



City of Oregon City

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

Wednesday, February 12, 2014

7:00 PM

Commission Chambers

1. Call to Order

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

Present: 3 - Bryon Boyce, Bob Roth and Jerry Herrmann

Absent: 3 - Richard Craven, Douglas DeHart and Sha Spady

Staffers: 1 - Pete Walter

2. Approval of the Minutes

14-105 Adoption of NRC Meeting Minutes for March 13, 2013 and January 8, 2014

There was not a quorum present to adopt the minutes.

3. Public Comments

James Nicita, resident of Oregon City, proposed a discussion on the possibility of restoring a fish passage as part of the redevelopment of the Blue Heron site.

4. Discussion Items

14-098 NRC Applicant Interviews

Mr. Herrmann recused himself from the dias for the interviews.

Chair Boyce said there were two applicants and two open positions on the NRC.

Pete Walter, Planner, explained the process for the interviews and how the appointments would be made.

The NRC interviewed Jerry Herrmann and Ginger Redlinger. The questions asked were as follows:

- 1. Why are you applying or reapplying for a position on the Natural Resource Committee?*
- 2. What is your background in Natural Resources?*
- 3. Have you previously served on an appointed advisory Committee? What was the most rewarding part of the position? The most frustrating?*
- 4. What types of projects do you feel the Natural Resources Committee should work on? Would your answer change if budget constraints were included in your analysis? What if funding was not an issue?*

There was consensus to appoint both candidates for the two open positions.

14-104**Goals Review and Discussion (update and on-going task)**

Mr. Walter reviewed the previous discussions and member input regarding the goals and priorities of the NRC and the next steps in anticipation of the March meeting where Carol Kemhus would help guide the NRC in creating their work plan for 2014. In particular, improved communication between the committee and various City committees and departments was a major concern. These issues needed to be discussed in light of persistent staff shortages and resources, adopted policies and codes which specified clear decision making criteria and authority, and City Commission goals and objectives.

There was discussion regarding Mr. Craven's potential items for goals including creating a natural resources code for the City, possibility of expanding the Natural Resources Committee membership by having a representative from the Parks and Recreation Committee (PRAC) on the NRC and explore with the PRAC about having an NRC member on the PRAC, establish a Natural Resources job position for the City, establish a Volunteerism job position for the City, and coordination of Boards/Committees for NRC, PRAC, and HRB (Historic Review Board).

The NRC wanted to draft a letter to PRAC regarding the possibility of having an NRC member on PRAC, and a PRAC member on the NRC. Mr. Walter thought budget constraints might be an issue for the new positions. There was definitely a need for better coordination and communication and a better order and process for recommendations.

Mr. Herrmann thought establishing a liaison with PRAC and advocating for the new city positions should be brought forward as goals. He suggested a volunteerism position with a strong natural resources background.

The NRC would decide on the goals at their next meeting when more members were in attendance.

5. Member Reports

Mr. Walter said the NRC's recommendation regarding beavers at the Cove had been forwarded to Tony Konkol, Community Development Director.

Mr. Herrmann thought the New Business and Old Business categories should be put back on the agenda. He discussed how the river had risen 15 feet that day.

Mr. Roth noted three unusual weather related occurrences which resulted from heat winds in the western Pacific that were interrupting the typical jet stream patterns.

Mr. Boyce said warming of the ocean also brought an increase in flooding. He discussed the Active Transportation Plan of the County to create routes for alternative modes of travel through the County and to identify areas that needed improvements for multi-modal transportation. The trolley bridge was continuing to erode and Metro was trying to find a resolution.

Mr. Herrmann discussed the Natural Resource Committee Advisory Recommendation Form. He liked the clear process and orderly flow for recommendations.

Mr. Walter suggested a representative from the NRC present the form to the City

Commission at a Commission meeting under Citizen Comments.

There was discussion regarding having an NRC member be secretary to produce minutes and forward recommendations.

6. Staff Communications

Mr. Walter reported on the South End Concept Plan which would be taken to the City Commission on February 19, Willamette Falls Legacy project and continuing planning for the site, and upcoming Code amendment project.

7. Future Agenda Items

Chair Boyce stated the NRC goals review and vote would be on the next meeting's agenda. Mr. Walter said there would also be a presentation by the Greater Oregon City Watershed Council on work being done in Newell Creek Canyon. Election of new officers was added to the agenda.

Mr. Roth suggested if members could not make a meeting, to put their thoughts in writing ahead of time.

8. Adjournment

Chair Boyce adjourned the meeting at 9:01 PM.