



45 Commissioner Matthews and Chair Lyons discussed increasing good activity in the parks vs.  
46 eliminating access points, the number of access points being a concern for the police department  
47 and that the location of this particular access point seems out of place.

48 Staff commented the access could be opened in the future, but closing it now would address  
49 existing concerns/problems.

50 Chair Lyons and Staff Member Dixon asked for a motion on the closure of the Pirates Court  
51 Empire Lakes access point.

52 *Commissioner Scott moved and Commissioner Matthews seconded the motion to install a fence at*  
53 *Pirates Court at the Pirates Court Street side and park entrance and the installation of no*  
54 *trespassing signs on the property owner's fence at the owner's expense. Chair Lyons asked if*  
55 *there were any objections. There were none. Motion carried by unanimous vote.*

#### 56 **Gates at Upper and Lower Empire Lakes**

57 Staff Member Dixon reminded the Commission about the prior discussion of installing gates at  
58 Lower and Upper Empire Lakes. Chief McCullough asked if we were talking about gates to stop  
59 vehicular traffic and/or fences to stop foot traffic and stated the Police Department generally runs  
60 into issues with foot traffic as opposed to vehicles. Chief McCullough stated they go into the park  
61 on patrols and if they locate someone in there in a vehicle after it's closed, they advise them it is  
62 dawn to dusk and they cannot be in there. Chief McCullough commented that he's not really sure  
63 what kind of impact the gates will have on the traffic going into the park at night. Police Captain  
64 Chapanar stated he agreed with Chief McCullough and that adding main gates to the park might  
65 limit unwanted access, but still has some concern about the foot traffic which is what they generally  
66 deal with.

67 Commissioner Scott asked Chief McCullough and Captain Chapanar if the gates would impede  
68 the police department from doing their job if they had to unlock a gate to get into the park. Captain  
69 Chapanar stated he would assume they would be locking access gates, which would likely have  
70 the city lock on, which PD would have the key to, but it comes back to the type of gates being  
71 proposed.

72 Staff Member Dixon commented that the City currently does not have a park host at Empire Lakes,  
73 but when the City did, one of the issues the park host was reporting was repeated cars going in and  
74 out of the park in the early morning hours and the thought process is to give that park host a little  
75 bit of security. Staff Member Dixon stated he understand the foot traffic issues, but if the hours of  
76 operation are that they are not open at night they should not be in there.

77 Chair Lyons asked for clarification on what early morning hours meant. Staff Member Dixon  
78 stated the park host they had out their quit because of the activity, she turned in her resignation  
79 about a month ago, and we haven't had anyone out there since because of the vehicle and foot  
80 traffic.

81 Captain Chapanar asked who would be responsible for locking and unlocking the gates. Staff  
82 Member Dixon reported that the City has reached out to security companies that would assist the  
83 City for a fee and there are other options – they can be censored or remote – however the City  
84 wants to do it or make it as easy as possible.

85 Commissioner Matthews asked if a hired security company would sweep the park prior to locking  
86 it up. Staff Member Dixon asked Scott Davison to come forward to inform the Commission about  
87 security options.

88 Staff Member Davison came forward stating he is on-call for the Parks Department and receives  
89 numerous calls at 10, 11, midnight, about people down at the park partying, drinking, smoking  
90 dope, etc. and it's a problem throughout the night. Staff Member Davison stated when he spoke to

91 the security companies it was about the parks and part of the service would be to conduct a sweep  
92 of the bathrooms, make sure people are out, report any damage, talk to PD and lock and adjust  
93 their hours for what's happening in the park. Staff Member Dixon stated one of the companies  
94 does the same thing for North Bend.

95 Staff Member Dixon commented on the homeless locking themselves in the restrooms for shelter,  
96 etc., which is to be discussed later on the agenda, but these security guards would secure the  
97 restrooms and gates at the hours requested.

98 Commissioner Matthews commented that he likes the idea of the security sweep of the parking  
99 lots and the bathrooms, at least for a temporary amount of time, maybe to just obtain some data –  
100 concrete numbers on what is happening over there and what we need to do to move forward.  
101 Commissioner Matthews commented that if it is not detrimental to the police, he supports  
102 installation of the gates.

