m/s to amend Ordinance 3227 to include the vetting of security and the identification of a small number of approved trial locations and move to second reading.

DISCUSSION Hyatt spoke to the desires of the community, but also praised the conservative approach of the Parks Commission and the further defining of terms within the amendment to prevent the commercialization of the parks. Bloom and DuQuenne supported Hyatt's statement. Hansen expressed understanding to the points raised by Hyatt but felt that ordinance was not in need of amending at this time.

Roll Call Vote: Councilor Hansen, Hyatt, Dahle, Bloom, Kaplan and DuQuenne, YES. Hansen NO. Amendment passed.

Roll Call Vote: Councilor Hansen, Hyatt, Dahle, Bloom, Kaplan, DuQuenne and Hansen YES. Motion passed.

XIII. Ordinances, Resolutions and Contracts

1. First reading of Prohibited Camping Ordinance

Acting City Attorney Doug McGeary and Assistant City Attorney Carmel Zahran spoke to changes made to the ordinance exemptions. Bloom asked about the change in language, which Zahran explained was made solely for the purpose of plain reading. Kaplan thanked Zahran for the clarification in language around the term "strict prohibition." Graham asked about the difference between camping prohibition being suspended and camping being suspended, which McGeary agreed would need to be clarified. Kaplan called for point of order based on the changes being made at the table with no community oversight, highlighting the sensitivity of the issue within the community. Kaplan suggested tabling the ordinance until the next council meeting over the

changes, with Graham agreeing.

Councilor Kaplan/Hansen m/s to table the ordinance until the next council meeting after receiving public comments. Bloom expressed his disapproval of the motion to table the ordinance. DuQuenne expressed support for tabling the ordinance.

Roll Call Vote: Councilor Hansen, Hyatt, Kaplan and DuQuenne, YES. Bloom and Dahle, NO. Motion Passed.

Public Comments

Trina Sanford/Ashland/Spoke in opposition of and expressed disapproval at the ordinance being tabled, feeling that the community's wishes were being dismissed for "trivial matters." Requested the enhanced enforcement provision be modified to include South Ashland. Requested clarification on distances and definition of campsite removal. Stated that South Ashland was not being fairly represented within the ordinance.

Heron Boyce/Ashland/Expressed disapproval of the ban on cooking and heat listed in the ordinance. Urged the Council to consider the humanity and voices of the unhoused. Raised concerns about the treatment of the unhoused at the night lawn.

Echo Fields/Ashland/Expressed concern about the role of the City Manager in implementation and voiced concern about the consequences of the ordinance. Questioned the efficacy of the ordinance. Felt that the Council's desire to create a homeless masterplan would be undercut by the ordinance. Expressed support to the shelter goals yet felt that the input of the unhoused were not considered.

Debbie Neisewander/Ashland/Spoke in opposition of the ordinance. Expressed feelings that the ordinance was targeting the unhoused regardless of status. Raised concerns about feasibility of enforcement. Raised concerns about the Council's reliance on designated space. Raised concerns about processes and structure.

Judy Bunch/Ashland/ Spoke on behalf of the South Ashland Neighborhood and Business Coalition. Voiced concerns about the effects the unhoused are having on South Ashland. Suggested that the City provide fewer social services to dissuade the unhoused from coming to Ashland. Felt that South Ashland had gone unheard regarding the impact of the shelter. Suggested the ordinance expand its distance from 250 feet to 500 feet.

Tom Marr/Ashland/Spoke in opposition of the ordinance. Felt that the City Council made the right decision to table the ordinance. Felt that the ordinance was "unconstitutional" citing rulings in other states. Felt that the Council was ignoring the concerns of the unhoused.

XIV. NEW BUSINESS

1. First Quarter Financial Update

Berry explained that the beginning balances for the first quarter of 2024 were still preliminary, as the results of the June 2023 audit had not yet been completed. She stated that there was minimal revenue in the first quarter due to the timing of taxes and other larger revenue sources. She explained that the health benefits reserve fund was closed as it was no longer needed due to the change with insurance. She stated that Ashland Municipal Airport was going through a taxiway reconstruction project, which would be supported by two grants. However, due to the timing of receiving grant funding, there is a negative balance as of September 30, 2023. Despite this, no

funding policies were violated. She concluded with the observation that there is a healthy liquidity in all accounts and the audit will be presented to the Council in December 2023.

XV. Ordinances, Resolutions and Contracts (Continued)

1. Contract for Fire and Rescue Ambulance

Deputy Fire Chief of Operation Marshall Rasor spoke on behalf of Fire Chief Ralph Sartain. Rasor explained the reasoning for the purchase of the specific ambulance and mentioned how the planned procurement was already budgeted.

Councilor Bloom/DuQuenne m/s to sign the contract for the procurement of the budgeted ambulance from Braun NW Inc, Chehalis WA

Discussion: Bloom thanked Rasor and Ashland Fire and Rescue for their work.

Roll Call Vote: Councilor Hansen, Hyatt, Kaplan, Bloom, Dahle and DuQuenne YES. Motion Passed.

XVI. NEW BUSINESS (CONTINUED)

1. Shelter Goals

Graham noted that the shelter goals had been reviewed by stakeholders and updated. Graham also spoke to efforts to include voices from South Ashland, as well as efforts to add appropriate lighting to areas such as bridges and the bike path. DuQuenne responded that plans for motion-sensor lighting would not account for people sleeping outside and that the total cost would be more than the City could afford. Graham mentioned that while lighting for the bike path had been set aside for later, fencing for the bike path could be repaired quickly. Cotta added that repairing the wooden fencing section would be delayed due to an ongoing lawsuit. Graham mentioned that requests to relocate the shower trailer will not be possible due to utility hook-up location, and relocating the port-a-potties would not be possible due to ADA requirements and fire safety accessibility. Graham also added that the process for setting up volunteer clean-up operations would begin. Bloom asked about plans to reach out to local business in South Ashland to hear their input. Graham responded that there are plans in place to reach out to businesses within the area. Cotta added that the City's beautification grant application would be released shortly. Bloom spoke to having lighting under the bridge being static and not timed/motion sensor. Dahle asked about the ADA requirements for the port-a-potties, which Cotta clarified that the opposite side of the building had steps. Kaplan asked if the bathrooms within the shelter ADA compliant. Bloom responded that they were not. Hansen suggested installing temporary lighting around the underpass, with DuQuenne expressing support for the idea. Graham reminded the Council that any lighting on the bridge must be approved by the Oregon Department of Transportation. DuQuenne expressed concerns around liabilities to volunteers and the neighborhood. Graham responded that volunteers would be trained to report certain items such as drug paraphernalia and hazardous waste to the Police and Park Services and to not pick them up. Bloom spoke to issues around getting volunteers, as well as thinking of other ways to get the required manpower for cleanup duties. Bloom also suggested creating a cost-estimate for lighting the bike path. DuQuenne added that creating a list of deadlines would be helpful to ease South Ashland residents' worries.

