

AGENDA
CITY OF BROOKINGS
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING
Council Chamber - 898 Elk Drive
May 28, 2015 - 7:00 pm

I. CALL TO ORDER

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

III. ROLL CALL

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes of March 19, 2015

V. PUBLIC APPEARANCES

VI. REGULAR AGENDA

A. Smoking Ban in Parks

B. Tree Removal - Lundeen Lane - Azalea Park

VII. INFORMATION UPDATES/DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Disc Golf Course - R.A.R.E Participant - Austin Dunn

B. Azalea Park - Native Azalea Work Plan

C. Recreational Programming - Youth Flag Football League

VIII. COMMISSIONER REPORTS/COMMENTS

IX. ADJOURNMENT

MINUTES
BROOKINGS PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
March 19, 2015

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Patricia Brown called the meeting to order at 7:00pm followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

Present: Commissioners Tom Bozack, Trace Kather, Garth Richey, Don Vilelle and Chair Patricia Brown.

Also present: Parks/Tech Services Supervisor Tony Baron and Austin Dunn, RARE employee.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. Motion made to approve the minutes of January 22, 2015 as written; motion seconded and Commission voted; the motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC APPEARANCES

A. Azalea Park, Native Azaleas – Visiting Azalea Specialist Dick Cavender presented information on the condition of the native azaleas (*occidentale*) in Azalea Park. He has studied *occidentale* for over forty years, and never seen something like what we have in the wild. In the wild, *occidentale* are typically cleared out every fifty or so years by forest fires or choked out by the competing vegetation (underbrush). Plants in portions of the park are dying off due to lack of sunlight penetrating through the stands of large fir trees which would have typically been cleared by forest fires. He encouraged pruning old growth from the plants as they only experience two to three inches of growth per year where new growth would experience twelve to eighteen inches per year and produce more flowers if sunlight were available. His visit was very informative and generated interest from the community, paving the way for a collaborative effort between the City, Master Gardeners and the Azalea Park Foundation to develop and implement a plan for management of the native azaleas. He also suggested educating the public to engage their support of the pruning.

REGULAR AGENDA

A. Disk Golf Course – Azalea Park - Tony and Austin Dunn presented the 9 hole disk golf course proposal and maps of the area. Course is mapped out to avoid old growth azaleas and other park activities with safety in mind. Tony advised they hope to develop course trails and new walking paths to allow people more access to the park, which he believes is underutilized. Parks has also purchased a new park utility vehicle to allow access to remote park areas that tend to become dumping areas to keep the park clean and safe. Austin advised that the Salmon Run disc golf course is progressing and believes there is an enough interest in the sport for three courses in the area. Course will open up forest, let light on the azaleas, which is good for them and engage people to use the park, which would detour homeless camps. Course will be set up in three phases and a committee will be established to manage course details. Courses typically do draw people drinking alcohol but can make course alcohol free. As no alcohol is allowed in the park tournament events would have to apply for a park use permit which could allow alcohol if approved. **Motion made by Don Vilelle to recommend to City Council the development of proposed disk golf course in Azalea Park; motion seconded and Commission voted; the motion carried unanimously.** Matter forwarded to the City Council.

B. Parks Capital Improvement List FY 15-16 - Tony provided the top ten 2015-16 FY CIP List as determined by the Parks and Recreation Commissioners. **Motion made by Tom Bozack to recommend to City Council the 2015-16 Parks Capital Improvement Plan; motion seconded and Commission voted; the motion carried unanimously.**

INFORMATION UPDATES/DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Prohibit Smoking in Parks - Tony reviewed the City municipal code and areas where smoking is prohibited. Resident, Tony Parrish previously requested that Stout Park be made smoke free to discourage kids from hanging out there and to alleviate the litter and possibly some of the vandalism in Stout Park. Resident Shirley Hyatt, spoke and advised that she lives near Stout Park and it is a place for kids to hang out before, during and after school and smoking/litter is a problem, along with behavior and language that the neighbors do not think is appropriate. Enforcement by the police is difficult and unknown if "No Smoking" signs would make any difference. Tony advised that he has reached out to the school district to ask them to help with keeping the kids out of the park during school hours. Don Vilelle thought a closed campus might help keep kids on the school grounds. Tony advised that he will write up language for possible revisions to the BMC and invite school officials to the next meeting to discuss further.