103 Staff Member Davison stated that every park bathroom has new damages daily, has a transient  
104 sleeping in it every day, some of which are dangerous, spit on and threaten staff, lock themselves  
105 in, have dogs, etc. Commissioner Matthews commented we need to do something to make it safe  
106 again, which is going to take some tough decisions from the Commission and Staff, but supports  
107 the gates if it works for the police department.

108 Captain Chapanar asked if the police department would have access to the gates if they needed to  
109 get into the park because of foot traffic or if the police department gets a report that there is a large  
110 number of transients or homeless people in the park after hours. Staff Member Dixon stated yes,  
111 first, we could try a simple 300 series lock, which PD and Fire both have so if there was an issue,  
112 they could open it any time. Staff Member Dixon stated the City could monitor how that goes, and  
113 if it works, he would propose, in another budget year, transitioning to a sensor gate that's on a  
114 timer and vehicles that have remote that need in after-hours could go in and out as necessary.  
115 Commissioner Matthews commented on concerns of someone getting stuck in the park if it's on a  
116 timer and the parks not cleared. Chair Lyons commented that if it's a censored gate, they could get  
117 out. Staff Member Davison commented that when there's a park host there, they could help deal  
118 with that as well.

119 Commissioner Matthews asked Staff if it is common to see security companies in parks in other  
120 cities. Staff Member Dixon stated it is, Salem, Eugene, Bend – and most sports complexes have  
121 gates on them, which are remote control. Staff Member Dixon did state this is a little different  
122 because Empire Lakes is a natural park, not a sports complex.

123 Commissioner Matthews commented that he feels having some visual of security on a temporary  
124 basis will make people feel more secure. Staff Member Dixon commented he believes it will  
125 definitely improve the clientele as well as the park hosts. Staff Member Davison commented that  
126 the City of North Bend started this two years ago and they wished they had done it sooner, and the  
127 security company staff is proposing is the same that North Bend is using, and is the cheapest by  
128 far. Commissioner Matthews asked Staff if they had received multiple quotes and Staff Member  
129 Davison stated they had.

130 Captain McCullough stated the police department would fully support private security of some  
131 sort, it's made a major difference on the accessibility of the library when they started that, calls for  
132 service that they respond to have significantly dropped, and it would definitely assist the police  
133 department to have some sort of private security sweep, getting the bathrooms cleared out and  
134 locked and gates locked.

135 Fire Chief Anderson stated he is in favor of these gates, normally he is not a proponent of gates,  
136 but this is not a through street and they do carry the 300-series lock keys. Chief Anderson stated  
137 he believes the 300-series lock is the right way to go, but is not sure about the sensors. Staff  
138 Member Dixon commented we would not have to go with a sensors but wants to do what would

139 make everybody happy. Chief Anderson stated sometimes simple is better, but either way, the Fire  
140 Department is not opposed, but his only question is the width of the gate. Staff Member Dixon  
141 stated you'd have two ten-foot gates that open to the entrance width. Chief Anderson commented  
142 that was fine.

143 Chair Lyons asked about style of the gates. Staff Member Dixon stated he would provide options  
144 to the Commission and they can decide which ones they like. Commissioner Matthews stated they  
145 should look nice and not scary. Chair Lyons commented in the future she would like to see gates  
146 for the pedestrian trails as well.

147 *Commissioner Matthews moved and Commissioner Scott seconded the motion to approve gates*  
148 *for the Upper and Lower Empire Lake access points. Chair Lyons asked if there were any*  
149 *objections. There were none. Motion carried by unanimous vote.*

150 Staff Member Dixon advised the Commission he will send them several different styles of gates  
151 to look at in the next week. Staff Member Dixon stated Trevor can get his materials for the Pirates  
152 Court access and the City will get him the permit he needs. Staff Member Davison asked if Parks  
153 Staff should proceed with the removal of the dog box and legal access signs at the Pirates Court  
154 entrance and Staff Member Dixon advised they should.