Public Comments

Trina Sanford/Ashland/ Spoke about drug issues of shelter residents. Described individuals going to her property to use drugs. Voiced concern that OHRA rules are not being enforced equally.

Rachel Jones/Ashland/ Spoke on behalf of the South Ashland Neighborhood and Business Coalition. Requested Council to listen to four specific requests laid out by the group. Those are to add fencing to cut off access to under the bridge, to add lighting underneath the bridge along the greenway, to move port-a-potties to the front of the shelter building, and to provide adequate screening in front of the shower trailer.

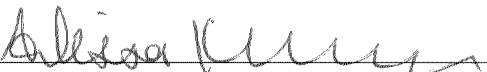
Jerry Esposito/Ashland/ Spoke on behalf of the South Ashland Neighborhood and Business Coalition. Requested clarity on shelter goals and how they would be implemented. Requested that removed trash cans in South Ashland be returned. Voiced concerns that there was no concrete plan to address the unhoused situation.

Alison Wildman/Ashland/ Spoke on behalf of the South Ashland Neighborhood and Business Coalition. Expressed frustration that the City was placing social services only in South Ashland. Asked for better communication from the City with South Ashland residents.

XVII. ADJOURNMENT OF BUSINESS MEETING

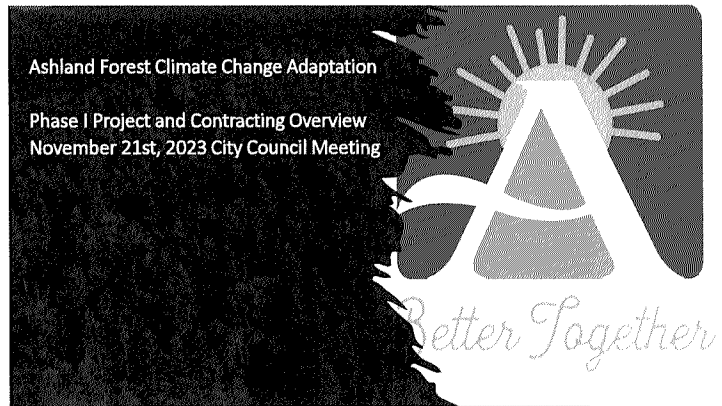
The meeting adjourned at 9:32 p.m. by Mayor Graham.

Respectfully Submitted by:


City Recorder Alissa Kolodzinski

Attest:


Mayor Tonya Graham



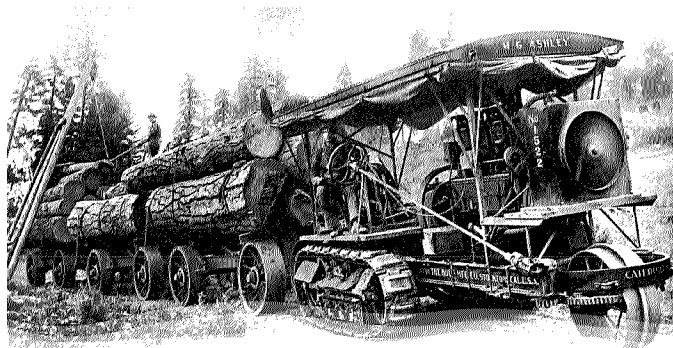
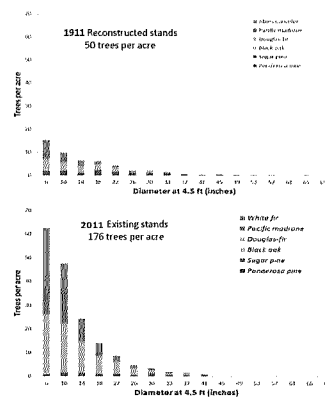
Key Questions:

1. Why are so many trees dying?
2. Why do we need to cut trees?
3. How much will this cost?
4. What will this contract do?

1. Why are so many trees dying?



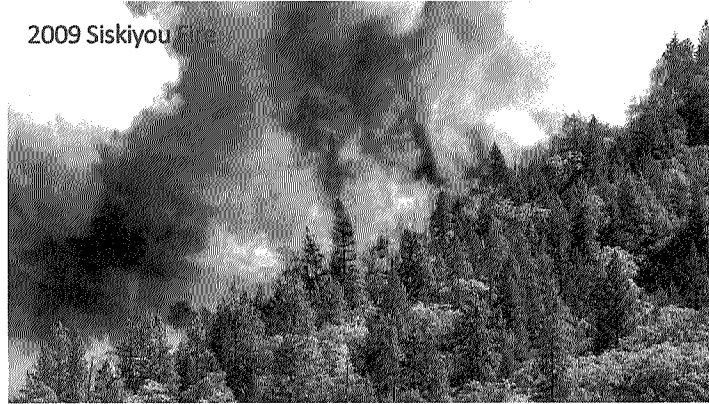
Many fire scars - one tree



1973 Hillview Fire



2009 Siskiyou



Dense forest

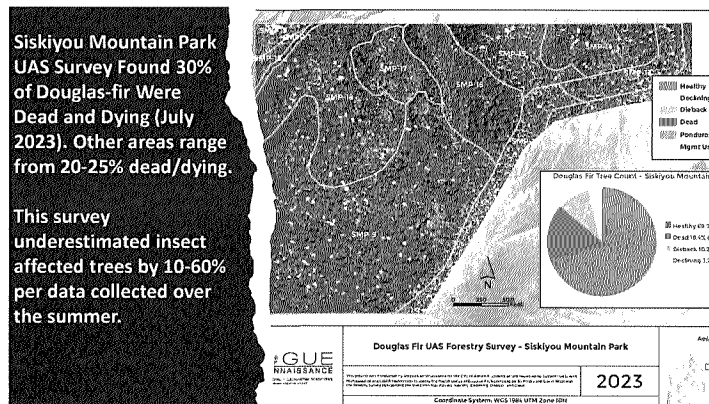
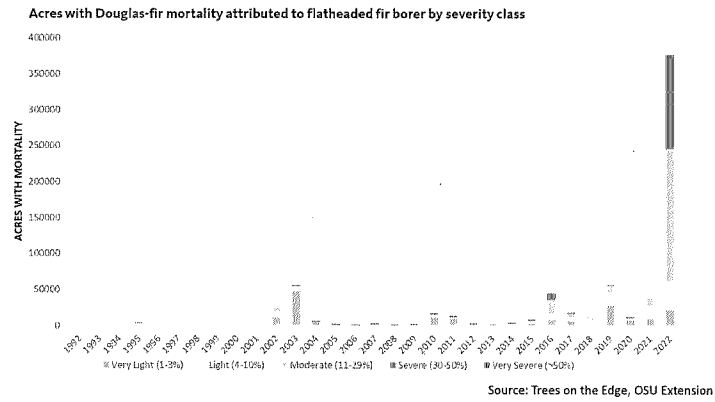


