



City of Oregon City

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Meeting Minutes - Draft

Natural Resources Committee

Wednesday, November 9, 2016

7:00 PM

Commission Chambers

1. Call to Order

Chair Neeley called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

Present: 3 - Jerry Herrmann, Doug Neeley and Nancy Broshot

Absent: 4 - Ginger Redlinger, Dorothy Dahlsrud, Trent Warness and Bill Clark

Staffers: 2 - Pete Walter and Laura Terway

2. Agenda Analysis

Since there was no quorum of the Committee, staff would only present an overview of the Natural Resources Overlay District and provide the other presentations at a future NRC meeting.

3. Public Comments on Non-Agenda Items

There were no public comments on non-agenda items.

4. General Business

4a. Overview of Natural Resources Overlay District, Geologic Hazard Overlay District, and Tree Regulations

Pete Walter, Planner, gave an overview of the Natural Resources Overlay District (NROD) which complied with Metro Titles 3 and 13. The NROD was last updated in 2010. He discussed the use definitions of prohibited, exempt, and regulated as well as development, review, and mitigation standards for the NROD. He described how the NROD application review worked and the NROD map and identifying documents. If a new wetland was discovered that was touching the map boundaries, the City's review process applied and applied the buffer. If a new wetland was discovered and it was outside of the map boundaries, the City's review process did not apply. Either the Army Corps of Engineers or Department of State Lands permits might apply. He then explained the NROD buffer requirements.

There was discussion regarding what happened when a wetland was found by citizens and who determined if it was a wetland.

Paul Edgar, resident of Oregon City, discussed a lot of record that was outside the NROD which was the old Canemah waterworks. There were some wetlands that had been delineated by Department of State Lands and the water flowed from that area and had flooded the basements of nearby houses. Grading was done recently and because it was not in the NROD, nothing was done to protect critical habitat. This area was also

a landslide area and needed to be included in the NROD.

Mr. Walter explained the property could still be developed, just not up to the edge of the wetland and outside the NROD buffer. They might also have to do replanting. The strategy was avoidance, followed by mitigation.

There was further discussion regarding the process for expanding the NROD, funding for the process, and groups that might help with the work.

Mr. Walter continued his presentation by reviewing the Heritage Trees and Stands code and Tree Protection code. He described the applicability and explained how the codes worked. He gave an example of an arborist report and tree mitigation plan. The tree codes attempted to balance the right to develop land and achieving tree canopy goals. Right now there were no specific tree canopy goals. Another issue was they were not preserving large, mature trees through this process.

4b. Discussion of Canemah Wetland Regulatory Concerns

Mr. Walter stated DSL issued a letter to Chris Staggs who was developing a property in Canemah saying he was no longer in violation and included a map of the wetlands delineation which was good for two years. Mr. Staggs could apply to DSL for any permits required within that two year period and fulfill the City's requirements as well. Mr. Walter also included Paul Edgar's comments dated September 14 and comments from the Godwins with a map of the historical channel with the water tanks that flowed onto that property.

Mr. Edgar said when Canemah was designated as a National Historic District, the documents talked about the wetlands and Canemah water works and identified their locations. They somehow got left off of the City's documentation. He thought they were waters of the state according to DSL and he hoped there would be setbacks from them and that they would be included in the NROD.

There was discussion regarding the property and need for a buffer around the wetland.

Ms. Terway said in order to create a legal buffer, a study would need to be done as well as a legislative application process. Chair Neeley suggested adding this to the NRC goals for the City to look for funding.

Mr. Edgar also suggested doing a clean up of Canameh through a Nature in the Neighborhood grant. Chair Neeley suggested the Canemah Neighborhood Association make that grant request.

4c. Approval of NRC Workplan

This item was tabled due to lack of a quorum.

5. Communications

Mr. Walter suggested the NRC could make their annual presentation to the City Commission on December 7.

Chair Neeley suggested holding a joint meeting with the Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee.

Mr. Herrmann also wanted to meet with Phil Lewis, Community Services Director, and John Runyon on the Lower Harbor Trust Fund and the Cove. He would also like to review his proposal for quarterly natural history walks.

Mr. Walter said they could potentially have a presentation on the Riverwalk in January.

Ms. Terway announced a Riverwalk Design Open House on November 17. There would be a Friends of Trees planting on December 3. Chair Neeley suggested informing people about the Heritage Tree program at the tree planting event. A new preservation planner was hired, Trevor Martin.

Mr. Herrmann announced this Saturday there would be a Saturday Institute at the Environmental Learning Center to help salvage plants.

Chair Neeley mentioned that NRC member Bill Clark was still having medical issues, but requested keeping his position on the NRC for now. There was consensus to do so. Regarding pesticide use in the parks, the Mayor of Milwaukie could speak to the NRC about alternative landscaping methods.

6. Future Agenda Items

Chair Neeley said the next meeting of the NRC would be on December 14. They would discuss the nominees for filling the vacant positions and discussion on the natural history walking tours.

7. Adjournment

Chair Neeley adjourned the meeting at 9:07 PM.