



TRAILS ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

May 20, 2026

The Grove 1195 E. Main Street, 4:15 PM

Committee Members Present: Josh Cott (Chair), Ethan Braught, Torsten Heycke, Stef Seffinger, Eric Hansen (Ex-officio Council), Justin Adams (Ex-officio Commissioner)
Staff Present: Acting Director Dials, Parks Division Manager Caldwell, Executive Assistant Mero
Absent: Yu Kuwabara, Jason Minica

- I. **CALL TO ORDER** – Chair Cott called the meeting to order at 4:15 PM
- II. **ROLL CALL** – Braught, Heycke, Cott present (Seffinger arrived after roll call)
- III. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES** –
 1. Trails Advisory Committee November 19, 2025
Minutes were approved.

*Chair Cott spoke briefly to the Proposed Glenview Hillside Trail noting the TAC does not have the final say on if it proceeds. That authority lies with the Park Commission.

*Chair Cott also noted that the TAC had recently had two members resign. Parks staff will work to fill the vacancies accepting applications for thirty days. Applicants will be interviewed by staff members and the Commission Chair. The finalists will be appointed to the committee by the Commission Chair at a Park Commission business meeting.

- IV. **ADDITIONS OR DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA**
Chair Cott switched the order of business items 4 and 5
- V. **PUBLIC FORUM** – All public forum participants wished to speak to the Glenview Hillside Trail agenda item.
- VI. **BUSINESS** –
 1. **Election of Vice Chair (Action)** – Chair Cott

SUMMARY – The vice chair of the Trails Advisory Committee (TAC) Brooke Hansen has resigned from the committee due to work conflicts. The members of TAC will need to nominate and elect a new vice chair.

PROPOSED ACTIONS OR MOTION(S) – Move to elect (nominated individual) as the vice chair of TAC.

Heycke/Cott m/s:

I move to nominate Ethan Braught as the Vice Chair of the TAC.

Vote was all yes.

2. TAC Schedule of Remaining Meetings (Action) – Chair Cott

SUMMARY – Based on input received from the TAC members, in 2025 Chair Cott created a 2026 meeting schedule for the Committee. The schedule has yet to be approved by the Committee. In the interim, the meeting place was changed from the Lithia Cabin to the Grove. Several Committee members have also asked if the meeting time might be changed to better accommodate working members' schedules.

PROPOSED ACTIONS OR MOTION(S) – I move to approve the schedule of remaining TAC meetings in 2026.

ATTACHMENT: Schedule of remaining meetings for 2026

TRAILS ADVISORY COMMITTEE SCHEDULE OF REMAINING MEETINGS FOR 2026

(All meetings will be held at the Grove 1195 E Main Street)

July 15, 2026 5:00 – 6:30 PM

September 16, 2026 4:15 – 5:45 PM

November 18, 2026, 5:00 – 6:30 PM

It was determined that the meeting schedule was okay for the time being (No motion was made).

3. Trails Proposal Procedure – Draft – Chair Cott/Acting Director Dials

SUMMARY – The Parks and Recreation Department (Department) needs to develop a procedure to formalize the process to assess trail proposals.

ASSESSMENT – The Department, with assistance from the previous trails advisory committee, developed a process to review new trail proposals. With the adoption of Policy 1.01.001 – Policy Framework, the Department needs to formalize a procedure for this process. The Trails Proposal Procedure (Procedure) was introduced at the July 15, 2025, Trails Advisory Committee (TAC) meeting. The primary issue raised by TAC members was the preference to eliminate the staff recommended scoring system. A working group was formed to provide TAC with an opportunity to edit the Procedure. The draft Procedure is inclusive of the working group’s proposed edits.

POLICIES, PLANS & GOALS SUPPORTED – Policy 1.01.001 – Policy Framework

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS – This procedure will not impact Department operations or capital budgets directly. The Department will manage the capital and operations budget within the current budget limitations.

PROPOSED ACTIONS OR MOTION(S) – I move to approve the draft Trails Proposal Procedure.

Acting Director Dials reviewed the draft Trails Proposal Procedures.

