



# PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION AGENDA ITEM COMMENTARY

Item No: 40.3

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**DIVISION:** Administration  
**STAFF CONTACT:** Brian Sjothun  
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**AGENDA SECTION:** New & Continued Business  
**MEETING DATE:** June 21, 2016

## ISSUE STATEMENT & SUMMARY:

2016 marks the 12<sup>th</sup> year in which the Parks and Recreation Commission recognizes individuals, businesses and other service groups with the Friends of Medford Parks and Recreation Award. The awards are presented annually each July in order to recognize the award recipient's contributions to parks and recreation initiatives.

## BACKGROUND:

### A. Commission Action History

Annually each June – The Commission recommends the selection of the Friends of Medford Parks and Recreation Award recipients. This practice began in 2005.

### B. Analysis

Staff is making the following recommendations to the Commission for consideration:

- **Individual – Greg Jones:** Greg is a former Parks and Recreation Director and City Council member. Greg worked as the director for nearly 30 years and retired in 2003. After retirement, Greg served on the City Council for over 8 years. As director, Greg was instrumental in the purchase of the property of U.S. Cellular Community Park along with Lewis Street Park. Greg also worked closely with the Medford School District to form the school/park partnerships.
- **Business – Wells Fargo Advisors:** Their staff have provided outstanding volunteerism at our special events in recent years, most notable helping with set-up and take-down at Howl-O-Ween, Daddy Daughter Dinner Dance, Mother-Son Superhero Dance and Winter Lights Festival.
- **Community Service Group – Rogue Valley Senior Softball Association:** Each year, RVSSA provides volunteer scorekeepers and scoreboard operators for each ASA national tournament game hosted by MPRD at U.S. Cellular Community Park. In doing so, they have braved extreme heat and smoky conditions without complaint, and their efforts have saved us money and contributed to our award-winning tournament hosting efforts.
- **Youth Individual or Group – Coyote Trails School of Nature:** Our excellent partners do an outstanding job managing the Nature Center at U.S. Cellular Community Park and provide the community and region compelling, high-quality outdoor recreation and enrichment classes and programs.

### C. Financial and/or Resource Considerations

Costs for the plaques presented are within the budget of the Parks and Recreation Department and normally total less than \$350 annually.



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**D. Timing Issues**

Staff is requesting approval of the recommendation in order to make the presentations as part of National Parks & Recreation Month celebrations that occur each July.

**STRATEGIC PLAN:**

Theme: Quality Public Services

Goal 8: Provide recreational activities and opportunities to improve the lives of Medford residents

**COMMISSION OPTIONS:**

Option A: Approve the recommendation.

Option B: Revise and approve the recommendation.

Option C: Deny the recommendation.

**STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS:**

Staff recommends approval of the proposed slate of award winners.

**SUGGESTED MOTION:**

Move to approve recommendation to the Medford City Council and to present the awards to the winners at the July 7, 2016 Council meeting.

**EXHIBITS:**

Friends of Medford Parks & Recreation Award - List