

Planning Commission Natural Resources Committee Joint Work Session – February 25, 2019



Purpose

- Introductions
- Discuss purpose of the Natural Resources Committee
- Discussion how / when NRC comments on Planning Commission decisions
- Overview of past NRC accomplishments
- NRC's Workplan



Introductions

Natural Resources Committee

- Doug Neeley – Chair
- Trent Warness – Vice Chair
- Dorothy Dahlsrud
- Nancy Broshot
- Matt Kuhl
- Jerry Herrmann
- (1 Vacancy)

Planning Commission

- Mike Mitchell – Chair
- Patti Gage – Vice Chair
- Tom Geil
- Bob Mahoney
- Dirk Schlagenhauser
- Greg Stoll
- Vern Johnson



Natural Resources Committee

- Established by Ord. 02-1013
- Bylaws approved by Res. 04-29, (Revised by Res. 15-34)
- OCMC 2.56 – Duties and Responsibilities



OCMC 2.56.030 – Duties

- Review the quality and condition of the ecological, geological, aesthetic and other natural resources of Oregon City and adjacent areas
- Assist the city in developing and implementing policies and plans to protect, restore and enhance these resources and the environmental quality of the city and adjacent areas.
- Through staff, may recommend actions to the city commission, planning commission, and parks and recreation advisory committee.
- The committee is charged with assisting the city in carrying out the heritage tree program defined in the Oregon City Code.
- Other activities are defined by the committee's bylaws.



NRC Bylaws – Article III - Mission

In concert with the City, the committee shall advise, evaluate, and advance an agenda that empowers citizen, business and governmental stakeholders to become natural resource stewards who achieve a beneficial balance among people and natural systems now and in the future.



NRC Bylaws – Article IV – Responsibilities

1. Promote community involvement in conservation of natural resources within the City and its Urban Growth Boundary (UGB) in partnership with the City, neighborhood associations, and community organizations.
2. Initiate recommendations and review updates to the City's comprehensive plan, codes and policy as they relate to statewide Planning Goals that are integral to our mission.
3. Receive notice of and comment on land use applications and City activities that have the potential to impact natural resources in the City and its Urban Growth Boundary.
4. Conduct orderly meetings that result in good communication to city staff, policy makers, city departments and community to achieve our mission.
5. Coordinate with the Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee (PRAC) and Planning and City Commissions on at least an annual basis that results in good communication and mutually beneficial results.



NRC Comment / Advice on Planning Commission Decisions

1. NRC is provided notice of ALL land use applications Type II and above (via email)
2. NRC may comment on Land Use applications which impact natural resources within the City and Urban Growth Boundary
3. This includes:
 - Natural Resources Overlay District (NROD) applications
 - Legislative actions which affect codes and policies
4. NRC may provide formal comments as a body, at a duly noticed public meeting
5. Applicants are encouraged to present to and seek advice from the NRC prior to application.



NRC Accomplishments

- Input on Code Amendments and Policies:
 - NROD (17.49)
 - Public and Street Tree Code (12.08)
 - Tree Removal Codes (17.41)
 - Heritage Tree Code (12.32)
 - Outdoor Lighting Code (17.62.065)
 - Updates to Street Tree List (2013)



NRC Accomplishments

- Important input and consideration of a Natural Resources Annexation Policy
- Strengthened and Encouraged participation in the Heritage Tree Code
 - Tentatively allocates \$300.00 / year for Arborist Reports
- Provided comments on the Cove Phase II NROD application
- Support for the Columbia Land Trust / Audubon Backyard Habitat Program
- Support Greater Oregon City Watershed Council Collaboration with Public Works Department for Stream Signage
- Advocated for addition of newly delineated Canemah wetlands to NROD



NRC Accomplishments

- Held joint Work Session with PRAC annually to discuss issues of mutual concern
- NRC provided City Commission with projects and budget requests for the annual goal setting retreat
- Provided support and input on the restoration of the Environmental Learning Center at CCC
- Provided feedback on Metro's Newell Creek Canyon day use area and restoration project (2018)



NRC Work Plan - Priorities

- Support and encourage the Heritage Tree Program through publicity and incentives
- Explore the process for naming of local unnamed streams, geologic and geographical features
- Support habitat enhancement and restoration projects on publicly owned lands (e.g. The Cove, Scattering Canyon, Filbert Run Park etc.) as needed
- Support City Commission discussion of future uses for the Upper Yard as needed
- Support habitat connectivity between Rossmann Landfill site, End of the Oregon Trail Interpretative Center, the Cove and the Willamette River



NRC Work Plan - Priorities

- Communications with Neighborhood Associations, Citizen Involvement Committee, and the business community
- Support Arbor Day and Tree City USA Program for Oregon City
- Support updates to the City's Local Stream and Wetland Inventory when funded (not this biennium)
- Support coordinated strategies for invasive species management



Questions?

