



CITY OF OREGON CITY

CITIZEN INVOLVEMENT COMMITTEE (CIC)

MINUTES

Virtual Meeting
Monday, December 07, 2020 at 7:00 PM

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Bob LaSalle called this meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

Present: 10 - Karla Laws, John Kies, Denise Beasley, Bob La Salle, Steve Van Haverbeke, Dennis Anderson, Linda Baysinger, Karin Morey, Amy Wilhite, Dorothy Dalhsrud

Staffers: 6 - Parks and Recreation Director Kendall Reid, Senior Planner Pete Walter, Senior Planner, Christina Robertson-Gardiner, City Manager Tony Konkol, City Commissioner Rachel Lyles Smith and City Commission Denyse McGriff.

PRESENTATIONS

1. Greater Oregon City Watershed Council-Alison Heimowitz

Alison Heimowitz, representing the Greater Oregon City Watershed Council provided the annual update. The Council is a locally organized, voluntary, nonregulatory non-profit working to conserve, enhance and protect the quality and ecological integrity of the local watershed area. The watershed comprises Parrott Creek and Abernethy Creek. Accomplishments in 2020 consist of habitat restoration for coho salmon, winter steelhead, Pacific lamprey and cutthroat trout. Outlined were the various projects undertaken and the current financial revenues and expenditures. Goals for 2021 include restoring fish habitat, building capacity, engaging stakeholders and improving financial health.

2. Filbert Run Park Update: Kendall Reid, Oregon City Parks Director

Parks Director Kendall Reid, Assistant Parks Director Denise Conrad and Kurt Lango with Lango Hansen Landscape Architects provided an update on the Filbert Run Park site. The 3.5-acre Filbert Run Park property is located in Oregon City in the Hazel Grove/Westling Farm neighborhood on the south side of Hazelnut Avenue, between Vincent Drive and Hazel Grove Drive. The site is surrounded by single-family homes on the east, south, and west sides, and across Hazelnut Avenue to the north. There are several mature Douglas Fir and Oak trees in the middle of the site, and open lawn on both the east and west sides. Additional scattered trees, both mature in size and very young, are located on the west side. In wet weather, stormwater runoff drains through the middle of the site via an ephemeral drainage way that exits out an inlet on the south side near Westwood Drive. Reviewed with the committee were refinements to the masterplan, visioning of the play area and site furnishings. Discussed were walkway placement and maintenance of the tree canopy.

3. Oregon City Chamber of Commerce: Victoria Meinig, Executive Director

Victoria Meinig, Executive Director, provided an update that the Chamber of Commerce and the Downtown Oregon City Association will be hosting an Urban Renewal 101 event on December 8th and a support Oregon City businesses promotion every Tuesday and Wednesday. The Chamber is now a business recovery center assisting local businesses to be grant-ready. As government funding for COVID relief becomes available, businesses can be prepared to apply. Fund raising efforts will continue through December.

4. OC2040 Community Conversation: Pete Walter, Senior Planner

Senior Planner Pete Walter, presented on the community vision portion of the OC2040 process. Specific areas that Mr. Walter sought input from the committee were: What makes Oregon City special today, what to preserve and what about Oregon City would you like to change in the future. The committee members provided the following comments: Committee members enjoy the Oregon trail history, small town feel, open countryside, access to the Willamette River, Main Street and possibly change to pedestrian-only, the historic/artistic interest and the fact that it is a small historic town. What to change: work on development that promotes the area history, improve and preserve the urban tree canopy, improvements for pedestrian traffic, improve building development process, improve shuttle service from downtown to Clackamas Community College, improve grant opportunities for neighborhoods, improve grocery options for Downtown and other parts of the city, improve transportation within the city, more sidewalks and walkability and promote local businesses.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no public comments.

MINUTES

5. May 6, 2019 Draft CIC Minutes

6. June 3, 2019 Draft CIC Minutes

7. July 1, 2019 Draft CIC Minutes

Mr. Kies described that the June 3, 2019 and the July 1, 2019 draft minutes incorrectly described that he represented the Canemah Neighborhood Association and not the Caufield Neighborhood Association.

