



City of Oregon City

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

Wednesday, February 11, 2015

7:00 PM

Commission Chambers

1. Call to Order

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

Present: 6 - Douglas DeHart, Jerry Herrmann, Ginger Redlinger, Bryon Boyce, Doug Neeley and Richard Craven

Staffers: 2 - Tony Konkol and Pete Walter

2. NRC Interviews

The NRC interviewed Richard Craven and Bryan Boyce for reappointment to the NRC.

The questions asked were: why are you reapplying to the NRC, what is your background in natural resources, what is the most rewarding and most frustrating part of serving on an advisory committee, what do you think the emphasis of the NRC should be in terms of what discussions and activities they should be doing, how would you address a challenge or issue you felt strongly about or had knowledge about that was a challenge to a natural resource issue, why do you think it is a struggle to fill the membership of the NRC and what can we do about it, and what is the core mission of the NRC.

Mr. Herrmann said Sha Spady withdrew from this process because the code amending process was difficult and she did not feel she could commit the time.

Mayor Holladay said the City Commission was looking to help the NRC with focus and direction. The plan was to schedule a Work Session with the NRC in the future.

A motion was made by Mr. Herrmann, seconded by Mr. DeHart, to advance the two candidates to the City for consideration of reappointment. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 6 - Douglas DeHart, Jerry Herrmann, Ginger Redlinger, Bryon Boyce, Doug Neeley and Richard Craven

3. Approval of the Minutes

15-116

NRC Meeting Minutes for October 8, 2014.

A motion was made by Mr. DeHart, seconded by Mr. Herrmann, to approve the minutes for October 8, 2014. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 5 - Douglas DeHart, Jerry Herrmann, Ginger Redlinger, Bryon Boyce and Richard Craven

Abstain: 1 - Doug Neeley

4. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

5. Old Business

Mr. Herrmann suggested adding back in to the agenda a category called "Agenda Analysis." He had written a draft letter of support for the Metro South Wetland Gateway Project. The heritage tour he was planning for March was impossible to get done in time, and he would like to move it to May. He also wanted to discuss the Arbor Day event.

Tony Konkol, Community Development Director, said staff was looking into how to take the work the NRC had done in their goals and bylaws and incorporating those into the review of the existing Natural Resources Committee language in the code. This would be the topic of discussion with the City Commission at a future Work Session. Staff would bring something back to the next NRC meeting. He wanted to revise the code language from being so broad to reflect the refined vision and goals of the NRC.

Mr. DeHart asked about the status of the revisions to the bylaws that the NRC finished working on the first half of last year. Mr. Konkol said Mayor Holladay had requested to look at all the City Committees and provide more direction to the Committees. Staff had been asked to try to standardize the bylaws for every Committee as well as the purpose and direction of each Committee which would be in an enabling ordinance, not the bylaws. Staff was going to write code that clarified the roles and responsibilities of the NRC and they were going to try to standardize that across the multiple committees throughout the City. That effort was just getting started. The current bylaws would be used as a base document. The intent was not to throw out the good work the NRC had done.

The NRC reviewed the draft letter written by Mr. Herrmann. Metro would be making a decision on the grant in the next month. There was consensus to forward the letter to Metro.

6. New Business/Discussion Items

Pete Walter, Planner, discussed the OCMC 17.41 Tree Protection Code. This code section did not regulate trees in the public right-of-way and did not regulate trees in the Natural Resources Overlay District. The code section applied during development review of land use applications and applied during public capital improvement projects and applied when there was tree canopy removal greater than 25% on sites with greater than 25% slope unless those sites were exempted. It also applied to designated heritage trees or groves. He explained how the code worked. The options for developers were mitigation, dedicated tract, restrictive covenant, or cash in lieu. He gave an example of a new development and how the code would be implemented. He explained the steps for calculating the number of replacement trees. The code attempted to balance the right to develop land to urban density on zoned land within the UGB and requirements for clear and objective standards for residential land development and achieving urban forestry and replanting goals through extensive replanting.

There was discussion regarding how the code worked and what the in lieu funds would be used for.

7. Communications / Member Reports

Mr. Herrmann thought the NRC should have a booth at the Arbor Day event. Mr. Walter said the the event would be held on April 13. He would send the details of the event to the NRC once they had been scoped out with the School District and Friends of Trees. The NRC could pass out the donated seedlings and educate the children on how to plant them.

Mr. Herrmann said John Ludlow met with him regarding pulling out old cable and debris from the north spit of the Cove. He told Mr. Ludlow not to do it and to discuss the issue with the City. He discussed the upcoming heritage tour by bus and a river tour, both would be in May. He would bring back a proposal for the bus tour to the next NRC meeting.

Mr. DeHart reported on the project to develop an urban streams stewardship brochure. He was still assembling materials and people to help. He passed out the new edition of the naturescaping brochure that the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife developed for managing urban habitat on private property.

Mr. Neeley said the Greater Oregon City Watershed Council would be cleaning up Abernethy Creek Park. He asked about coordinating it with the Arbor Day activities.

Mr. Konkol said the Community Development Department was looking into taking over the facilitation of the Citizen Involvement Committee to return the focus to land use participation and education and neighborhood livability issues. That would give an opportunity for the NRC to get information out into the neighborhoods relating to protecting resources. He gave an update on the Library addition project, Cove project, and River Walk project.

8. Future Agenda Items

Mr. Craven asked Mr. Walter to ask Chris Dunlop in GIS to give a presentation to the NRC on the Natural Resource Overlay.

9. Adjournment

Chair Redlinger adjourned the meeting at 8:55 PM.