



Public Arts Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

DRAFT

October 17, 2024

Regular Meeting

4:00pm–5:30pm, Siskiyou Conference Room

51 Winburn Way

Minutes

I. (4:00) CALL TO ORDER:

- a) Welcome – **Susan Jain is acting Chair this evening. The PAAC has two newly appointed members, Tish Way and Christi McLain (not in attendance). Special guest introductions: New PAAC member, Tish Way; Director of the City of Ashland Parks and Recreation, Rocky Houston; City of Ashland Public Works Deputy Director, Mike Morrison; Community member, Peter Finkle; PAAC members introductions. Heather Warden won a major award: The Chamber Champions Award at the Ashland Chamber Dinner. The citizens of the year award went to Barry and Kathryn Thalden.**
- b) Quorum count – **achieved**

Committee Members Present:	Liaisons & Staff Present:
Susan Jain, Vice Chair	Jennifer Chenoweth, Associate Planner
Beca Blake (via Zoom)	Councilor Gina DuQuenne
Russell Copley	
Ken Engelund	Liaisons & Staff Absent:
Heather Warden	Jim Bachman, Parks and Rec Commissioner
Tish Way	
	Special Guests:
Committee Members Absent:	Director of Ashland Parks & Recreation, Rocky Houston
Paige Gerhard	Ashland Public Works Deputy Director, Mike Morrison
Cassie Preskenis, Chair	WalkAshland, Peter Finkle

II. (4:10) LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

"We acknowledge and honor the aboriginal people on whose ancestral homelands we work – the Ikirakutsum Band of the Shasta Nation, as well as the diverse and vibrant Native communities who make their home here today. We denounce the egregious acts of the colonizers and government and recognize the horrific impacts that still exist today. We honor the first stewards in the Rogue Valley and the lands we live and depend on: Tribes with ancestral lands in and surrounding the geography of the Ashland Watershed include the original past, present, and future indigenous inhabitants of the Shasta, Takelma, Athabaskan people. We also recognize and acknowledge the Shasta village of K'wakhakha – "Where the Crow Lights" – that is now the Ashland City Plaza."

Read by Ken Engelund

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- a) **(4:15) APPROVAL OF MINUTES** – August 15, 2024, regular meeting
- III. **Ken Engelund motioned to approve the minutes with no corrections; the motion was seconded. All approved.**
- IV. **(4:20–4:30) PUBLIC FORUM** (for items not on the agenda; up to 3 minutes per speaker)
No speakers
- V. **(4:30–4:45) LIAISON REPORTS**
Liaisons:
- a) City Council Liaison, Gina DuQuenne; **Gina and Ken Engelund met with SOU President Rick Bailey and Rob Patridge, the University’s General Counsel, to discuss the crosswalk. The crosswalk is proposed to be a progressive pride flag. The crosswalk will span Siskiyou Boulevard from Case Coffee to Churchill Hall. Gina and Ken received buy-in from the University District and President Bailey. Funding is unknown at this time, but it is likely to be two times the cost of the first crosswalk that was installed at the Plaza this year; this will require fundraising. SOU students may help with the design and fundraising.**
Q&A **One comment was about improving the asphalt in the crosswalk location prior to crosswalk installation (more funding would be required) to make it look better and potentially last longer.**
- b) Ashland Parks and Recreation Commission Liaison, New APRC Liaison Jim Bachman; **Rocky Houston provided liaison update in Jim’s absence.**
Key projects:
- 1). **East Main Park**
 - **6.5 acres off East Main Street between Clay Street and Crocker Street**
 - **Received \$1 million grant from State Parks for Phase One.**
 - **East Main Park Phase One includes road improvements, parking lot, restrooms, dog park, and bicycle pump track**
 - 2). **Refurbish Hunter Park tennis courts**
- c) Community Development Liaison, Jennifer Chenoweth; **A community member asked about mural installation (unknown location, but the name was recognized as one of the artists who submitted art during the call for artist for the ODOT boxes) and they have been sent the details and process for proposing a mural (via email communication). OSF 90th anniversary mural – no update. Columbia Hotel/Enders’ Alley mural – no update. Another community member inquired about an art project for the Siskiyou School graduating class. It was suggested that interested parties attend a Public Arts meeting and speak during the public forum or if they have a concept to present, then they can contact the staff liaison and be added to the agenda when space becomes available. They were most interested in painting a crosswalk.**

