



City of Oregon City

625 Center Street
Oregon City, OR 97045
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Meeting Minutes - Final

Natural Resources Committee

Wednesday, November 8, 2017

7:00 PM

Commission Chambers

1. Call to Order

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

Present: 5 - Dorothy Dahlsrud, Trent Warness, Jerry Herrmann, Matt Kuhl and Doug Neeley

Absent: 2 - Bill Clark and Nancy Broshot

Staffers: 2 - Pete Walter and Martin Montalvo

2. Agenda Analysis

There was discussion regarding the process for the NRC applicant interviews, which were all reapplications for current members of the NRC. There was consensus that the interviews be held at the end of the meeting.

3. Public Comments

Nancy Eichsteadt, Friends of Gladstone Nature Park, stated Gladstone Nature Park was owned by the city but the city did not have the resources to take care of it. A group of neighbors and concerned citizens started a non-profit to supplement what the city could do. They had clean up days once per month and sponsored an Arbor Day every year. One of their new programs was for people to sponsor a tree in the park. She was open to partnering with the NRC and Oregon City Parks Foundation on projects.

Erin ??, PSU student and Oregon City resident, suggested the NRC reach out to the elementary schools to help with environmental projects and planning efforts.

4. Old Business

4a. Continue Discussion of Incentives for Heritage Tree Program

Pete Walter, Planner, gave a background on the Heritage Tree Program. As part of the application, an arborist report had to be done to document the health of the tree. This was a cost barrier to some applicants and to improve participation in the program, there had been discussion about how to fund these reports. Some of the suggestions were using Metro Enhancement Grant funds or Nature in the Neighborhoods funds. Other ideas were changing the requirement from an arborist report to a simple checklist for review, to use Clackamas Community College arborist program students, or to protect the trees through a covenant. He discussed the pros and cons of each of these ideas.

There was discussion regarding the options. Rodney Walters, instructor for the Clackamas Community College Arboriculture Program, would come to the next NRC meeting where this discussion would continue.

4b. NRC Workplan Update

Mr. Walter said Chair Neeley would be giving the City Commission an annual report in December which would include a copy of the NRC Workplan. There had been revisions to the Commission Goals and Priorities and they needed to make sure the NRC Workplan coordinated with those.

The NRC made edits to the Workplan including the items that had been accomplished and those items that were yet to be done.

Chair Neeley would get together with staff to solidify what would be included in the presentation. All of the NRC members were invited to attend the City Commission meeting.

5. New Business

5a. Tree Health and Safety Evaluation for Two Oak Trees abutting Mount Pleasant Apartment and Mount Pleasant School

Martin Montalvo, Operations Manager, and Wes Wilson, Utility Maintenance Specialist, discussed a large White Oak tree by Mt. Pleasant Elementary School that had come down. There were two other trees in the same location. The trees had been examined by two arborists and both recommended that the trees were compromised and should be taken down. In the interest of public safety, staff intended to remove the trees as soon as possible.

Mr. Walter stated the code regulations that governed tree removal in the public right-of-way allowed any tree deemed dead, diseased, dying, or hazardous by an arborist could be removed with approval by the City as long as it was replaced at a one to one ratio. The arborists did not recommend replacing the trees in the same location.

Mr. Montalvo said one tree was adjacent to the new police facility and they would include the replacement tree in the final development plan for the facility. The other tree was adjacent to an apartment complex and the private property owner would be paying for the tree removal.

There was discussion regarding the replacement tree plantings and what would be done with the wood of the trees being removed.

6. Communications

Committee Member Herrmann discussed the River Assets and Opportunities Task Force meeting. He thought an NRC member should participate in these quarterly meetings. Committee Member Dahlsrud volunteered.

Chair Neeley had sent the draft letter to Scott Burns as suggested by Mr. Herrmann.

Mr. Walter gave an update on the Tree City USA application, equitable housing project, Newell Creek Canyon trailhead plan, and contract with Friends of Trees for planting neighborhood trees.

Committee Member Dahlsrud gave an update on the Oregon City Parks Foundation work.

7. Future Agenda Items

Mr. Walter reviewed the next meeting's agenda.

NRC Applicant Interviews

The following members had terms that were expiring at the end of 2017 and had applied to be re-appointed to the Committee. Interviews were subject to public meetings laws and must be recorded: Doug Neeley, Trent Warness, and Nancy Broshot.

The NRC asked Mr. Neeley and Mr. Warness questions. Ms. Broshot was not in attendance that night.

A motion was made by Committee Member Herrmann, seconded by Committee Member Kuhl, to recommend to the Mayor the re-appointment of Doug Neeley, Trent Warness, and Nancy Broshot to the Natural Resource Committee. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 3 - Dorothy Dahlsrud, Jerry Herrmann and Matt Kuhl

Abstain: 2 - Trent Warness and Doug Neeley

8. Adjournment

Chair Neeley adjourned the meeting at 9:10 PM.