Questions/Discussion:

- Section C.1.a.ii. will be deleted.
- Item 2.b.i.3. changed the number of days the proposal must be submitted to the Department prior to the next TAC meeting from 30 days to 14 working days.
- Item 2.b.iii.1. Broke this step down further from one to three steps. (1) TAC will outline the reasons that the proposal is recommended. (2) If there are multiple proposals currently under consideration TAC will assign an order of priority to the proposals. (3) The proposal would move forward to the FMLAC for review.
- Regarding the Dormouse trail proposal, it will be presented for discussion at the August 5 Park Commission study session. It will go to the Park Commission for potential action at their September 2, regular business meeting.
- Discussion occurred regarding when to start the 30-day comment period for proposed trails generally and specifically on the proposed Dormouse trail. Decided to strike 4.a.i. from the draft Trails Proposal Procedure (The 30-day comment period will begin 14 days prior to the Park Commission study session where the proposal will be reviewed) because comment could begin sooner. Decided to leave it more vague.

- There was discussion regarding defining 'new' trails. Decided not to add to the definitions section. Would trail reroutes have to go through this whole procedure? Answer is no.
- Question about TAC rating trails as Green, etc. That suggestion was made by previous director; however, the definition of green trails doesn't fall neatly into a category especially for pedestrian trails and the Committee rejected the idea of trying to rate the trails especially trails that change from green to blue, etc. Not up to the committee to make that determination.
- Does a proposer have to have some kind of qualifications to propose a trail. No.
- D.I. Agreement. The trail proposer should not be the one to enter into a trail construction and operation agreement with the Department. Striking this from procedures.
- What about prioritizing ADA accessible trails? The TAC will get to prioritize proposals as they are made. Need to have the proposals made for ADA trails.
- Heycke has proposed ADA access trails to the Forest Service near the Fairie Ponds and has not heard back from them.
- Can TAC vote on the proposed Alice in Wonderland – Mimsy reroute proposal today if they decide to bring the redline version of the procedure to the next meeting? Dials: Yes.
- Decided to bring a redline version of the Trails Proposal Procedure to the next TAC meeting for action.

4. **Alice in Wonderland – Mimsy Trail Proposal** – Heycke, President AWTA

SUMMARY – On January 13, 2026, the Department received a trail proposal to separate downhill mountain bike traffic from pedestrian and uphill bike traffic on the existing Mimsy trail by creating two new sections of trail and possibly decommissioning a section of existing Alice in Wonderland trail. Both downhill bike and uphill paths would be less steep than the existing trail increasing the safety for users.

POLICIES, PLANS & GOALS SUPPORTED – Trails Advisory Committee Bylaws/Charge

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS – The Ashland Woodland & Trails Association (AWTA) will be responsible for funding the proposal. The AWTA and the Rogue Valley Mountain Bike Association could maintain the trail.

PROPOSED ACTIONS OR MOTION(S) – I move to recommend the Alice in Wonderland – Mimsy Trail Proposal

ATTACHMENTS – Alice in Wonderland – Mimsy Trail Proposal Application, Map of trail proposal

Proposal is for two new very short trails in the area of the Alice in Wonderland and Mimsy trails on the former Palen property. Mt. bike trail is .14 miles long downhill only averaging 8% grade. The pedestrian/equine trail is .11 miles uphill only averaging 9.5% grade. The trails are in concert with but not necessary for future Forest Service trails. The routes have been flagged.

The pedestrian/equine trail is already partially built and would only take two people about two hours to finish. The downhill only mt. bike trail would likely take a team of four to five people four days to build. Soil is not ideal right now so work could be done in the winter months.

Benefits: Increased safety due to separation of user groups, beginner level mt. bike trail from White Rabbit to Mimsy, affords various loops for user groups, improves overall experience for everyone.

The decommissioned section isn't necessary, but it is an erosive spot.

Questions/Discussion:

- Will the trails impact parking at the White Rabbit trailhead? A: Potentially.
- Will the trails make it better for pedestrians? A: The trails will make it super easy for peds. Much less steep and not erosive.
- Does the uphill portion tie in with Snark without having to go back to 2060? A: No.
- The Forest Service component is in front of the Forest Service, but unknown when they will get to it. The portion on City land can go forward independently.

Review criteria:

No funding necessary, will create a very pleasing experience for different user groups. Trails are immediately adjacent to existing trails so no effect on habitat, will decommission an eroded portion of Alice in Wonderland trail, increasing safety. The parking lot issue bears looking into, especially if this area becomes a new hot spot. Could collaborate with the Forest Service, push for more parking. Current quality of the road is discouraging people from driving it.

Cott/Brought m/s

Motion to move the Alice in Wonderland – Mimsy Trails forward to the Forest Lands Management Advisory Committee for their review.