Past major insect and disease-related mortality of conifers from 2001-2003



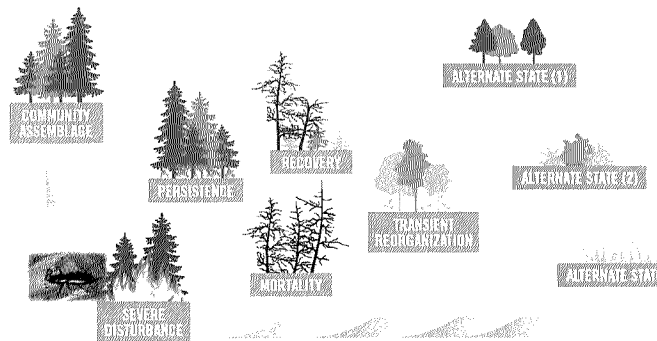
Looking northwest from Waterline Trail, ~2003 (Main)

What is the current situation?



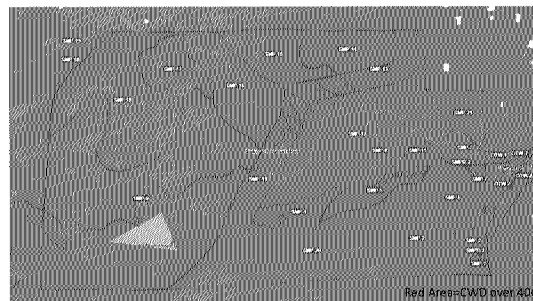
More trees are dying than we surveyed...

Range of Green, But Infested Trees	5720	10.0%
per initial 2023 field data	8320	60.0%
(USFS Forest Health Program)	6500	25.0%



Predicted Climatic Water Deficit 2055

Projected CWD is based on a conservative Representative Concentration Pathway 8.5 scenario. Data suggest that Douglas-fir mortality risk is significantly elevated above a CWD of 350 and few DF are found above a CWD of 400. Under the projected CWD, most lower elevation sites in interior SW Oregon would be inhospitable for Douglas-fir. (Bennett et al 2023, Journal of Forestry)



What should we do?

We've been here before: The 2004 City of Ashland Forestlands Restoration Phase II Project used best management practices to protect soils while removing dead and dying insect killed trees, reducing wildfire hazard while maintaining habitat. 30% of trees were dead in the 2004 project.

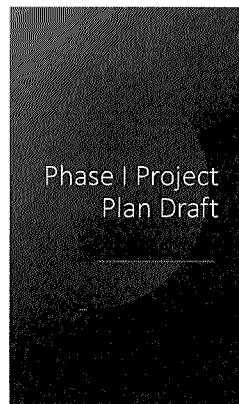


ASHLAND

**Final Climate Change Addendum to the
2016 Ashland Forest Plan**
Approved by Ashland City Council in April 2023

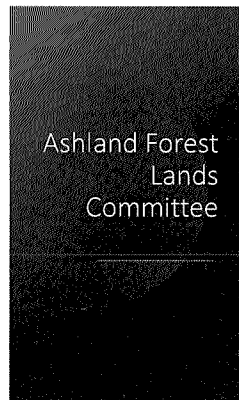
I. Introduction

The 2016 Ashland Forest Plan (AFP) contained a chapter on climate change, but it was general in nature and limited by uncertainty as to the impact climate change would have on the approximately 1,200 acres of forest lands managed by the City of Ashland and Ashland Parks and Recreation Commission (APRC). The increased research and rapid rate of climate change induced impacts on Ashland's forest lands over the past six years have added considerably to the Forest Lands Commission's (FLC, now a management advisory committee) understanding of the urgent need to address climate change impacts through recommendations to the Ashland City Council for planning direction and management actions over the next 25 years. Current drought and temperature-related changes to vegetation on municipal forest lands warrant an improved and more comprehensive analysis of climate-adaptive planning and management beyond what was addressed in the AFP. Adaptive management is a key overarching strategy addressed throughout this addendum to assess both new and changing resource conditions and land management goals, as well as those that remain unchanged at this time.

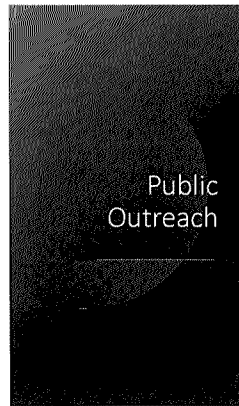


Ashland Forest to Climate Change Adaptation: Phase I Project Plan and
Prescriptions DRAFT
October, 2023

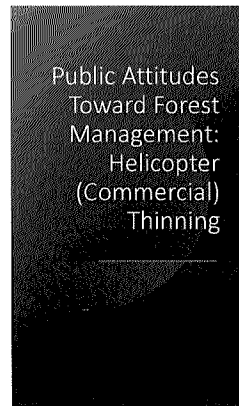
- I. Introduction
- II. Climate Change Adaptation Framework
- III. Project Area and Proposal
- IV. History of City and Parks Forestlands Stewardship
- V. Ashland Forest Plan Guidance and Objectives
- VI. Current Conditions and Trends: Key Resources and Values
 - i. Fire and Fuels
 - ii. Coarse Woody Debris (CWD)
 - iii. Vegetation
 - iv. Soils and Geology
 - v. Wildlife
 - vi. Douglas-Fir Decline Risk Rating
- VII. Prescriptions by Condition
 - a. Title from Below
 - b. Transition
 - c. Public Safety
 - d. Variable Density
- VIII. Appendix
 - a. 2023 UAS Mortality Survey
 - b. Mortality Survey Data Table by Unit
 - c. 2023 Climate Change Adaptation Addendum to the Ashland Forest Plan



- Produced the 2023 Ashland Forest Plan Climate Change Adaptation Addendum
- Reviewed multiple drafts of the Climate Adaptation Phase I Project Plan
- Voted to support the Phase I Plan and recommend Council adoption