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VI. (4:45–5:15) DISCUSSION ITEMS and MOTIONS (up to 10 minutes per topic)

- a) Ashland Parks and Recreation Discussion – meet Rocky Houston, Director of Park and Rec, and discuss: 1). the status for Art in Parks Guidelines and 2). status of MAP II (Downtown District – Lithia Park art piece). **Rocky spoke about the APRC Public Art in Ashland Parks Policy that was approved in July and signed August 14, 2024. Two key issues are, 1). Budget (once art is placed what is the maintenance plan? and 2). Park staff and APRC Commission should be engaged in the process. There should also be a thematic approach to the art/design within specific parks and align with the overarching plan to match the park landscape. Refer to updated Parks Master Plan.**
- b) PAAC Strategic Plan – Susan Jain to provide update and lead discussion – **Susan shared a PowerPoint presentation to invite PAAC discussion for updating the PAAC’s Master Plan. Susan introduced the approach of Design Thinking as a guide to updating the Plan and provided a draft Timeline and Next Steps for moving forward with the Master Plan update. This is an opportunity for the Public Arts Master Plan to set the stage for Ashland as an Art Community and potentially an UNESCO Heritage site destination. Ken Engelund moved to adopt the Strategic Plan proposal and timeline. Russell Copley seconded, and all Ayes in favor.**
- c) Special Meeting/Study Session – Chair, Cassie Preskenis, to discuss and set meeting date for upcoming special meeting/study session for the PAAC Workplan Update Report to City Council in December. **In Cassie’s absence, Jenn explained that the City Council is requesting an updated workplan during a mid-December Council Meeting. Would the group be interested in holding a special meeting separate from the regular meeting to develop the workplan and hold a Design Thinking workshop? The group agreed that the options are to either start the meeting, November 21st at 3:00 – 5:30 or start at 4:00 – 6:30 or 3:30 – 6:00. It depends on the availability of a conference room. ACTION ITEM: Jenn will check the room schedule and email the group.**
Ken moved to extend this meeting by 15 minutes over to get through the rest of the agenda items. All approved.

VII. (5:15–5:30) OTHER BUSINESS UPDATES and ACTION ITEMS (up to 5 minutes per item)

- a) Public Art Maintenance – Heather Warden to lead group in scheduling a future date to discuss a maintenance plan for existing public art – **Mike Morrison was in attendance and provided an update regarding public art maintenance and asked if the PAAC could form a task group to develop a maintenance plan using Peter Finkle’s public art database. Rocky Houston suggested the task group look into developing a framework or Rubric for scoring the conditions of the art. The public art maintenance plan (Public Art Maintenance Priority Group) task group will be made up of PAAC members Russell Copley and Heather Warden;**

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community member, Peter Finkle; and staff support, Mike Morrison and Jenn Chenoweth. The group will plan to meet in the next 2 –3 weeks.

Mike also provided an update on Velocity and brought in one of the brackets that were made. The hardware is expected to be ordered next week and installation to follow.

- b) ODOT Controller Boxes – Task group to provide update on AHS box completed art and other box scheduling – **Peter Finkle sent the group and update on the ODOT boxes via email on October 17. The three projects are underway with the first one completed and the second one started this week. The third box will be prepped soon.**
- c) Playwrights Walk – Update by Citizen Group members – **The first plaque was installed in front of the Chamber building. OSF and SOU continue to work on developing quotes and design for future plaques.**
- d) Crosswalks – Ken Engelund to lead update –
- e) John Pugh “Where the Crow Lights,” Elks Building – **Update during next meeting (November presentation update expected)**
- f) Micah Blacklight “Ancestors Future – Crystalizing Our Call” – Chair, Cassie Preskenis, to provide update – **Cassie was absent will update next meeting**

VIII. ROUND TABLE – Member open discussion of project ideas or opportunities (2 minutes each)
The group ran out of time for round table.

IX. (5:30) ADJOURNMENT – Next Meeting Date: Thursday, November 21 @ 3:30 – 6:00 pm – Note the start and end times at this is a special meeting, Study Session.