



City of Oregon City

625 Center Street
Oregon City, OR 97045
503-657-0891

Meeting Minutes - Final

Natural Resources Committee

Wednesday, October 26, 2016

5:00 PM

Commission Chambers

Work Session

WORK SESSION

Chair Neeley called the meeting to order at 5:00 PM.

Present: 4 - Jerry Herrmann, Doug Neeley, Trent Warness and Bill Clark

Absent: 3 - Ginger Redlinger, Dorothy Dahlsrud and Nancy Broshot

Staffers: 1 - Pete Walter

October 26, 2016 NRC Work Session

Chair Neeley said this was a Work Session to discuss the goals of the NRC for the upcoming year.

Pete Walter, Planner, reviewed the NRC Work Plan and where they matched up with City Commission goals. There had been discussion in the past about an activity that could enhance tourism through a stream and trail interpretive signage program. An NRC and staff lead would need to be identified as well as funding, prioritizing the streams, and determining the content for the signage.

Chair Neeley thought the priority should be the major streams first and suggested Abernethy Creek as the focus. He also thought there should be signage for trail connections around the City. He volunteered to be the lead on this item. Mr. Herrmann suggested working with the Clackamas County Tourism Development Council and the Greater Oregon City Watershed Council for the project and possibly providing tours of the streams. Local artists, Clackamas County Arts Alliance, or Three Rivers Art Guild could help with the design of the signs. Mr. Clark said there was a Metro program called Citizen Naturalists that could be used as a model.

There was discussion regarding which streams should be the priority and who could do the signage.

Mr. Walter said another goal was addressing critical facility needs including the Public Works site. Chair Neeley wanted to note that the NRC was in support of the Public Works site.

Mr. Walter said the next goal was to enhance livability of the community. This would include work on the Waterfront Master Plan, connectivity between the landfill site/End of the Oregon Trail Interpretive Center all the way to the Cove and river, and continue to work with the Cove development on habitat restoration.

Mr. Herrmann thought the Metro South wetland needed to be treated as an asset as it was a gateway to the north and it should be enhanced and maintained. He agreed to be the lead on this item.

The next goal was to seek opportunities to maintain communication with citizens and facilitate citizen participation. Projects would be to continue work on the Cove development and habitat restoration.

Mr. Herrmann suggested pursuing advancing the Lower Harbor Trust Fund. It was added to the list.

Mr. Walter said the next goal included conducting natural resource tours, public education about street trees, encourage participation in the heritage tree program, and participate in natural resources events. Chair Neeley thought they should be communicating more with the neighborhood associations and the business community. Mr. Walter said there would be a Friends of Trees event coming up soon.

Mr. Walter said another goal was to initiate recommendations to the Comprehensive Plan, codes, and policies. Chair Neeley suggested adding updating the 1999 Water Resource Inventory. Mr. Walter explained the legislative process to update the inventory.

There was discussion regarding natural resource mitigation for annexations and density transfers. Considering a natural resource annexation policy and enhancement and education for habitat improvement were added to the goals list.

Mr. Walter discussed the pros and cons of creating tree protection code amendments. There was consensus to add tree protection and upland habitat code amendments.

Mr. Walter said the next goal was to review NRC agendas with staff prior to meetings with timeframes, maintain and update the list of NRC priorities to share with the Planning Commission and City Commission, provide updates and annual reports, and schedule joint meetings with PRAC and the Planning Commission. There were no changes made to this goal.

Mr. Herrmann said regarding public outreach, he suggested conducting natural history walking tours such as a Promenade walk, Falls Overlook walk, river natural history walk, and Clackamette Cove walk. He was looking at tourism grants to help pay for the marketing of the walks. This item would be put on the next NRC agenda.

Mr. Walter said there would be a Riverwalk design alternatives work shop on November 17.

Chair Neeley asked that the Cove developers give an update to the NRC and possibly have John Runyon come as well.

Mr. Herrmann requested an update on the boat ramp replacement project. Chair Neeley thought this could be discussed in a joint meeting with PRAC.

WORK SESSION WILL END AT 6:30

Chair Neeley adjourned the meeting at 6:24 PM.