STAFF REPORTS

Tony advised that CCEC has requested that some trees on Lundeen Lane be cut down to prohibit damage to the nearby transmission lines during winter storms. Could sell the timber and replant with appropriate size trees. Tony will bring request to future meeting for commission approval. He also suggested selected azaleas be removed that will not improve due to their location and no sunlight.

COMMISSIONER REPORTS/COMMENTS

Commissioner Bozack – thanked Dick Cavender for coming down and providing information on the park azaleas.

Chair Vilelle – advised he continues to hear positive comments about Chetco Point.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business before the Commission, the meeting adjourned at 8:05 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Brown, Chair
(Approved at May 28, 2015 meeting)

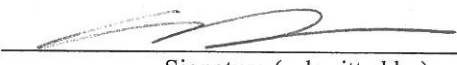
CITY OF BROOKINGS

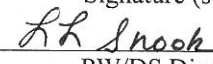
PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION

AGENDA REPORT

Meeting Date: May 28, 2015

Originating Dept: Parks


Signature (submitted by)


PW/DS Director Approval

Subject: Smoking Ban in Parks

Motion: to approve proposed BMC revisions and direct staff to forward to Council for their approval.

Background/Discussion: Smoking ban in all areas of the park was originally brought up in September of 2011 and at that time the commission approved a revision to the BMC that included specific areas and not all areas. Lt. Dotson informed the commission that enforcement would be similar to other City ordinances and that an officer would not be dedicated to looking for violators but if a complaint was received and/or they observe a violation a citation would be issued.

Tony Parrish has requested that the commission revisit the issue and consider banning smoking in all areas of parks. He stated Cigarette butt litter is becoming an unsightly problem in several areas of our community and neighborhood parks.

Attachments:

- a. Proposed BMC Revision

12.25.017 Smoking prohibited in designated ~~all~~ park areas.

A. Persons are prohibited from smoking in city parks at all times. ~~in the following areas: within the fenced area of Kidtown at Azalea Park and all children's playgrounds, athletic fields, bleachers and benches, and within 20 feet of all restroom, concession and public transit facilities within designated park areas.~~

B. Penalties under this section shall be \$75.00 for each separate offense. [Ord. 13-O-718 § 2; Ord. 12-O-690 § 2.]

12.25.020 Exceptions.

The city manager may, upon prior application, permit use of a city-owned public park or city-owned public recreational area at times other than the times that the premises are open for use by the public. [Ord. 94-O-505 § 2.]

12.25.030 Penalties.

Unless otherwise provided in this chapter, any violation of the provisions of this chapter shall, upon conviction thereof, be punished pursuant to Chapter [1.05](#) BMC, General Penalty. [Ord. 10-O-662 § 2; Ord. 94-O-505 § 3.]


CITY OF BROOKINGS

PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION

AGENDA REPORT

Meeting Date: May 28, 2015

Originating Dept: Parks


Signature (submitted by)


PW/DS Director Approval

Subject: Tree Removal - Lundeen Lane - Azalea Park

Motion: Recommend City Council to authorize the removal of thirty seven fir trees along Lundeen Lane at Azalea Park.


Background/Discussion: Coos Curry Electric submitted a letter of request to the City of Brookings to authorize the removal of thirty seven large fir trees that endanger electrical transmission lines along Lundeen Lane. During a wind storm this last Winter, we had a near miss with a tree that was uprooted and fell over nearly landing on the Azalea Park Foundations tool shed in the North parking lot near Kidtown. Fortunately the fallen tree was hung up in the surrounding trees. This incident prompted Coos Curry Electric to evaluate the remaining trees and assess the risk they pose to high transmission lines to the North.

Financial Impact: A request of this kind from Coos Curry Electric, when their infrastructure is at risk of damage, would be at no cost to City. In this situation the size of the trees will net revenue in the amount of \$5600 at current timber prices which we would then reinvest in replanting the area with lower growing trees.

