

**LINCOLN CITY PLANNING COMMISSION WORK SESSION
MINUTES
July 31, 2023**

I. CALL TO ORDER, ROLL CALL

Attendee Name	Title	Status	Arrived
Brian Bunnett	Commissioner	Excused	
Clay Glasgow	Commissioner	Present	
Mellissa Sumner	Commissioner	Excused	
Marci Baker	Commissioner	Present	
Robert Vincent	Chair	Present	
Kim Blackerby	Commissioner	Present	

II. DISCUSSION ITEMS

2.1. Comp Plan Update - Parks, Recreation, and Open Space

Chair Robert Vincent opened the discussion of the latest draft of the chapter on Parks, Recreation, and Open Space.

Assistant Planner Andrea Riner directed everyone to the notes from Commissioner Baker.

Commissioner Baker presented her recommended edits, stating that the majority were in response to feedback received and included in the packet. She added a paragraph in the introduction to highlight the beach bill. Commissioner Glasgow supported including this positive information.

Director Skinner added that the city has limited control over the beach and beach access. The State of Oregon Parks and Recreation Department is coordinating the discussion regarding permanent beach closures. Responding to a question from Commissioner Glasgow, Director Skinner added that she didn't think the city has any jurisdiction over tribal access points at Chinook Winds.

Ms. Riner recommended that the Parks, Recreation, and Open Space chapter emphasize the important resources the city manages.

Director Skinner suggested that the specificity of MOBI mats wasn't necessary to the intent of the paragraph.

Commissioner Blackerby provided suggested edits to make the sentences more concise.

The Commissioners discussed the value of the beach accessibility improvements made by the city, and considered ways to integrate the regional perspective of beach-related recreation with the chapter's core intent to describe the city's parks and open space system.

Director Skinner stated that she will get the most up-to-date acreage, clarifying whether it is inclusive of all parks in the city or is only natural open space.

Staff did not support including the proposed park in Taft in the list of existing assets, as the list specifically refers to existing facilities.

Commissioner Baker recommended addressing the community feedback regarding places for indoor recreation. Director Skinner suggested removing the reference to the senior center in the introduction. The Commissioners discussed policies/objectives relating to seniors, families, and teens, recommending language to work with community partners to facilitate the development of indoor recreation opportunities and changing senior center to community resource rooms. This would replace draft policy/objective 12 that references the Council on Aging.

Commissioner Baker recommended eliminating the first policy/objective as it was already covered in the goal. Everyone agreed.

Commissioner Baker, in response to a comment from Steve Griffiths, suggested that specific examples of open space enhancement be added, such as GPS audio tours. Director Skinner reminded the Planning Commission that the comprehensive plan is not the place for programmatic details. Commissioner Glasgow agreed that the scale needed to remain at the big picture level, and that the term enhance was appropriately broad.

Ms. Riner commented that her understanding was that the Commission had discussed moving towards a more concise document, eliminating program-specific details.

Director Skinner agreed to change the word enhance, and replace it with promoting stewardship.

Commissioner Baker also recommended more specific description of the services associated with beach access, including restrooms, parking, water service, and trash. Commissioners also wanted to differentiate parking at beach access points with policies allowing cars on the beach.

Commissioner Baker recommended clarifying the types of recreation allowed in open space, and creating a policy/objective in response to Commissioner Bunnett's comment about the real and perceived lack of safety in open space areas in Lincoln City.

The Commissioners discussed eliminating existing policy/objective #7 and #8, and combining/eliminating portions of #'s 10, 14, and 15. Ms. Riner suggested pulling these together in a single policy/objective that includes references to the parks system diversity, including high-intensity active recreation and indoor recreation facilities. Significant revisions to #11 were also discussed, evaluating the need for a specific provision to require existing and future beach front or scenic properties owned by the city to be preserved as public property in perpetuity. Commissioner Baker strongly supported keeping the policy to require approval by the Parks & Recreation Board and the Planning Commission. Director Skinner reminded the Planning Commission that the comprehensive plan is not an implementation tool, and that she would do additional research on the topic for the next draft.

Director Skinner agreed that policy/objective #16 recommending periodic review of open space zoning codes could be eliminated.

Commissioner Blackerby supported Commissioner Baker's suggestion to create opportunities that would support a bicycle economy as an alternative to his comments to add language about bikeways.

