



City of Oregon City

625 Center Street
Oregon City, OR 97045
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Meeting Minutes - Final Natural Resources Committee

Wednesday, May 8, 2013

7:00 PM

Commission Chambers

1. Call To Order

Vice Chair Spady called the meeting to order at 7:10 PM.

Present: 4 - Jerry Herrmann, Bob Roth, Douglas DeHart and Sha Spady

Absent: 3 - Bryon Boyce, Erik Carr and Richard Craven

Staffers: 1 - Pete Walter

2. Citizen Comments on issues and items not on the agenda

There were no citizen comments on issues and items not on the agenda.

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Heritage Tree Code Amendments.

Pete Walter, Planner, gave an update on the proposed amendments to the Heritage Tree Code. He explained the change to include a timeline for review of applications, items that were removed, and clean up of the organization of the document. He asked if there were any further comments before sending it out for approval. No comments from other City committees had been received.

Jim Nicita, resident of Oregon City, had an issue regarding the three ownership scenarios, private property, public right of way, and City owned land such as in a park. There needed to be better clarification on how each scenario would be handled and what requirements needed to be met. He gave examples in the document where he thought changes should be made. He also questioned what would happen if a tree was nominated that was in a County right of way.

Ms. Spady suggested three separate letters, such as A, B, and C for each of the ownership scenarios. The letter A could be for private property, B1 could be City property, B2 could be other property like County or State, C1 could be City right of way, and C2 could be other jurisdictional right of way.

Mr. Herrmann arrived at 7:31 PM.

Mr. Nicita then discussed the criteria for designation and what would be applicable to City owned property.

Paul Edgar, resident of Oregon City, thought stewardship of the heritage trees needed to be added in the Code and need for due diligence and a checks and balances process before a tree was cut down.

Ms. Spady thought the Natural Resources Committee should review the process in the Code regarding non heritage trees being cut down. Maintenance criteria could be added to the Heritage Tree Code for a maintenance review every five years.

Mr. Herrmann suggested a change to the criteria that the focus was on a broad contribution to Oregon City's natural history, cultural history, or geographic significance.

There was discussion regarding the NRC's role in guiding and participating in the City's natural resources such as for the Cove and McLoughlin Boulevard projects, the City's rules relative to tree removal, maintenance protocols, and compliance with City Code.

Mr. Walter said these things would come before the Committee as they went through the process. He would bring back the Heritage Tree Code with the revisions made that night and asked that further changes or any comments on the Street Tree List be forwarded to him. He would look into the County jurisdiction question.

Ms. Spady asked for review of the rules for how the City maintained trees.

3. General business

4. NRC member reports

Mr. DeHart reported on the Planning Commission meeting where high speed passenger rail was discussed. Currently this was in a two year planning phase. He explained the alternatives and corridors that were being considered, possible impacts to Oregon City, and citizen comments that were made.

Mr. Roth reported on Earth Day activities at Clackamas Community College including a climate change community discussion. He announced an Oregon Global Warming Commission meeting on May 16.

Mr. Herrmann suggested a presentation by the Oregon Global Warming Commission to the NRC, Planning Commission, and City Commission regarding climate change.

Ms. Spady discussed her presentation to the Oregon City Business Alliance regarding ecological challenges and how local businesses could respond.

Mr. Herrmann reported that the Lower Clackamas River Task Force was not currently meeting and discussed a heritage landscape presentation for West Linn. The same presentation would be given in Gladstone in June and he suggested doing the same presentation in the fall in Oregon City followed by a heritage tree tour.

5. Staff reports

Mr. Walter gave an update on the Willamette Falls Legacy Project, announced Walker Macy was chosen as the consultant for the master planning process, discussed the art lighting project for the Elevator, and review of the project at the Historic Review Board meeting on May 28. He then explained the process for placing items on the agenda.

It was suggested to add a review of City Code relative to tree removal and a presentation on the McLoughlin Boulevard Phase 2 project to the next agenda. Ms. Shaw volunteered to be the subcommittee chair to review the lighting ordinance and suggested holding a presentation about lighting.

6. Next scheduled meeting date - June 12th, 2013

7. Adjournment

Vice Chair Spady adjourned the meeting at 9:07 PM.