#### 155 **Mingus Park Flag Pole Project Plaque**

156 Staff Member Dixon reported there is \$616.35 left in the fund from this project and asked the  
157 Commission how they felt about using the funds for a plaque to put near or on the flag pole  
158 recognizing the Boy Scouts for the project. Commissioner Matthews stated he agreed. Staff  
159 Member Dixon proposed putting the money toward a plaque and beautifying the area when the  
160 City renovates the park.

161 *Commissioner Matthews moved and Commissioner Crawley seconded the motion to approve the*  
162 *potential funding for a plaque to be provided for the Mingus Park flag pole location. Chair Lyons*  
163 *asked if there were any objections. There were none. Motion carried by unanimous vote.*

#### 164 **Parks Master Plan Update**

165 Staff Member Dixon stated we are coming to the end of the 10-year plan and the Commission and  
166 Staff should start to update the inventory and maintenance schedules as well as conduct a needs  
167 assessment. Staff Member Dixon believes beginning this process after July 1, 2021, and after the  
168 pending projects are complete, would give ample time to get a needs assessment, input and  
169 revisions made before the existing plan expires in 2023. Staff Member Dixon reminded the  
170 Commission of the upcoming Mingus Park project, the dredging and redesign, which he is going  
171 to discuss later, but it would be nice to cross those of the Master Plan list.

172 Chair Lyons commented this would be a great time to show what has been accomplished to the  
173 public and how much the City has utilized grant dollars.

174 Staff Member Dixon stated he cannot say enough about staff. The City solicited bids for the  
175 renovation of the Mingus pool mechanical system, which came in at about \$900,000 to \$1 million  
176 and Staff was able to do it internally for \$500,000, so a lot of money was saved in the process, but  
177 there is a lot more still to be done at City facilities.

178 Chair Lyons thanked Staff for getting this on the agenda to get it on everyone's minds – thinking  
179 about the Master Plan, the process and the things that need to be changed. Chair Lyons stated she  
180 believes the biggest thing that needs to be changed is safety and security in all of our parks. Staff  
181 Member Dixon stated he agrees and it's not a bad idea to start thinking about adding tech, IT and  
182 cameras, to some of these areas and parking lots to give PD support.

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185 **Boat Ramp Hours of Operation**

186 Staff Member Dixon reminded the Commission that he brought this issue to them a month ago for  
187 both the Empire and Eastside boat ramps, stating the OSMB was really concerned with the status  
188 of the Empire Boat Ramp, and that's when the Commission discussed changing the boat ramp  
189 hours to dawn to dusk, but Chief McCullough would like to see more defined hours, 5:00 a.m. to  
190 10:00 p.m., which Staff understands and does not feel that is a bad idea.

191 Chief McCullough stated the major reason is the intended use is for boat launching and water  
192 activities on the bay, and with the difference fishing seasons and changing activities it might be  
193 easier to delineate if it was a fixed hour and obviously if there are people out there using the boat  
194 ramp for its intended use and purpose, the police have discretion. Chief McCullough stated having  
195 set hours gives the police department a set of 'tools' on preventing the overnight camping, vehicle  
196 traffic, people sleeping in their cars, partying at night, i.e., the activities that are not intended for  
197 the boat ramps.

198 Staff Member Dixon commented that if these hours are adopted for the boat ramps, they would  
199 fall in line with the security services discussed above for Empire Lakes and the security company  
200 would be the one opening and closing the boat ramps and clearing the restrooms.

201 Chair Lyons asked Chief McCullough if defined hours are beneficial for all parks vs. dawn to dusk.  
202 Chief stated the dawn to dusk works, but if you were going to keep it consistent, including the boat  
203 ramps, then it would be better to have the set hours. Staff Member Dixon stated that would be his  
204 recommendation as well. Staff and the Commission discussed the difference in fall vs. summer  
205 daylight hours and how sport complexes would be different than parks.

206 Commissioner Matthews asked about how the hours would affect people wanting to go fishing.  
207 Staff Member Dixon reiterated Chief McCullough's statement that the police department would  
208 be able to use their discretion when people are using the boat ramps for their intended uses.

