

City of Oregon City Meeting Minutes Natural Resources Committee

December 11, 2019

7:00 PM

City Hall, Commission Chambers

1 Call to Order and Roll Call –

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm

Members Present: Doug Neeley, Trent Warness, Mike Hamilton, Matt Kuhl

Members Absent: Nancy Broshot, Jerry Herrmann

Staff Present: Pete Walter, City Planner

2 Public Comment

Paul Edgar, Oregon City, stated that he wanted to bring to the attention of the Natural Resources Committee (NRC) that a building permit application for a house went through the Historic Review Board on an uninventoried wetland site near the historic Canemah Watershed land. Paul explained that he was concerned that the project was going to ruin the natural wetlands and vegetative corridor in that area in the same way that a cottage development had backfilled another wetland in the Canemah neighborhood. Paul invited the NRC to visit the area.

There was a general discussion of what happens when wetlands are altered. Doug Neeley expressed interest in taking the NRC plus Staff to visit the site.

3. Presentation

Brian Martin, Project Manager from Lango Hansen Landscape Architecture, and Denise Conrad, Assistant Parks and Recreation Director, presented on the Tyrone S. Woods Memorial Park project. Brian provided an overview of the site plan, outlining the plant types and pathways, dog run area, picnic shelter, play area, pickleball courts, bathrooms, and skate park. Brian stated that they were in the process of removing invasive plants from the site and preparing to overseed it with wetland and riparian seed mixtures.

There were questions from the Board concerning the barn, house, and garage currently located on the site. Brian responded that the barn would be removed, but the house and garage would remain.

Doug expressed concerns with the house's placement in the middle of the Park. Mike wanted to know more about the significance of the park, given that an interpretive center was part of

Phase Two. Brian responded that the center would be focused on the wetlands and creek. Brian also shared that there was currently a gravel road and culvert on the site and both would be removed.

There were no public comments on the matter.

Pete stated that for safety reasons the entrance to the parking lot needed to be as far away from the intersection as possible.

Doug mentioned that a friend of his has seen cutthroat trout spawning in culverts of the creek that flows through the park site and wondered if measures might be taken to promote spawning habitat within the park. Brian said that he would look into it, especially as part of Phase Two.

Trent asked about the expected timeline. Brian stated that if everything went as expected, the timeline was May through summer.

Pete shared that the plan would have to go through Public Works too since the existing sidewalk would need to be altered.

There were general questions about the length and funding of the project. Pete stated it had been brought in to the Parks Plan in 2014 and that part of the funding was from a State grant.

4. Old Business

Pete stated that City Staff were working on a draft regarding the removal of trees on public property and expected to have it to the NRC in January. Public Works and Parks both need to look at the document as well.

Pete anticipated receiving a few Heritage Tree applications, which would need to be reviewed by the NRC prior to Arbor Day. Doug expressed an interest in determining a process for nominating Heritage Trees on public lands when the new NRC line-up was finalized.

Trent asked for an update on the potential Board Member that had been interviewed. Pete responded that they were in a bit of a holding pattern. There were general questions about the number of available positions. Pete stated that there were two openings with qualifications that the applicant work, reside, or have a business in Oregon City.

Pete shared that both the Department of Conservation and Development and the Department of Transportation had tentatively approved the grant funding associated with the updated Comprehensive Plan. This would cover a year of visioning and one to two years of update work to the Comprehensive Plan, public outreach, an advisory board, and would likely necessitate an appointment of a representative from the NRC. Pete said 12 advisory meetings were expected in the course of the project, with an expected start time of March.

5. Communications

Pete said that the Audubon Society would present at the next meeting. Bob Balgos, Project Engineer, would present on the update to the Stormwater Master Plan. A stormwater update was scheduled to be presented to the City Commission on December 20. Pete informed the NRC that a memo from the City Attorney to the City Commission was present in the packet.

The NRC was to make a report to City Commission in January and Trent had already shared the accomplishments of the NRC a few weeks prior.

Pete said that the Missing Middle Housing report had just posted to the City website. A new, easier-to-use zoning website had also been added. There was general discussion of housing density in Oregon City and the implementation of House Bill 2001.

Forest Edge Apartments, formerly Newell Canyon Apartments and previously closed due to landslide, was seeking City approval to reopen. Wells were installed to mitigate water away from buildings. The City is reviewing the case.

Pete stated he'd miss having Mike and Jerry on the NRC.

Doug shared that in March a request would be submitted for funds to introduce woody material to local waters near Abernethy Creek in order to improve the spawning habitat for steelhead and Coho salmon. Another project would focus on water above the Mompano Dam (also known as Beaver Lake), but was still in development based on electrofishing results that indicated Coho were present there. Doug also shared that more stream shading projects with Public Works and the Greater Watershed Council were ongoing.

6. Future items

- *Presentation on Stormwater Master Plan.

- *Lighting impacts on bird habitat, presented by the Audubon Society.

7. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:03 pm.