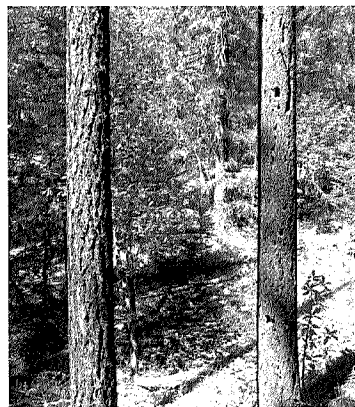


- April 2023: Council Approval of Ashland Forest Plan Climate Change Addendum with public meetings, tours, comments, and testimony.
- Two public field tours in October (10 citizens attended)
- Public Meeting, October 26th: 35 Citizens Attended
- Three Field Tours with Southern Oregon Land Conservancy (Siskiyou Mt Park Only)
- Public Draft Review and Comments: October 25th to November 7th
- APRC Meetings in October and November



Longitudinal surveys conducted by Dr. Mark Shibley of SOU in 2012, 2013, 2019 as part of the Ashland Forest Resiliency Project

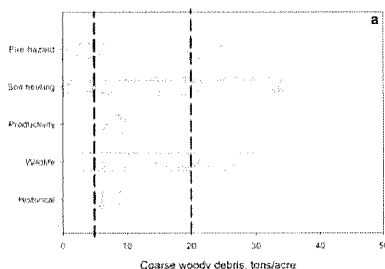
- There was a big, statistically significant increase in support for commercial thinning as a legitimate fuel-reduction tool that resources managers should use more often. (2013)
- In 2012, 58% of panel respondents said commercial thinning was a legitimate tool that resource managers should use more often. That increased to 80% in 2019.
- Fewer than 1 in 10 panel respondents agree that forests should be allowed to evolve without any more human intervention. Fewer than 2 in 10 agreed that restoration should focus only on the Wildland Urban Interface.



Top Public Concerns:

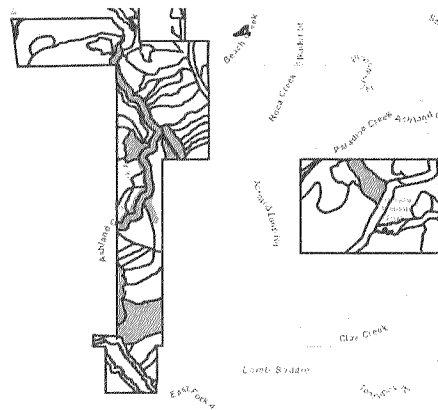
1. Snags and Downed Logs for Wildlife Habitat
2. Fire Danger
3. Impacts to trails via closures in April and May and physical trail damage
4. Cost of project

Balancing Wildlife Habitat and Fire Hazard: Brown et al (2008)



Balancing Wildlife Habitat and Fire Hazard

	2017 COA CWD Inventory	ODF Forest Practices Required CWD	Current Dead/Dying DF from 2023 Survey	Optimum CWD (snags and down) Brown (2003)
1 to 100 hour fuels/acre	5.59 tons	NA	NA	<5 tons
1000+ hour fuels/acre	17.23 tons	2 logs	NA	5 to 20 tons/acre
Snags per acre	7.0 tons	2	>6.84 tons	



Wildlife Habitat: Landscape Refugia

Responses to research submitted

Salvage harvest effects on advance tree regeneration, soil nitrogen, and fuels following mountain pine beetle outbreak in lodgepole pine

Authors: Jacob M. Griffin, Martin Simard, Monica G. Turner

- Specific to lodgepole pine, totally different forest type with completely different species life history and disturbance ecology
- Assumes using ground-based logging that can have negative soil impacts leading to compaction, drying, damage to seedlings, and excessive ground fuels (unless burned)
- "In the long term, lower coarse wood loads in harvested stands may increase fire suppression effectiveness by reducing the time needed for fireline construction, for snag mitigation for crew safety, and for mop up."
- Conclusion: "This study suggests that merchantable trees can be harvested from some beetle-killed lodgepole pine forests without severely compromising potential tree regeneration and without large initial effects on soil Nitrogen."
- This study supports our course of action, particularly given that all surface fuels (limbs and branches) will be piled and burned.

Responses to research submitted

Effects of logging on fire regimes in moist forests

David B. Lindenmayer, Malcolm L. Hunter, Phillip J. Burton, Philip Gibbons

Does logging affect the fire proneness of forests? This question often arises after major wildfires, but data suggest that **answers differ substantially among different types of forest**. Logging can alter key attributes of forests by changing microclimates, stand structure and species composition, fuel characteristics, the prevalence of ignition points, and patterns of landscape cover. These changes may make some kinds of forests more prone to increased probability of ignition and increased fire severity. Such forests **include tropical rainforests** where fire was previously extremely rare or absent and other **moist forests** where natural fire regimes tend toward **low frequency, stand replacing events**. Relationships between logging and fire regimes are contingent on forest practices, the kind of forest under consideration, and the **natural fire regime characteristic of that forest**.

Responses to research submitted

Effects of logging on fire regimes in moist forests

David B. Lindenmayer, Malcolm L. Hunter, Philip J. Burton, Philip Gibbons

An alternative perspective from dry forests

Relationships between logging and the frequency, extent and severity in some kinds of dry forests can differ from moist forests (Noss *et al.* 2006b). These include forests where prolonged fire suppression activities have altered natural fire regimes by increasing fuel loads and thereby elevated the risk of uncharacteristic high severity wildfires (Harrod *et al.* 2009). In these forests, tree removal can be employed as an appropriate restoration technique if thinning is aimed at removing unnaturally high fuel loads, thereby reducing the likelihood of inappropriate high severity wildfires (Noss *et al.* 2006b; Spies *et al.* 2006). Nevertheless, **if thinnings are left on site** rather than taken out of the forest for disposal, these operations too can elevate the risk of unplanned ignitions (Schroeder *et al.* 2006).

We plan to remove “thinings”, or fuels left behind from trees being cut.