Motion made by John Kies to approve the Meeting Minutes for May 6th, 2019, June 3rd, 2020, and July 1st 2019 with amendments, seconded by Steve Van Haverbeke. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 9 - Dorothy Dalhsrud, Linda Baysinger, John Kies, Bob La Salle, Amy Willhite, Steve Van Haverbeke, Bob La Salle, Dennis Anderson, Denise Beasley, Karin Morey

Not Called: 1 - Karla Laws

STAFF LIAISON UPDATES

8. Staff Liaison Report

Christina Robertson-Gardiner provided an update: On December 3rd, the City held a vertical community conversation regarding rent burdened residents. As a result of the American Community Survey, between 2014 and 2018 in Oregon City, 25.5% of households spent more than half their income on rent, which is considered severely rent-burdened. Covid-19 and access to jobs have impacted our community in 2020, which is further exacerbated when stable and affordable housing is out of reach for many. Oregon City cannot solve this problem on its own, but the more our community learns and understands people's lived experience facing rent burdens, the better place we are in to help create actionable solutions. Additional survey input can be done through December 31, 2020. The results will be shared with Oregon City's elected officials and members of the OC2040 community advisory team. Ms. Christina Robertson-Gardiner updated on the status of OC 2040 Community Vision Survey and the community conversations

process. Also the development application process, how to see new land use notices and how to sign up for the Trail News Monthly E-Newsletter.

GENERAL BUSINESS

9. **Neighborhood Solicitation Letter- Inactive Neighborhood Associations (Bob LaSalle)**
Bob LaSalle asked the CIC membership permission to use funds from inactive neighborhoods to send a solicitation letter to all residents in each of those neighborhoods. There will need a vote from the membership to expend those funds. Bob would like to send a letter to the Hazel Grove/Westling Farm, Hillendale, South End, and Two Rivers neighborhoods encouraging the organization and participation of those neighborhoods. Mr. LaSalle has been coordinating with Margie Hughes from the Two Rivers Neighborhood Association as they are not yet formally inactive. Organizing neighborhood meetings has not been possible because of COVID. Ms. Roberston-Gardiner has advised there is enough money available within the inactive Neighborhood accounts to send the letter. She will forward an updated postcard budget when it is available.

Motion made by Karin Morey, seconded by John Kies, to use the funds from the inactive neighborhoods to send the solicitation letter.

Aye: 9 - Dorothy Dalhsrud, Linda Baysinger, John Kies, Bob La Salle, Amy Willhite, Steve Van Haverbeke, Dennis Anderson, Denise Beasley, Karin Morey

Abstain: 1 - Karla Laws

ROUNDTABLE

Steve Van Haverbeke - A Park Place Neighborhood Association steering committee meeting was held on November 16th. They had a law enforcement update on homelessness in Oregon City. Pedestrian improvements including crosswalks on Holcomb Avenue. The next meeting will be on January 18th via Zoom discussing Park Place Urbanization Plan.

John Kies - Caufield Neighborhood Association will have a meeting in January.

Linda Baysinger - no updates.

Dennis Anderson - last meeting was cancelled. Residents had a prime view of the Blue Heron fire.

Dorothy Dalhsrud - Neighborhood concerns regarding a triplex to be built on Myrtle Street with issues on closeness to another structure. Issue with a development near the Rose Farm.

Bob La Salle - no update.

Denise Beasley - working on the sign topper project, mapping locations and producing signs. Steering committee meeting last week.

Amy Willhite - have not been able to meet, keeping in touch via email and receiving Molalla Avenue project updates from Public Works prior to various construction changes.

Karin Morey - the members are trying to stay in touch as much as possible.

Commissioner Rachel Lyles Smith - the city has awarded the contract for the gas line portion of the Molalla Avenue project. Commissioner Denyse McGriff will be taking over the Commissioner input for the CIC starting in January as Commissioner Lyles Smith will be stepping into other roles due to the Mayor vacancy. Matt Zook has been hired as the new Finance Director. The Meyers Road Project has been completed early and will be opening later in the month.

Commissioner Denyse McGriff - looking forward to participating again with the CIC.

City Manager, Tony Konkol provided an update on the Blue Heron fire. The Mayoral position is open and citizens can apply through January 4th. A special election will be held March 9th. The committee members mentioned some flooding issues noticed in some of the city parks.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. La Salle adjourned the meeting at 9:04 PM