ISSUE BEFORE THE COMMISSION
Parks Master Plan Update, including issues regarding Skate Park maintenance and location.

BACKGROUND
The City of Talent’s current park system master plan was completed in 2006 by a Community Planning Workshop team. Over the past 13 years, many of the projects from that plan have been completed and there is now a need to evaluate the success of these projects and to set new goals.

The City of Talent is experiencing both shifting demographics and population growth. By 2035 over 36% of Talent residents will be over age 60 and an increasingly large Latinx population is calling Talent home. Over the next 20 years, the population within Talent’s Urban Growth Boundary (UGB) is projected to grow by 41%. In response to this, the city is currently reviewing its UGB and may take steps to add more land within the UGB. These changes have further justified the need for an updated parks master plan and the City of Talent has received a grant from the Oregon Park and Recreation Department to complete these updates. This master plan update will also help to inform the City’s long-range Capital Improvement Plan.

The Parks Master Plan involves a comprehensive review of the existing inventory of land, recreation facilities, and recreation opportunities; development of a mission statement; development of a strategic set of goals, objectives, and actions for the next twenty years; survey of the needs of residents; identification of land for future parks and open space acquisition, preservation, or conservation; development of conceptual designs for parks; provision of a capital improvement schedule, and review of existing finance strategies; and development of recommendations to fund improvements.

Park and recreation planning typically occurs at three levels, 1) master planning at a parks system-wide level, 2) site planning for a park or recreation facility, 3) operational/maintenance planning. The City is currently planning for the first level; system-wide parks planning.

This 2019 Parks Master Plan is intended to replace all previous master planning efforts. It is not intended as an update to previous work. Instead, it is an examination of current conditions within the City of Talent, level of service, and available partnerships while considering the future of the city, the anticipated growth projections, and the potential urban growth boundary.

While population growth and associated development has placed demands upon the City for services, it has been able to maintain a quality of life for the residents substantially through the park and recreation system. The City recognizes that the vitality of a community is directly correlated to its quality of life and that a strong component of a community’s vitality is in the quality of its parks and recreation amenities and services. This project was initiated to facilitate a community planning process that would create a revised
long-range master planning document for the City of Talent to help guide decisions related to providing parks, recreation and open space opportunities. This planning process provides the City with the opportunity to articulate its vision for these services and provided a framework of action plans for implementation during the next 20 years.

The Parks Master Plan is broken down into seven (7) tasks. Task 5 and 6 are focused on developing a park system vision and recommendations for park system and facility improvements as well as developing capital improvement recommendations and strategies for funding future projects. The recommendations in these sections of the plan allow the City to better prioritize improvements and access potential funding sources and are especially important when developing a capital improvement plan to implement the recommendations.

Over the course of several months the public, stakeholders and City staff provided information on what the City of Talent is providing in parks and recreation facilities, programs, and services. Public focus group meetings, interviews conducted in person and over the phone, email correspondence, and surveys were conducted to help develop the vision.

As part of this visioning process, there may be early discussions regarding certain issues, such as the repair or relocation of the Skate Park. The draft plan as currently written has possible recommendations for the future of park, but those recommendations have not be finalized by the Parks Commission, nor submitted to the City Council.

CURRENT STATUTES OF SKATE PARK DISCUSSION
In recent months, the Parks Commission has been helping to revise the City’s 2006 Master Plan for Parks. As part of this process, the Parks Commission has identified repair and maintenance issues for the Skate Park that need to be addressed as part of the Master Plan process. Depending on the costs for repairs, one option that has been discussed is possible relocation of the facility to Chuck Roberts Park. Due to the geology/layout of Chuck Roberts, a skate park there would require a flat design for a park rather than the current bowl configuration.

The new Master Plan still has not been completed and will need to receive final approval from the Parks Commission this fall before it goes to the City Council. One of the challenges of the planning process is that the city will need to identify funding sources for all the projects in the Plan, including repairs/relocation for the skateboard park.

At this time the city does not have an updated estimate for repairs for the skateboard park, although an inspection and appraisal is slated for later in August. It is possible that either repairs or relocation could cost in the $200,000 to $300,000 range, and a funding source for those costs would need to be identified in the Master Plan.

The Commission is a volunteer advisory board to the City Council that makes recommendations to the City Council; the City Council will make the final decisions regarding project scope and budget for the all city park projects, including any repairs/relocation for the Skate Park.