Responses to research submitted

Impacts of salvage logging on biodiversity: A meta-analysis

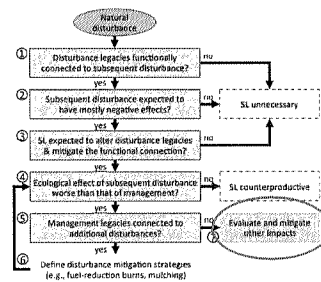
Simon Thorn, Claus Röckner, Roland Brandl, Philip J. Burton, Rebecca Caball, John I. Campbell, Jorge Castro, Chang-Yong Choi, Tyler Cobb, Daniel C. Donato, Ewa Durska

- Study considers (and lumps) all forest types across the world
- Nothing specific to dry, frequent fire forests of North America
- Target recommendations are for protected areas such as national parks
- Does not consider situations where the longer-term consequences can be worse than the initial disturbance or the corrective action
- Final recommendation (below) is consistent with our approach to leave dead wood behind
- Assumes all disturbances are “natural” without consideration for site specific disturbance history or forest development

“We therefore call for an expansion of the green-tree retention approach to include naturally disturbed forests by leaving substantial amounts of dead wood on site to reduce the impact of salvage logging on biodiversity.”

Tamm Review: Does salvage logging mitigate subsequent forest disturbances?

Alexandro B. Leverkus, Brian Buma, Joseph Wagenbrenner, Philip J. Burton, Emanuele Lingua, Raffaella Marzano, Simon Thorn



Key Overarching Issues from Research Submitted

1. Research submitted did not address wildfire safety to adjacent homes, lives, firefighter safety, water supply, or infrastructure...the #1 priority of the City. All the project area is located within the Wildland Urban Interface approved in the 2004 Community Wildfire Protection Plan.
2. Most studies assume that disturbance (in this case, insect die-off) is “natural”. Though our species are native, our city forests are the products of clear-cuts, stand-replacing fires, and fire exclusion, creating forests that have no historical analog i.e. not “natural”.
3. No study submitted took into the effects of climate change.

Adopted 2016 Ashland Forest Plan (2016) Policy

1. Reduce the likelihood of high-severity fire through strategically placed fuels treatments and subsequent implementation of prescribed underburning to maintain reduced fuels and less fire-prone conditions;
2. Manage for both development and maintenance of older forests that may sequester and retain large amounts of carbon over time;
3. Focus on protection and restoration of diverse forest structures, plant communities and associated genetic resources which are important mechanisms of resilience;
4. Emphasize multiple species management including species well selected to thrive in future warmer and drier conditions such as pines, hardwoods and shrub species (within prescribed spatial considerations for their potential to aggravate fire potential and hazard); and
5. Monitor and control invasive species that are prone to establishment and/or expansion in changing climates

Adopted Ashland Forest Plan Climate Change Addendum (2023)

1. Where feasible, maintain and promote refugia conditions to buffer against climate change impacts, allowing diverse habitats to persist. Delineate refugia at a fine of scale as practical.
2. Enhance the existing mosaic of open and closed forest structure to further reduce fuel continuity, increase biodiversity, and regenerate shade intolerant species such as pine, oak, bunch grasses, and shrubs.
3. Promote and maintain healthy and productive soils by preventing high intensity fire, maintaining cover in landslide hazard zones, and providing for soil carbon balance through Coarse Woody Material (CWM) budgeting on a site-specific basis.
4. Proactively remove and treat excess dead and dying trees and slash to reduce fuel accumulation and escalation of fire hazard and impacts to trail use and public safety. Prioritize pre-emptive treatment of sites prone to future tree mortality using the Main risk rating system.

Avoid severe fire at all costs!

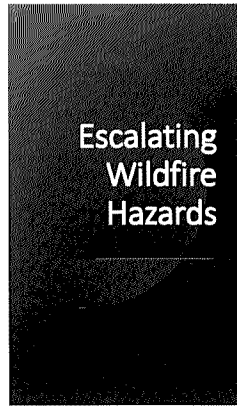
1. Research and experience is clear that severe fire will cause significant damage to vegetation, soils, habitat, infrastructure, carbon storage, recreation, human health, and community safety.
2. Mass die-off leads to mass fuels buildup, which leads to mass fire.
3. Maintaining lower fuel levels through forest management, including prescribed fire, is proven and effective.

High densities of both snags and logs were associated with high reburn severity in a subsequent fire.... Our results demonstrate that high levels of large dead wood, which is often not considered in fire behavior modeling, corresponded with repeated high-severity fire effects.

Lydersen et al 2019

Avoid severe fire at all costs!

"Resulting interactions between historical increases in forested area and density and recent rapid warming, increasing insect mortality, and wildfire burned areas, are now leading to substantial abrupt landscape alterations. These outcomes are forcing forest planners and managers to identify strategies that can modify future outcomes that are ecologically and/or socially undesirable". -Hessburg, 2021



- Immediate increase in fire hazard while trees are “red and dead”. This is now and continues for 1-2 years or more if more trees die.
- Increased chance of extreme fire behavior with high flame lengths and prolonged soil heating over large areas.
- Firefighter are not safe working around dead trees, harder to control fires.
- The long duration and magnitude of soil heating may also result in significant losses of soil organic matter. Roots and soil biota sustain damage, and the erosion potential increases.

Source: OSU Peer-reviewed website “Trees on the Edge”.

We should be really worried about wildfire for many reasons...

“The 2020 Creek Fire shows us how vulnerable our current forest conditions are to suffering high tree mortality and offering fuel conditions capable of generating firestorms and mass fires from which future forest recovery is questionable.”

Scott L. Stephens, Alexis A. Bernal, Brandon M. Collins, Mark A. Finney, Chris Lautenberger, David Saah, Mass fire behavior created by extensive tree mortality and high tree density not predicted by operational fire behavior models in the southern Sierra Nevada, *Forest Ecology and Management*, Volume 518, 2022, 120258, ISSN 0378-1127, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.foreco.2022.120258>.

Economics

1. Based on summer 2023 survey of dead and dying, if we don't act this spring the same project will cost approximately \$400,000 more next year due only to lost wood value to rot and insects. This would also subject the community to a peak in fire danger over the next two years as dead needles and small branches are still intact.
2. Cost further increases to reduce fuels manually that would have returned revenue (falling, cutting, and burning all go up), future prescribed burning will be more expensive with more smoke impacts in town due to heavy fuels on the ground.
3. Project cost can vary widely depending on final project footprint, helicopter bids, mill value, percent of lost merchantability due to defect/rot, cost for clean up work, weather delays, etc...
4. Net cost range is estimated from \$500,000 to \$1.3 million depending on variables mentioned. No grant funds have been identified to fit the project or timeline. One ODF grant was denied recently.

Economics: The Full Cost Of Wildfire

The total economic impacts of a wildfire go well beyond the cost of damages, as they include health costs and indirect losses due to power shut-offs, business closures, travel cancellations, supply chain disruptions, population loss, ecological services, etc.

Some analysis suggests suppression costs, as costly as they are, comprise only nine percent (three to 53%) of total wildfire costs.

