

CITY OF McMinnville
MINUTES OF DIVERSITY, EQUITY & INCLUSION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Held at Kent Taylor Civic Hall and online via Zoom,
McMinnville, Oregon

Thursday, September 14, 2023, at 4:00 p.m.

Presiding: Committee Co-Chair Larry Miller & Committee Co-Chair Abby Thomas

Recording Secretary: Noelle Amaya, Communications & Engagement

Manager

Committee Members: Present

Abby Thomas
Caitlin Nemeth
Efrain Arredondo
Myrna Khoufry
Larry Miller
Zack Geary
Tony Lai

Absence

Dianne Rhee
Karina Alcantara
Katherine Martin
Christine Bader

Others in attendance: Susan Muir, Parks and Recreation Director; Jon Pheanis, MIG; Jessa Miller, MIG

- 1) CALL TO ORDER: Committee Co-Chair calls the meeting to order at 4:33 p.m.
- 2) APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Zack Geary MOVED to approve the June 8, 2023 minutes. Efrain Arredondo SECONDS. Motion PASSES unanimously.
- 3) PUBLIC COMMENT: There were no public comments.
- 4) PARKS & RECREATION OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN PRESENTATION: Jon begins his presentation with an agenda overview including a welcome and process schedule update, strategic framework, and overview of the exercise. References the packet.

Jon gives an overview of the overarching reasons for the PROS engagement including creating a plan that is community based and to take a solid inventory of existing conditions. He provides a definition of equitable parks and recreation access according to the National Recreation Parks Association– the professional association that sets standards for parks and recreation professionals.

He overviews the stage the PROS plan is currently in. Phase three is the “strategy” which includes the development of a capital improvement plan, system development charge methodology, future systems map, and other engagement activities which include this check in.

Jon overviews the community engagement activities the PROS plan has completed up to date.

Jon reminds the group of what they worked on last time they met – including the goals that the committee identified. Some of those were safety, affordability, co-design and co-implement programming, improve ADA accessibility, provide programming in multiple languages, and community spaces that bring people together.

Jon presents the material regarding the strategic framework and proposed vision statement with the seven different draft goals.

Councilor Geary asks how we can address the maintenance cycle and deferred maintenance in this work. How will this plan set us up for success in the future.

Jon states that anything the group suggests will be go back to the consultant group for maintenance cost evaluation – these recommendations will be built into the final recommendations for the finalized plan. He asks the group to think of this as a living document – and that they plan to leave space in this plan for the unknowns of the future. “We can’t say what will happen in the future, but we can help anticipate potential issues and build those into final recommendations.”

Zack states that there are thoughts around how with the creation of new parks leads to the neglect of others. Zack would like to see it stated that every park in our system is treated equally in terms of maintenance and attention. Susan Muir stats that the goal is to meet the maintenance needs with prioritizing previous acreage.

Efrain points out subject D2 on page 18 does not prioritize the needs of older parks and it should.

Jon directs the group to the map visual in the room to show the locations of the parks and how that will ultimately inform the prioritization of the plan.

Tony Lai asks if money for support staff to do the maintenance work will be added into the plan as they think about adding more acres. Susan states that more park acreage translates into more dollars allotted to the park maintenance budget.

Efrain points out that all the current spaces are outdoors – and indoor recreation space is lacking. Efrain doesn’t feel like that’s adequate for our City’s needs. The availability of recreation areas or field sports to have that indoors or year-round access to indoor arenas or recreation facilities – aren’t cutting it. He asks, “can’t we ‘dream bigger?’ Efrain does not feel like it makes sense in Oregon to use a model like this based on our weather.

Efrain states that we need multi-use indoor courts in McMinnville. Caitlin agrees – she states that being able to address isolation/mental health issues with increased access to physically activity is very important. She feels that we (government) tends to focus on the short-term up front high costs of an indoor facility, but we should be focused on providing long-term health benefits for our community members. The county has very little indoor spaces for physical activity. Caitlin thinks this is a health equity issue.

Susan states that we have bifurcated indoor spaces and outdoor spaces – with the MACPAC work and discussions around the new community center. Ideally these two plans will come together and support each other.

Efrain would like the group to think outside the box in terms of different types of sports beyond the stereotypical sports that our current spaces serve.

Zack believes that restrooms should be included in every development fundamentally. Caitlin states that “all gender” bathrooms are ideal. Susan agrees that the “Loos” are the standard due to single stall, open air, maintenance, and safety issues.

Group moves to the project prioritization exercise.

Efrain asks about the timeline for prioritizing the items on the page. Jon states that anything past the 5-10 year category is considered a “long-term” priority.

Zack states that another way to address the health equity topic again is through providing exercise stations at parks or on trails. Caitlin, Abby, and Larry state that the Safe Routes to Parks are important to them. Zack states that the City recently received a grant to put a pathway along Sue Buel and he is excited about that. Tice and Rotary are both good options to look at for making safe pathways. Larry asks if the ‘safe routes’ include multi-modal and ADA accessible considerations. Susan confirms this to be the intention.

Zack states that there are plans currently in place to address bike safety along highway 99.

Tony would like to see a high cost priority being the loop trail – or some sort of running trail around the City.

Zack and Susan state a pedestrian crossing over the South Yamhill River is included in the Three Mile Lane Area Plan.

Larry and Zack state that “community gardens” are low-cost play and gathering spaces that we should add. Tony would love to see more community gathering spaces in McMinnville in general. Zack suggests that park development standards should include some sort of menu of small items that new development must “choose one” when they develop.

Amphitheaters would be a great large investment to add to the community. Zack suggests adding a new park in the ‘white space’ on the map might be difficult but makes sense to attempt to find space to do so.

The group agrees that lighting improvements would be a low-cost re-investment opportunity. Rotary nature park is called out as a good spot for this but there are many unlit trails and paths throughout the City and in various neighborhoods.

Myrna states that the pool facility really needs investment.

The group agrees that shade trees are of huge importance and are low-cost nature investments.

Joe Dancer is called out for shade. Jay Pearson also could use more shade trees.

Larry suggests waterwise landscaping.

Jon wraps up the exercise and states that the next steps are that the next time we see MIG they'll be presenting the draft final plan.

- 5) ARPA PROJECT PLANNING Staff Liaison Noelle states that the RFP is still underway and almost ready for final review and sending out. She hopes to have it finished before the month's end and will send updates to the group when she has them.

Larry states that Caitlin had asked the group to look at the cultural calendar and list. Larry states that he will resend the list and the group should plan to spend next month's meeting on this discussion.

- 6) MEETING CHANGES Group discussion about meeting lengths and times to conduct business. There is a suggestion to make the meetings start a little earlier, potentially from 4 to 6 pm each month. Co-Chairs call for a vote. Tony MOVES to approve the change to future meetings from 4pm to 6pm. Abby Thomas SECONDS. Motion PASSES UNANIMOUSLY.

- 7) ADJOURNMENT at 6:20 pm.

s/s Noelle Amaya
Noelle Amaya,
Communications & Engagement Manager