Attachments:

- a. Letter of Request
- b. Area Map



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The power of human connections®

1/29/2015

Gary Milliman
City Manager
City of Brookings
898 Elk Drive
Brookings, Or 97415

Mr. Milliman,

On December 16, 2014 Western Pacific Tree Service removed a tree that had uprooted in Azalea Park along Lundeen Ln. that had hung up in another tree. This uprooted tree had blown over during a storm the previous week. This incident has brought about discussion with Coos Curry Electric Cooperative and Anthony Baron the Parks and Technical Services Supervisor for the City of Brookings. It seems that through this discussion we have a mutual interest to look at removal of the large fir trees that grow along Lundeen Ln within Azalea Park.

The tree that blew over was what Coos Curry Electric Cooperative (CCEC) would consider a near miss as far as public safety and the integrity of our power lines are concerned. The reason it would be considered a near miss is due to the close proximity that these trees are in relation to CCEC's 115,000 volt transmission line and a 7200 volt distribution line located on the opposite side on Lundeen Ln from this strip of trees. In addition to the transmission and distribution lines there is also an apartment complex located within 30 feet of the transmission line. If additional trees were to hit this line it would pose a risk of the trees and power lines striking the apartment complex. CCEC also has a substation located within 60 feet of where these trees could strike the lines. If this were to happen, there is a likelihood that the substation itself could sustain damage which would cause an extend power outage to a good portion of downtown Brookings along with Pacific Wood Laminates. If the trees were to strike the transmission line then at a minimum, all of the Harbor area to the California border would be without power until the transmission line could be repaired. The time for this restoral could start at a minimum of two days and extend from there depending on the amount of damage done.

There are approximately 37 trees that grow within striking distance of these power lines that CCEC and the Parks Department discussed for removal. These trees are merchantable timber that South Coast Lumber could potentially purchase so those funds could be used for Azalea Park restoral/enhancement. In my walk through this area I observed several large branches that had fell out of these trees and branches that

had broken off and were still hanging in the trees presenting a hazard to the public that use this area of the park.

If the City of Brookings were to agree to this joint venture in removal of these trees then CCEC would hire Western Pacific Tree Service to fall and limb the trees. Cut the trees to a length specified by the buyer of the logs and place the limbs in piles in this area. The City of Brookings could then remove the stumps and limbs from the area and perform the remaining restoration of that portion of the park that they showed interest in.

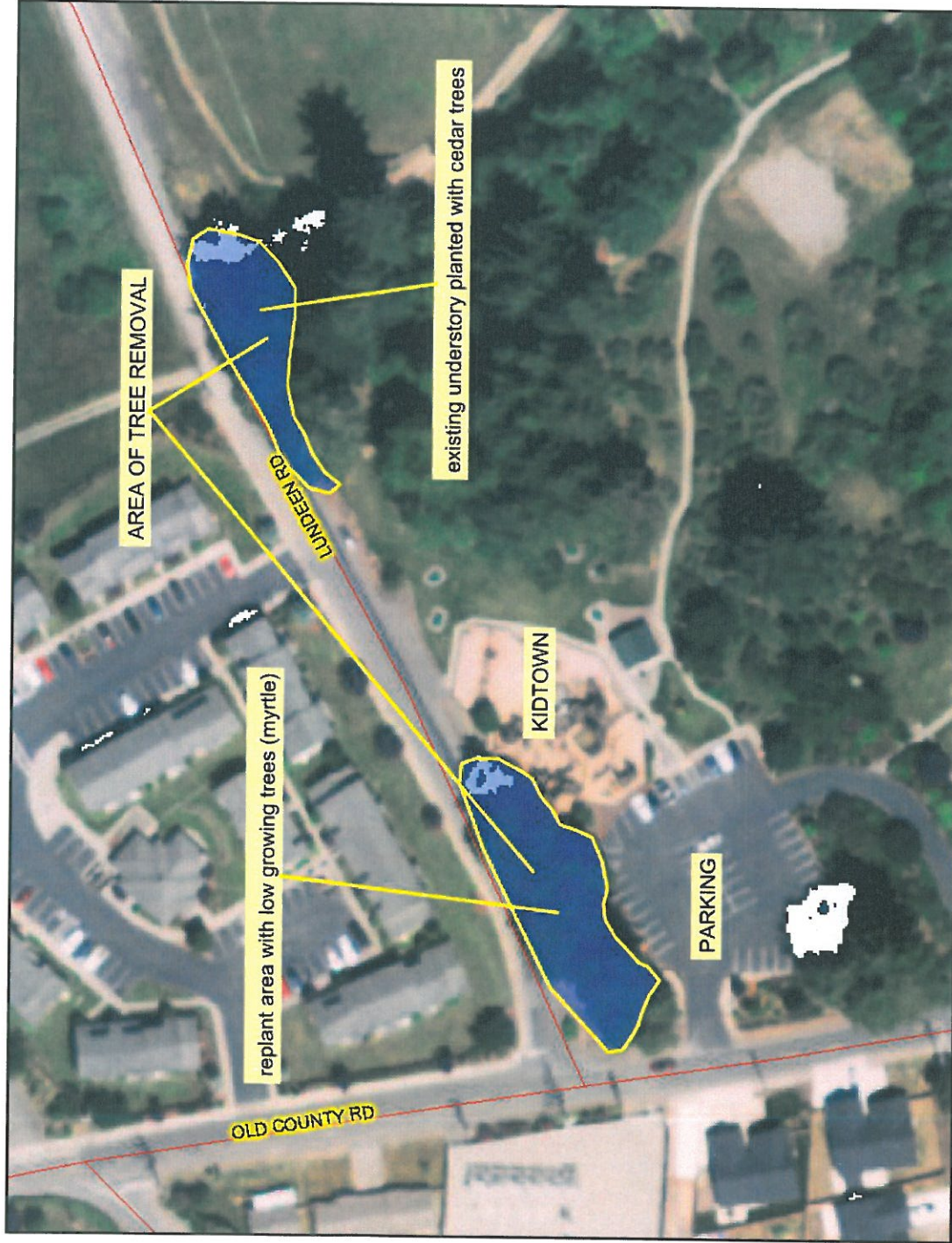
In closing it is not CCEC's intent to create a scar within Azalea Park but to ensure that we are making public safety and the reliability of service to CCEC's consumers our top priority.