Almost half of the full costs of wildfire are paid for at the local level, including homeowners, businesses, and government agencies.

2 X's number days' increase of extreme fire weather in the fall over 40 years

6.4% land in California is WUI, 45% new home construction in WUI 1990-2010

40% rise in rental costs in Sonoma Co since 2017 Tubbs Fire

107 million tons carbon emissions from 2020 CA wildfires, 120 million from cars

50% increase of emissions due to wildfires by end of the century

\$7.85B health costs in Bay Area counties due to wildfire in 2018

3.4 -21.3% of overall health costs in BA--lower end affluent counties, higher end, less affluent

Lomakatsi Contract

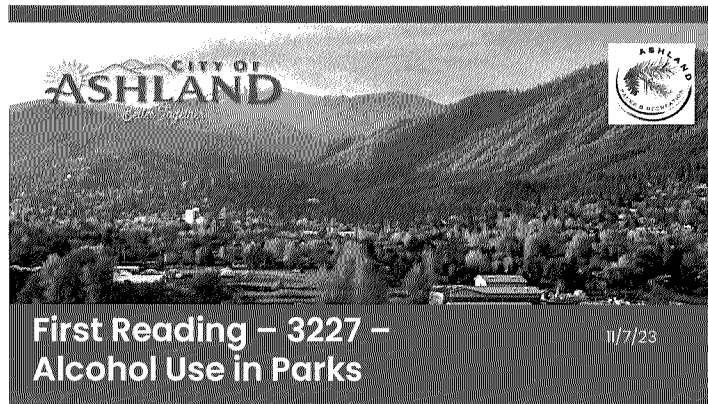
1. Enables planning to move forward with capacity for marking boundaries, no-treatment areas, and trees that will be cut.
2. Necessary to determine how many trees will be removed, leading to bids from contractors and local mills.

Next Steps: Decision Points

1. January 2024: Bring contract proposal to Council with cost included.
2. Concurrently request contingency funding to make this project happen on the necessary timeline.
3. Start work in March (or earlier), as contractor is available and as early as possible to avoid spring recreation season.

Phase I Project Schedule

- October 10th – FLMAC first review and comments
- October 11th – APRC first review and comments
- October 22nd – Public Field Tour (weekend)
- October 23rd or 24th – Public Field Tour (weekday)
- October 24th – Public Meeting Fire Station #2
- October 25th to November 7th Draft Public Comment period
- November 8th – APRC Final Review
- November 14th – Forest Lands Committee Final Edit and Review
- November 21st – City Council Project Update and Lomakatsi Contract Review
- Early December – Tree Marking Starts, Public Tour of Tree Marking Initial Work
- Mid January – Tree Marking Complete, Tree Cruise In Process
- Mid January – Select Contractor
- Late January 2024 – Select contractor and schedule work in winter/spring
- April/May 2024 – Build planting plans with input from experts, plant new trees, shrubs, etc...as available and conditions allow over the next couple years.
- June 1, 2024 – Helicopter phase completed. Monitor and report results.



Alcohol Use in Parks

APRC Biennium Goal #9
Seek out and support opportunities for community building through programs and events in our parks, open spaces and trail networks that celebrate art, music, sports and nature.

Council Priorities

- Community Investment: Downtown revitalization
- Quality of Life: Arts and Entertainment
- Economic Opportunity/Vitality: Diversify the local economy; broaden options for tourism/visitors; attract more families to live in Ashland.

Alcohol Use in Parks

ASHLAND

Currently, Ashland Municipal Code 10.68.090 does not allow any person to take any intoxicating liquor or beverage into any portion of the public parks of the City with some exceptions (Calle Guanajuato and the Oak Knoll Golf Course).

Staff proposes amending AMC 10.68.090 to allow for alcohol in parks as authorized by the Ashland Parks and Recreation Director or designee, consistent with established parks rules and regulations.

ASHLAND

Alcohol Use in Parks

Key Points

1. Security Requirements
2. APRC Policy vs. Ordinance Language
3. Fees for Services

ASHLAND

Benefits

- Attracts event organizers to choose Ashland parks for their events
- Enables revenue generation
- Provides opportunities for fundraisers
- Potential to bring increased visitation and economic activity to local businesses



QUESTIONS?



mayor Announcement

Speaker Request Form THIS FORM IS A PUBLIC RECORD ALL INFORMATION PROVIDED WILL BE MADE AVAILABLE TO THE PUBLIC

- 1) Complete this form and return it to the City Recorder prior to the discussion of the item you wish to speak about.
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(Comments can be added to the back of this sheet if necessary)
- 7) Speakers are solely responsible for the content of their public statement.

Tonight's Meeting Date	11/21/23
Name	PAUL MOZINA
Address (no P.O. Box)	[REDACTED]
Phone	[REDACTED]
Email	[REDACTED]

Regular Meeting

Agenda topic/item number IV Mayor's announcement
OR
Topic for public forum (non agenda item) _____

Land Use Public Hearing

Please indicate the following:

For: _____

Against: _____

Challenge for Conflict of Interest or Bias

If you are challenging a member (a city councilor or a planning commissioner) with a conflict of interest or bias, please write your allegation complete with supporting facts on this form and deliver it to the clerk immediately. The Presiding Officer will address the written challenge with the member. Please be respectful of the proceeding and do not interrupt. You may also provide testimony about the challenge when you testify during the normal order of proceedings.

Written Comments/Challenge: _____

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Camping

Speaker Request Form
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(Comments can be added to the back of this sheet if necessary)
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Tonight's Meeting Date	Nov 24, 2023
Name	Judie Bunch (please print)
Address (no P.O. Box)	[REDACTED]
Phone	
Email	Judie.Ashland

Regular Meeting

Agenda topic/item number Camping Ordinance
Topic for public forum (non agenda item)

Please indicate the following:	
For:	Against:
Challenge for Conflict of Interest or Bias	
If you are challenging a member (a city councilor or a planning commissioner) with a conflict of interest or bias, please write your allegation complete with supporting facts on this form and deliver it to the clerk immediately. The Presiding Officer will address the written challenge with the member. Please be respectful of the proceeding and do not interrupt. You may also provide testimony about the challenge when you testify during the normal order of proceedings.	
Written Comments/Challenge:	

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I'm Judie Bunch, and I'm here on behalf of the South Ashland Neighborhood and Business Coalition. There are over 50 members in this group and it is growing every day. Just a few of us will speak tonight but our comments represent a large number of constituents.