Vote was all yes.

5. Glenview Hillside (Dormouse) Trail Proposal Next Steps – Dials, Acting Director

The proposed trail was already recommended by the TAC to move forward at their November 19 2025 meeting. The proposal will go to the Park Commission for discussion at the August 5 study session and to the September 9 Business Meeting for possible action. Public testimony will be collected at both meetings. There will also be at least a 30 day comment period for citizens to send comment via the City website. The Park Commission could decide to hold additional meetings to collect more input. It is entirely up to them.

Parks staff do have some concerns regarding the impact of bikers and hikers on the hillside and will be discussing them throughout the process.

The Forest Lands Management Advisory Committee (FLMAC) has reviewed the trail proposal. Dials is waiting to receive their comments. Would like to have a TAC representative at the August 5 Park commission study session. Councilor Hansen offered to be at that meeting if appropriate.

Park Commissioner Adams was at the FLMAC meeting where the trail proposal was presented. They have very few concerns. From a fire prevention perspective, they voiced that more eyes in the area could be a good thing. The downhill trail specifically would make a good fire break (It's wider than the uphill trail). No endangered plants in the area of the trails. One shrub and a patch of native milkweed would need to be avoided.

The proposed trails run from Pioneer Street near the current pedestrian trail to the parking lot by the gravel pit on Glenview. Each trail is .5 miles long. The downhill trail will be accessible to alternative bicycles. The trails will be marked as part of the public input process.

Public Forum

Stacy Trumbull: A lot of misinformation out there saying they want to put mt. bike trails in Lithia Park – a big fat no. Wanted to attend a meeting to see what was going on. Speeding bikes coming down is scary.

Jen Sturges: Concerned about mt. bike/hiker interactions. Lithia Park is kind of her backyard. Increased traffic (from bikes) will take away some of the peace, have an effect on Pioneer St., too. Tired of being afraid of speeding mt. bikers.

Pat Turner: Attended the TAC meeting when they voted to recommend the trail proposal. Missed the opportunity to speak then. Thinks they are making a big mistake with this controversy. There are people who want more pickleball courts. People who want a big swimming pool. Parks just bought \$700,00.00 worth of property for more trails. Referenced parks \$5 fee, property taxes, food and beverage tax. Will eventually want a park district. Controversy doesn't bode well for getting a park district.

Dave Richards: Spoke in favor of the Glenview Trail. Will increase safety. Since paving Glenview there's been an increase in car speed on that road, making cycling dangerous.

Having a safe place for cyclists to come down the hillside is good. Referenced the intersections of bike/ped users on Snark and Jabberwocky trails rarely sees a bike. Pleased there will be an adaptive aspect to the proposed Glenview trail.

Sandra Scase: Big unnecessary mistake. Makes mt. bikers look bad and insensitive. In addition to Winburn, bikers can also use Glenview and Granite Streets. Don't mess with the peace of the ambience and peace of the park.

Commissioner Adams raised the issue of order in public meetings.

Chair Cott elected to allow questions/have an exchange with the citizens in attendance:

- Can the proposal move forward regardless of public comment? A: The Park Commissioners will make the final decision.
- Ashland has been asking for this trail for years. Younger mt. bikers and visitors. It is appealing for economic reasons. Winburn Way has the most bike/car accidents. The proposed trail will improve safety, livability and fulfill a need.
- Bikes are not allowed in Lithia Park by the City Charter. Would the Council be able to veto the trail? A: Not sure.
- When will the signage/marketing of the proposed trail go up? A: TBD but it will be part of the public comment process.
- Will the proposed trail still cost \$30,000.00? A: That estimate was made a while ago and costs have gone up, but it is still close. The money would come from the Parks CIP, budgeted \$75,000.00 for trail work. The Park Commissioners could choose to access that money for the proposed trail.
- Will electric bikes be allowed on the trail? A: Currently the rules say no. The rules governing the use of electric bikes on trails are difficult to enforce.

VII. UPCOMING MEETING DATES -

1. July 15, 2026, 5:00 – 6:30 PM, the Grove
2. September 16, 2026, 4:15 – 5:45 PM the Grove
3. November 18, 2026, 5:00 – 6:30 PM the Grove

VIII. ADJOURNMENT – Chair Cott adjourned the meeting at 5:41 PM

Respectfully submitted by Nancy A. Mero, Executive Assistant