209 *Chair Lyons moved and Commissioner Matthews seconded the motion that all of the Parks and  
210 Recreation facilities to be open from 5:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m., unless there is an organized, City  
211 pre-approved event occurring at the park. Chair Lyons asked if there were any objections. There  
212 were none. Motion carried by unanimous vote.*

213 **Mingus Park Restroom Closure**

214 Staff Member Dixon reported the City is having a lot of problems with the Mingus Park restroom  
215 and is recommending closing the restroom and placing an ADA porta potty at the park due to  
216 sanitation issues and the number of homeless people staying there. Staff Member Dixon stated the  
217 sanitary issues are really bad, the restroom will be demolished with the upcoming park restoration,  
218 but we need to get a handle on it now. Staff Member Dixon commented we can try closing the  
219 restroom with security guards first, like discussed above, before closing the restrooms for good, or  
220 whichever the Commission would prefer. Commissioner Lyons stated she believes the restroom  
221 should be closed permanently at this point due to all of the issues.

222 *Chair Lyons moved and Commissioner Matthews seconded the motion to close the Mingus Park  
223 Restrooms at this time and replace their uses with porta potties. Chair Lyons asked if there were  
224 any objections. There were none. Motion carried by unanimous vote.*

225 **Safe Routes to School Update/Tree Map**

226 Staff Member Dixon reported the SRTS project in Eastside is nearing completion, needing a few  
227 more ramps and curbs, as well as the planting of trees. Staff Member Dixon noted the entire project  
228 should be completed by mid-January.

229 Staff Member Dixon commented that he has received a lot of praise from the Sate as well as  
230 pedestrians that will be using the new sidewalks. Staff Member Dixon stated there will be a fly-  
231 over video at the conclusion of the project.

232 **4<sup>th</sup> Street Roadway Safety Improvements Update**

233 Staff Member Dixon reported the 4<sup>th</sup> Street Roadway Safety Improvements are continuing now  
234 North of Anderson Ave. and the new lights are going up, which will be much better as the poles  
235 are higher. Staff Member Dixon reported paving should start in March as the weather gets better  
236 to bring the roadbed to grade.

237 **Commissioner Closing Comments**

238 Staff Member Dixon added that an ODOT project at North and South 101 at Johnson Avenue will  
239 be commencing in the near future, wherein they are replacing the traffic signals. Staff Member  
240 Dixon commented that new lights will be equipped with Opticom which the Fire Department and  
241 Police Department can tie into, they will just need the software. Captain Chapanar asked to be  
242 notified when the new poles go in. Fire Chief Anderson stated their vehicles are already equipped  
243 with the Opticom software.

244 Commissioner Matthews commented that he is really sad the Commission is having to take steps  
245 to close parks and park amenities, but believes it is the right thing to do. Commissioner Matthews  
246 stated that maybe the increased security will give citizens what they need to feel safe and use the  
247 parks again.

248 Staff Member Dixon reported the City has been award left over materials from the Hayward Field  
249 rehab that can be used at the Mingus Park Rehabilitation. Staff Member Dixon reported the U of  
250 O invited communities to apply for the demoed material that was salvageable, so he applied, and  
251 was awarded the material. Staff Member Dixon stated that are several glue lamb beams and a  
252 number of wood stair treads. Commissioner Scott commented it might be nice to use some of those  
253 materials at the Prefontaine mural as well.

254 Staff Member Dixon reported to the Commission that the City also received a donation from the  
255 Oregon Visitor Convention Bureau for 10 new golf disc baskets that will be installed at the Mingus  
256 Park course.

257 **Adjourn**

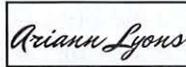
258 There being no further business to come before the Parks Commission, by consensus of the Parks  
259 Commission, Chair Lyons adjourned the meeting at 5:05 p.m.

260 **APPROVED BY THE PARKS COMMISSION ON THE 21<sup>st</sup> DAY OF JANUARY 2021.**

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Attest:

  
Kelli Burnette, Staff

  
dotloop verified  
01/22/21 11:48 AM PST  
SY2X-XP2N-D3G0-7ID5

Arian Lyons, Chair