We are not anti-homeless. We are compassionate people who care for our community and the people in it, regardless of their housing status. We are committed to preserving public health, safety, wellness for housed and unhoused residents, our visitors, businesses and schools. We are concerned about the degradation of south Ashland.

There is a concentration of subsidized housing and social services in the south section of town. By providing more robust social services in this area, the City is attracting more transient individuals to the neighborhoods, businesses, and along the bike path. A portion of this population loiter and behave in erratic or aggressive ways, or leave trash and human waste behind. There is also a significant increase in drug activity, paraphernalia, and overdose in our part of town. This is not acceptable, and is jeopardizing the health and safety of the neighborhood.

The city's decision to locate additional services in this area was made without involving neighborhood residents and businesses. The decision impacts a vulnerable part of town. The task of helping unhoused people must be shared by the entire community. Social services must be spatially distributed throughout the city so that no individual neighborhood is unduly affected. The city must engage stakeholders in an open, transparent, and MEANINGFUL way. Your policy, goals and measures regarding the unhoused population must address existing and potential neighborhood impacts.

We support strong policy to protect our public spaces. We are asking that you vote in favor of the proposed camping ordinance, and that the ordinance extend 500 feet to match the City of Medford. We have a responsibility to our unhoused but we also have a responsibility to our children. Having defined areas that restrict camping near schools, parks, bike paths, and childcare facilities strikes that balance. Playgrounds are for children, sidewalks are for pedestrians, and the Greenway is for bicycles and pedestrians. Keeping these spaces clear has immediate effects on the health and safety of our community.

Thank you.

Judie Bunch
Camping Ordinance

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Tonight's Meeting Date <u>11/21/23</u>	
Name <u>TOM MARR</u>	
Address (no P.O. Box) [REDACTED]	
Phone	Email

Regular Meeting

Agenda topic/item number XIII OR Copy Ordinance
Topic for public forum (non-agenda item) _____

Land Use Public Hearing

Please indicate the following:	
For: _____	Against: _____
Challenge for Conflict of Interest or Bias	
If you are challenging a member (a city councilor or a planning commissioner) with a conflict of interest or bias, please write your allegation complete with supporting facts on this form and deliver it to the clerk immediately. The Presiding Officer will address the written challenge with the member. Please be respectful of the proceeding and do not interrupt. You may also provide testimony about the challenge when you testify during the normal order of proceedings.	
Written Comments/Challenge: _____	

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Didn't Speak

Shelter

Speaker Request Form
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Tonight's Meeting Date <u>11/21/23</u>	
Name <u>Shelter</u>	
Address (no P.O. Box) [REDACTED]	
Phone	Email

Regular Meeting

Agenda topic/item number XII 3 OR Shelter Goods
Topic for public forum (non-agenda item) _____

Land Use Public Hearing

Please indicate the following:	
For: _____	Against: _____
Challenge for Conflict of Interest or Bias	
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Written Comments/Challenge: _____	

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Tonight's Meeting Date: <u>Nov 21, 2023</u>	
Name: <u>Allison Wildman</u>	
Address (no P.O. Box): <u>[REDACTED]</u>	
Phone: <u>[REDACTED]</u>	Email: <u>[REDACTED]</u>

Regular Meeting

Agenda topic/item number Shelter OR
Topic for public forum (non agenda item) _____

Land Use Public Hearing

Please indicate the following:	
For: _____	Against: _____
Challenge for Conflict of Interest or Bias	
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Written Comments/Challenge: _____ _____ _____	

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From: City of Ashland, Oregon <administration@ashland.or.us>
Sent: Saturday, November 18, 2023 10:32 AM
To: City Recorder <recorder@ashland.or.us>; Dorinda Cottle <dorinda.cottle@ashland.or.us>
Subject: Council Public Testimony Form Submitted

[EXTERNAL SENDER]

*** FORM FIELD DATA ***

Full Name: Rich Rohde
Phone: 5416216647
Email: [REDACTED]
Meeting Date: November 21, 2023
Type of Testimony: WRITTEN

Written Testimony: Mayor and Ashland City Councilors: First I want to acknowledge that the new version of the anti camping ordinance you are considering at the November 21 meeting has been improved from the first version at the last meeting. Taking out the term "voluntary homeless" is a step forward. The Ashland anti-homeless anti-camping ordinance is Unnecessary, extra punitive, probably unconstitutional and will destroy some of the trust that has been developing despite the obstacles of the anti-homeless lobby. This has been thrust into our community without any chance for involvement, consultation or compromise. We need to stop this continuance of conflict. The best practice for addressing social and health policies is always to include those with lived experience in the planning. This was not done in developing this policy that is without any public involvement. Let us join together to continue the positive solutions that Ashland has been making through building trust and collaboration on our issues of emergency housing. We need to end this Negative, punitive, criminalizing ordinance to now. The Issue of camping while homeless should be directed to the soon to be Ashland Homeless Master Plan folks to solve not criminalize.

*** USER INFORMATION ***

SubscriberID: -1
SubscriberUserName:
SubscriberEmail:
RemoteAddress: 66.241.70.76
RemoteHost: 66.241.70.76
RemoteUser:

From: City of Ashland, Oregon <administration@ashland.or.us>
Sent: Monday, November 20, 2023 6:07 PM
To: City Recorder <recorder@ashland.or.us>; Dorinda Cottle <dorinda.cottle@ashland.or.us>
Subject: Council Public Testimony Form Submitted

[EXTERNAL SENDER]

*** FORM FIELD DATA***

Full Name: sarah paul

Phone: 5414829558

Email: [REDACTED]

Meeting Date : NOV 21 2023

Type of Testimony: WRITTEN

Written Testimony: I don't think that people who cannot find a place to sleep should be penalized for camping. A camping area should be provided. If Ashland feels it is so important to stop people from camping, it should have spent resources on a facility with more than 32 beds.