The Planning Commission discussed the issue of fireworks, and agreed that it was not something appropriate to a long range comprehensive land use plan. Ms. Riner asked if the fireworks and holiday decorations were functions of the parks and recreation department, and if not, that it would make sense to consider such language elsewhere. Commissioner Glasgow suggested that it was more appropriate to be included in the climate action/sustainability plan.

In response to a comment from Commissioner Baker, Director Skinner stated that indoor recreation facilities are allowed in the general commercial zone, with conditional use approval, and that she is considering an ordinance amendment that would allow indoor family entertainment uses outright.

Chair Vincent called for a brief recess.

2.2. Coastal Resources

After the break, the Commissioners began a review of the Coastal Resources chapter with a review of the first paragraph of the introductory section to clarify how the Pacific Ocean is a foundational element, and that it forms the basis of our incredible coastal resources, including beaches, dunes, and estuaries. Removing the reference to tourism and scenic values was supported.

Commissioner Baker suggested augmenting the discussion regarding the Biosphere Reserve with a more specific definition, including the unique purpose of the UNESCO program. Director Skinner agreed to revise the paragraph as discussed, including a reference to wildlife and endangered species. Commissioner Baker provided a reference to CascadeHead.org.

Commissioner Baker asked if there are any known designated archaeological sites, and whether we wanted to include a policy/objective to investigate further. Ms. Riner asked if that was necessarily a part of the Coastal Resources chapter. Commissioner Baker supported adding it elsewhere.

Commissioner Baker questioned the value of the three paragraphs relating to dunes, since we are unable to fully research and develop our expertise in this area. The Commissioners agreed to eliminating the dune-related paragraphs, and including a statement regarding the need to pursue this research for subsequent updates.

The Commissioners agreed to revise the draft goal to eliminate the term "significant" and changing estuaries to specifically name the Siletz Bay Estuary.

Commissioner Baker suggested revising and simplifying policy/objective #5 relating to the need for an estuary management plan for Siletz Bay, and proposed edits to policy/objective #10.

Commissioner Baker supported a policy/objective regarding the elimination of vehicle access to the beach, based on public feedback and the impacts on coastal resources. She stated that the comprehensive plan could consider ways that the city could control the access points regardless of the state's policy about uses on the beach itself. Director Skinner stated that she would review the topic with the city attorney. The issue is currently under review and public consideration and is within the jurisdiction of Oregon Parks and Recreation.

Commissioner Baker supported a sustainability related policy/objective in the Coastal Resources chapter, with an emphasis on the benefits of ecotourism.

Commissioner Baker asked how the city via the comprehensive plan could include something in support of wildlife protection, specifically on our beaches. Commissioner Blackerby asked what the city's role would be, since other organizations already had that responsibility. Ms. Baker suggested improving partnerships, and creating public information materials. She also presented a number of ideas to support this idea, including additional ecotourism components. Director Skinner stated that these programmatic elements would need to be reviewed by a number of directors. Commissioner Baker suggested getting the feedback from the Planning Commission first.

Ms. Riner asked about the Commissioners' preferred approach to ecotourism, whether policies/objectives would be included in each of the relevant chapters, including Parks and Recreation, Economic Development, and Coastal Resources, or if it was preferred to have a single location where a more detailed ecotourism objective could be described.

Commissioners supported keeping Commissioner Baker's new policy/objective #17 regarding sustainable development codes and ecotourism, and creating a new statement to foster partnerships and promote community engagement.

Commissioner Baker requested more input from the Sustainability Committee as a whole. Director Skinner stated that she would be in touch with the City Manager for how that might be accommodated, and let the Commissioners know that drafts of the chapters are consistently shared with all of the members of the Sustainability Committee.

Director Skinner asked if the Commissioners wanted to see the next draft of Parks, Recreation, and Open Space and Coastal Resources before taking those chapters to a City Council work session.

Ms. Riner asked again if these chapters would be reviewed for redundancies and to focus on a smaller and more precise set of policies/objectives, similar to the approach used on the chapters regarding Community Resiliency and Economic Development/Urbanization. Director Skinner didn't think so, but both Coastal Resources and Parks will be brought back to Planning Commission in a future work session.

Director Skinner asked if the Commissioners have a preferred time for the work session on August 15th. It was agreed that the August 15th work session would be earlier in the day, ending soon enough to leave a break between work session and the regular meeting at 6:00 PM.

Chair Vincent adjourned the work session at 3:29 PM.

III. ADJOURN

Respectfully submitted,

Anne Marie Skinner
Planning Director

Robert Vincent
Chair