Thank you for your consideration;

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Scott Adams".

Scott Adams
Right of Way Supervisor
Coos Curry Electric Cooperative, Inc.

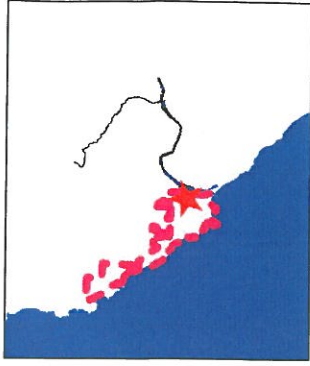
Tree Removal - Lundeen Lane



0 125 250 375 ft.

Map center: 42° 3' 31.5" N, 124° 16' 29.6" W

This map is a public resource of general information. Use this information at your own risk. Curry County makes no warranty of any kind, expressed or implied, including any warranty of merchantability, fitness for any particular purpose or any other matter.



- Legend**
- RIVERS
 - ROADS
 - URBAN GROWTH BOUNDARY
 - OCEAN



Scale: 1:1,334



Red's Rhodies

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Suggestions for the renovation of *Rhododendron occidentale* in Brookings Azalea Park

Thanks to Tony Baron and Scott Thiemann for inviting Karen and me to visit and consult about the care of the *Rhododendron occidentale* in Azalea Park. We enjoyed our visit and the opportunity to meet many of the people involved with the care of the park.

We were pleased that everyone we spoke with during our visit realized that the Azaleas needed pruning. The real problem is public relations. Hopefully, the Pilot article will be a start in educating the general public. Regardless of what is done, there will be some complaints but continuing education should help to minimize these.

Over about the past 10,000 years, nature and Native Americans burned many areas of the Pacific Northwest to clear land. The first European explorers, expecting a forested wilderness, were amazed to find spacious meadows adorned with clumps of trees. Beautiful pastures where deer were seen in great number. Gooseberries, Currants and Strawberries were found in many places. All this in a region better suited to forest growth.¹ Early settlers continued this practice for many years.

As the European population increased, the practice of burning has been replaced by agriculture, forest management for timber production and cities have replaced small villages.

