

City of Oregon City Meeting Minutes Natural Resources Committee

November 13, 2013

7:00 PM

City Hall, Commission Chambers

1 Call to Order and Roll Call – Bryon Boyce called the meeting order at 7:00 pm

Members Present: Bob Roth, Bryon Boyce, Sha Spady

Staff Present: Pete Walter, Associate Planner and Staff Liaison

2 Presentation

Library Director Maureen Cole shared concept art and updates concerning the Oregon City Public Library expansion project. Although the building particulars were still evolving, a parking lot adjacent to the property had been purchased to enhance access. Maureen stated the goal to preserve the historic character of the original library building and park setting, including the playground and as many of the existing trees as possible, while adding 15,000 square feet of building. The next steps include confirming an architect and project manager.

3 Public Comment on Item not Listed on Agenda

There was no public comment on non-agenda items.

4 Adoption of Minutes

Approval of Natural Resources Committee (NRC) Minutes for September 11, September 25, and October 9, 2013.

No minutes were adopted as there was no quorum.

5 Discussion Items

Staff overview of the Natural Resources Overlay District (OCMC 17.49)

Pete Walter explained that the Natural Resources Overlay District (NROD) is a combination of a map of known resources and a series of codes. The NROD complies with Metro Title III and XIII, which deal with maintaining water quality and habitat corridors. NROD focuses less intensely on upland habitats. Pete used the Hilltop Mall expansion as an example of how this code pertains to wetlands and buildings in practice, particularly with regards to mitigation and water management.

6. NRC Member Reports

Bryon Boyce shared that he, along with the Greater Oregon City Watershed Council, were working on getting a Metro Nature to Neighborhood grant to remove invasive species in Waterboard Park as he had located a rare plant there. Bryon indicated he was open to

collaboration in this process, both in the application process and in the actual clean-up. Pete offered to help with the grant and facilitate the Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee's involvement.

Bryon stated that Larry Porter retired. Pete shared that Denise Kai assumed his position.

Pete confirmed that the Blue Heron site purchase had fallen through and the Master Planning process will continue.

Bryon stated that a high-speed railway line was being planned to pass next to the Blue Heron site and that there was local interest in an Oregon City station near the Blue Heron site in order to promote tourist access.

7. Staff Updates

Pete stated that the South End Concept Plan was presented to Planning Commission and City Commission in a work session. Public hearings were scheduled for November, December, and January. The preliminary staff report on compliance with Metro Title XI was expected to go online in the next week and included map changes. Public feedback had been sought by 17 community conversations, four open houses, plus online forums and surveys. If approved, this project would form the basis for a community on South End Road in the next 20-30 years.

Laura Terway, Planner, created documents for suggested sign code changes and for enforcement of the code.

Pete shared that he was preparing Tree City USA renewal, and was hopeful for a Growth Award. Pete was optimistic about partnering with Friends of Trees and neighborhood associations in the next year. Pete was gathering tree-related information from three City departments for the renewal process.

Bryon requested more information about the removal of two large oak trees and one maple tree in the McLoughlin Promenade Park area, two to three weeks prior. It was his understanding that a homeowner had asked for the removal of the trees due to moss on the home's roof and City Parks staff had cut down the trees. Members of the public were upset about this, particularly in conjunction with Oregon City's Tree City USA status. Pete stated that he was unaware of this and would reach out to Scott Archer. Bob Roth requested that an update about this be added to the Future Agenda Items and asked if this was usual. Pete stated that this did not sound like standard procedure and explained the usual course of action of hazardous trees depending on the tree location.

Pete shared that a Canemah Bluffs Interpretive site was in the planning stages. Geotechnical surveys have been conducted and informed the overlook designs. Metro was reaching out to Oregon Department of Transportation due to the presence of 99E on the site.

8. Future Agenda Items

Update on removed Promenade trees

Formal selection of parks for Metro's Nature to Neighborhood Restoration grant

Determine City Commission's priorities and objectives for the NRC in 2014

Seek outside facilitator(s) to run this session: Onward Oregon and/or Portland State University planning program interns were discussed as possibilities

9. Adjournment—Bryon Boyce adjourned the meeting at 8:45 pm.