*** USER INFORMATION ***

SubscriberID: -1

SubscriberUserName:

SubscriberEmail:

RemoteAddress: 66.241.70.76

RemoteHost: 66.241.70.76

RemoteUser:

From: City of Ashland, Oregon <administration@ashland.or.us>
Sent: Tuesday, November 21, 2023 10:08 AM
To: City Recorder <recorder@ashland.or.us>; Dorinda Cottle <dorinda.cottle@ashland.or.us>
Subject: Council Public Testimony Form Submitted

[EXTERNAL SENDER]

*** FORM FIELD DATA***

Full Name: Nancy Roberts

Phone:

Email: [REDACTED]

Meeting Date : 11/21/2023

Type of Testimony: WRITTEN

Written Testimony: I am a resident of Ashland. I have read the Acting City Attorney's report and proposed ORDINANCE RELATING TO PROHIBITED CAMPING AND PROHIBITED OCCUPANCY; AMENDING AMC CHAPTER 10.46.010 THROUGH AMC 10.46.050. I ask the City Council members to approve the first reading of this proposal as it serves the greater good for all in the City of Ashland. Thank you

*** USER INFORMATION ***

SubscriberID: -1

SubscriberUserName:

SubscriberEmail:

RemoteAddress: 66.241.70.76

RemoteHost: 66.241.70.76

RemoteUser:

From: City of Ashland, Oregon <administration@ashland.or.us>
Sent: Monday, November 20, 2023 2:32 PM
To: City Recorder <recorder@ashland.or.us>; Dorinda Cottle <dorinda.cottle@ashland.or.us>
Subject: Council Public Testimony Form Submitted

[EXTERNAL SENDER]

*** FORM FIELD DATA***

Full Name: Mark Brouillard

Phone: 2066617085

Email: [REDACTED]

Meeting Date : 11/21/2023

Type of Testimony: WRITTEN

Written Testimony: When a constant stream of complaints about 5G fills the air as it does twice monthly, it can indeed have tangible unintended consequences for a city's economic well-being. Here are a few ways in which this might happen: 1. Deterrence of Investments: If the complaints create an atmosphere of uncertainty and negativity, potential investors might be hesitant to commit to projects or initiatives related to 5G infrastructure. This can slow down economic development and limit job creation. 2. Stalled Technological Advancements: Cities often rely on cutting-edge technology to enhance various services, from transportation to healthcare. Persistent complaints may discourage the implementation of 5G technology, hindering the city's ability to stay competitive and offer state-of-the-art services. 3. Attrition of Talent: Cities that embrace technological advancements tend to attract skilled professionals and businesses in the tech sector. If a city becomes known for resisting or complaining about 5G, it may struggle to retain or attract top talent, leading to a brain drain that impacts economic growth. 4. Negative Public Image: Continuous complaints can contribute to a negative public image. This can affect tourism, the local housing market, and the overall desirability of the city for residents and businesses alike. 5. Missed Opportunities for Innovation: 5G has the potential to spur innovation in various industries. If the focus remains on complaints rather than exploring how 5G can benefit the city, there's a risk of missing out on opportunities for innovation and growth. We need 5G and we need it now. We cannot take another financial hit against the city's economic landscape. Since it seems that poems get the most attention with regards to 5G here goes: In the realm of speed and bytes, we stand, A world transformed by a digital hand. Whispers of progress in the air, A tale of 5G, beyond compare. Faster than ever, the data flows, A symphony of connectivity that steadily grows. In the blink of an eye, messages sent, A seamless dance of bits, no time mispent. Highways of information, swift and wide, No corner untouched, no place to hide. Streaming dreams with crystal clarity, A technological leap, a boundless rarity. Healthcare elevated, a lifeline anew, Surgeons and patients, the distance through. Remote diagnostics, a healing grace, 5G connects hearts in a life-saving embrace. Smart cities awaken, sensors in sync, Traffic tamed, pollution's blink. Efficiency reigning, a greener scene, A sustainable future, where we convene. Autonomous wonders traverse the street, 5G steering, a journey so fleet. Cars that communicate, navigate, and learn, A revolution on wheels, a page to turn. Education soaring on digital wings, Classrooms without walls, where learning sings. Global access to knowledge's door, 5G opens it wide, forevermore. Industries transformed, innovation at its core, A world of possibilities, opening every door. Economic growth, a rising tide, in the 5G era, where we abide. But in this tale of progress and speed, Concerns arise, caution we heed. Privacy guarded, security tight, A dance with 5G, balanced and right. As we ride the waves of this digital sea, 5G, a beacon of connectivity. A tool to shape a world brand new, In its embrace, we find breakthrough. Cheers.

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From: City of Ashland, Oregon <administration@ashland.or.us>
Sent: Monday, November 20, 2023 3:37 PM
To: City Recorder <recorder@ashland.or.us>; Dorinda Cottle <dorinda.cottle@ashland.or.us>
Subject: Council Public Testimony Form Submitted

[EXTERNAL SENDER]

*** FORM FIELD DATA***

Full Name: Ana D. Castellanos

Phone: 458-265-8251

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Meeting Date : 11/21/2023

Type of Testimony: WRITTEN

Written Testimony: I am writing on behalf of the decision for the Ashland City Council to vote on the homeless camping ban, also known as: the criminalization of homeless individuals. I am against this decision per my own personal testimony, as described in this letter. I have personally experienced homelessness eight times. Each of those times was due to unemployment or the affects of abuse or injustice with either a former employer or Landlord/Property Management company. I did NOT become homeless due to an addiction to drugs or alcohol, or for my decision to willfully commit a crime. The lack of available affordable housing, compounded by the lack of adequate counseling services, and the fact that people discriminate against the low-income and homeless, and anyone who is different from them has caused the increase in homeless in our community? especially during the COVID-19 pandemic. It is more difficult for an individual with a criminal record to get hired at a job with an affordable monthly earning; minimum wage jobs don't pay enough for the employee to afford paying for the high monthly rent in our community. Moreover, individuals with a criminal record experience difficulties in finding a rental. Thus, when they get turned down for a job and housing, their only choice is to live on the streets and set up a tent wherever they can. Although I haven't personally experienced this, I want you to know that I may soon experience this, due to the fact that I have worked for employers with shady business practices that I didn't approve of, and have also been dealing with abusive and deceptive landlords who continue to blame me for their choices? all because I refuse to be taken advantage of by them and choose to stand up against their unjust ways; I believe in living a life of integrity. The evidence of that is in the fact that I have not gone back to my old ways of committing crimes to get the money that I need; I was transformed. Should you pass the ordinance to forbid camping and I end up having to become homeless in the near future, I will only end up in jail. Studies have shown that it's more expensive to pay the price for the incarceration of the homeless, than to provide the homeless individuals with housing. This includes me, because I'm in the middle of the application process for applying for Disability Benefits. Furthermore, because I truly care about my community, I continue to work as a volunteer Security Officer in our community, and gladly report every violation. Hence the reason why I'm at war with unethical employers and landlords; evil-doers hate justice, I'm not only fighting for myself. I'm also fighting for others who are suffering as I am, who are choosing to remain silent. I stand for the silent! Please reconsider your decision to ban camping for the homeless. As an individual who experiences chronic homelessness, I have a plan for the homeless in our community, and I'm willing to share my plan with you, as well as work to assist with the homeless. Thank you for your understanding! Ana D. Castellanos

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