Rhododendron occidentale, The Western Azalea, has adapted to fires regardless of the cause. It quickly regenerates from the roots with renewed vigor as fires fertilize the soil and eliminate competition. This regeneration is very apparent in areas where fires have occurred. The Biscuit Fire area west of O'Brien and the Snow Camp area east of Brookings are good examples. Within 3 years of the fire, both *R. occidentale* and *R. macrophyllum* were as much as 3' tall and many were in flower. An article in the July 1960 Journal of the American Rhododendron Society notes that the area around Brookings was devastated by fire in about 1904. That makes the Azaleas in the park over 100 years old. This is not a natural situation. Since it is not possible to burn the park, pruning of the plants is the only remedy.

Recommendations

The old growth in all of the Azaleas should be removed. The plants will send up new growth and improve the plants. There are a number of plants that have been pruned and this regeneration is evident. Because of public objections to the wholesale removal of all of the old growth, pruning should be done over a period of years. In plants that have been pruned in the past and have new growth, the remaining old growth can be removed. On plants that have not been pruned, branches that are flopping over paths should be removed first. This will ease mowing. Twisted and 'crossing' branches should be removed. Depending on the size of the plants, one quarter to one half of the remaining old growth should be cut back to the ground. As the plants regenerate over the next few years, the remaining old growth should be pruned out.

How to Prune: Previously I recommended that the plants be pruned to about knee high. I have come to realize that this is incorrect for several reasons. Fires would burn the plants to the ground. Leaving a stump is not aesthetically pleasing. New growth does come out of these stumps but you really want it to come from the roots. Therefore, the plants should be pruned as close to the ground as possible.

Fertilizing: As I recall, Tony has been applying 16-16-16. I recommended an Azalea, Camellia Rhododendron fertilizer, about a 10-8-6. Because you want the plants to regenerate quickly, Tony's use of 16-16-16 may be a better option. However, it will encourage weed growth. After the plants have regenerated, little or no fertilizer will be needed for a number of years.

Competition: *R. occidentale* does not like competition. Weeds in the plant are a problem and need to be removed. I don't have any good suggestions other than hand pruning. It will be very difficult to use herbicide as that may damage the Azaleas. Herbicide could be used around the perimeter of the plants and this would ease mowing. Barkdust could be applied to the sprayed area to improve the appearance.

Shade from the large trees in the park is causing problems in a number of areas. We noted a number that should be removed. Trees with broken tops should probably be removed as they are not healthy. Smaller trees in the wooded area on the south side could also be removed. It may be possible to recover some of the cost by selling the logs. A few areas may simply no longer be suitable for Azaleas.

New Plantings: Tony pointed out a couple of areas where he planned to put in new plants. I would really like to see you plant some of the superior forms that we have found over the years. Many of these forms are now extinct in the wild and my personal collection will be lost some time in the future. The Park is a great place to preserve these plants for the enjoyment of future generations. I can supply a few. A wholesale nursery in Springfield is also growing a couple of my selections. A friend, and I are willing to make crosses of selected clones and give you the seed. Seed is easy to grow and a flowering plant may be obtained in as little as 3 years.

Other Plantings: The garden club has planted a small area with other forms of Rhododendrons. A number of these have a Lace Bug problem. This needs to be controlled for both the health of the plants and for aesthetic reasons. The plants will probably survive but will not look good and will decline over the years. I do see Lace Bug on deciduous Azaleas in our garden by late summer but not a really bad infection.

The best products are systemic and, if applied after flowering of Rhododendrons, will not harm pollinators. There are a number of pesticides that are registered for Lace Bug. Many are used on Roses and in pet flea control. They contain imidacloprid. These products have received a bad reputation because of their miss use. However, a recent study has shown that they have minimal effect on bees if used properly. See <http://journals.plos.org/plosone/article?id=10.1371/journal.pone.0118748>.

All in all, this has been a learning experience for me as well. I had not really thought about it but over the years, we have stopped visiting many areas along the southern Oregon coast because there is not anything new to look at. The same Azaleas that were present twenty years ago are still present. In a number of these areas, the Azaleas are disappearing because they are being crowded out by competing vegetation. Otter Point State Park is a good example. With no burning or brush clearing, there is not any regeneration. There is a possibility that *R. occidentale* will gradually disappear from what once was its prime habitat. Azalea Park is a great place to preserve the beautiful plants.

Notes:

1 *Indians, Fire, and the Land in the Pacific Northwest* Robert Boyd *Illus. Maps. Index.* 320 pages. 1999. ISBN 978-0-87071-459