



CITY OF OREGON CITY

NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE

AGENDA

Virtual Meeting

Wednesday, November 08, 2023 at 6:00 PM

This meeting will be held online via Zoom; please contact ocplanning@orccity.org for the meeting link.

APPLICANT INTERVIEWS

Doug Neeley, Samantha Wolf

Prospective member Interviews are open to the public but are not live-streamed or aired on the City's YouTube channel.

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Natural Resources Committee members have the opportunity to rearrange, remove, or add items on the agenda. Adding an item to the agenda requires the consensus of the Natural Resources Committee.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Citizens are allowed up to 3 minutes to present information relevant to the City but not listed as an item on the agenda. The Chair has the discretion to waive limitations. Prior to speaking, citizens shall complete a comment form and deliver it to the Staff Member. The Natural Resources Committee does not generally engage in dialog with those making comments but may refer the issue to the City Manager.

NEW BUSINESS/DISCUSSION ITEMS

- [1.](#) Discussion Items for 11/01/2023

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Please review minutes prior to meeting.

- [2.](#) Approval of Minutes
- [3.](#) Natural Resource Committee Minutes Approval

COMMUNICATIONS

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

ADJOURNMENT

PUBLIC COMMENT GUIDELINES

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CITY OF OREGON CITY

Staff Report

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

To: Natural Resource Committee
From: Pete Walter, Planning Manager

Agenda Date: 11/01/2023

SUBJECT:

Discussion Items for 11/01/2023

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Discussion, decide NRC member lead and next steps.

BACKGROUND:

1. Street Tree Code Questions

At the last October meeting, NRC members stated that the Street Tree Code needs to be re-examined. Three years ago the street tree code changed. What did the street tree code say four years ago when a tree could be removed? What other modifications can be made to sidewalks to keep trees when the sidewalk is lifted rather than removing? The hazard is not the tree but the lifted sidewalk. Look at how 12.08.035 was changed to add "Hazardous trees".

Staff will provide some background on how the city came to treat sidewalk lifts caused by tree roots as a hazard. There were many meetings about this in the past, but the main reason was that the commission did not wish to require homeowners to have to obtain a certified arborist report to explain that a tree root was creating a sidewalk mobility hazard when it was obvious what the cause was. That said, we can discuss how the code might be improved to clarify the code and permitting process if the above ground portions of the tree are not hazardous.

2. Climate Action Plan

The City Commission has not yet provided direction to work on a climate action plan. A related activity that the Planning staff is implementing is the statewide [Climate Friendly and Equitable Communities](#) (CFEC) program, which is still in the rule-making stages at DLCD. This program is a consequence of the Governor's Executive Order to address climate change. So far this program is principally targeting the elimination of minimum parking requirements by cities and counties, however, the program has much wider goals including climate friendly area zoning, parking reform and management, electric vehicle charging, transportation planning, and equity considerations. Planning staff will be working on implementing the remaining state requirements for this program over the next three years. Staff will provide further background on CFEC at the meeting.

3. NRC work plan topics.

The updated work plan for 2023-2025 consist of projects and tasks for the 2023-2025 biennium. Some of the work plan items are on-going (such as commenting on land use applications and participating in updates to the comprehensive plan and codes), while others require on-the-ground logistics and the commitment of members and staff resources and budget to complete. The NRC developed the work plan referencing City Commission goals and priorities.

OPTIONS:

1. Discuss topics 1-3 and determine next steps.
2. Discuss some of the topics and table outstanding items to next meeting.
3. Do not discuss topics 1-3.



CITY OF OREGON CITY

Staff Report

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

To: City Commission
From: Pete Walter, Planning Manager

Agenda Date: 07/11/2023

SUBJECT:

Natural Resources Committee Work Plan for 2023 - 2025

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Samantha Wolf, NRC Vice-Chair, will present the NRC Work Plan for 2023-2025

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

The NRC made final revisions to the work plan on March 8, 2023 and adopted the plan April 12, 2023. The work plan is attached.

BACKGROUND:

The updated work plan for 2023-2025 consist of projects and tasks for the 2023-2025 biennium. Some of the work plan items are on-going (such as commenting on land use applications and participating in updates to the comprehensive plan and codes), while others require on-the-ground logistics and the commitment of members and staff resources and budget to complete. The NRC developed the work plan referencing City Commission goals and priorities.

OPTIONS:

1. Comment on the work plan following presentation.
2. Do not comment on the work plan.

BUDGET IMPACT:

Amount: \$
FY(s): TBD
Funding Source(s): TBD

Oregon City Natural Resources Committee 2023-2025 Work Plan

NRC Responsibility #1:

Promote Community Involvement in Natural Resources Conservation

1. Support a public tree inventory with volunteer participation for city properties, parks, street trees, school properties and other public lands.
2. Communicate regularly with Neighborhood Associations, Citizen Involvement Committee and the business community to promote programs such as the heritage tree program and arbor day.
3. Improve awareness through the city website, brochures, QR code signage, and social media for awareness and interpretation of local natural and geological features, trails, stormwater facilities, watersheds and sites. Coordinate with city efforts to enhance tourism. This would emphasize local knowledge and provide interpretative signs for people to learn about things like birding, swift migrations, heritage trees, etc. We can use laminated signs that lead to the Oregon City website. Give people an easy way to learn.
4. Continue to strengthen and encourage participation in the Heritage Tree Program through brochures, Informational signs for trees, \$\$\$ for incentives, site visits, further outreach and social media.
5. Work with property owners to voluntarily seek heritage tree designation within the Thimble Creek Concept Plan area.
6. Support city partnerships with Home Owner Associations (HOAs), Metro and Greater Oregon City Watershed Council, Oregon City Parks Foundation and other groups for habitat improvement projects within the Urban Growth Boundary.
7. Support partnerships with Oregon Heritage Tree Council and Oregon Community Trees.

NRC Responsibility #2:

Initiate recommendations and review updates to the City's comprehensive plan, codes and policy as they relate to statewide Planning Goals that are integral to our mission.

1. Provide input to the City Commission on amendments to the City's tree protection and removal codes.
2. Support a coordinated strategy for invasive species management, such as encouraging City participation in the Clackamas County Integrated Pest Management (IPM) program. Look at the City of Eugene Integrated Pest Management (IPM) program model as an example of a way to integrate IPM into city operations.
3. Improve public outreach and information about invasive plants.
4. Amend city resolution nuisance and native plant lists to reference regionally accepted and regularly updated plant lists from Clackamas Soil and Water District, Metro, Portland, and Willamette Native Plant List.
5. With the Public Works department, explore feasibility of offering reduced stormwater rates in return for planting trees in the right-of-way to intercept rainfall, reduce run-off and improve stormwater quality.
6. Support the City's application to and participation in the Bee City USA program through the Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation.

7. Promote public awareness of ways to promote and preserve invertebrate habitat through educational events such as booths at a Spring Resource Fair, the city website, Trail News, the city Facebook page and other social media.
8. Promote public awareness of the dangers of pesticide use, and cost savings associated with reduced pesticide application and reduced landscape maintenance.

NRC Responsibility #3:

Receive Notice and Comment on Land Use Applications and Projects within City Limits and the Urban Growth Boundary

1. Review and comment on Type III applications to vary from the adopted standards of the Natural Resources Overlay District, Flood Management Overlay District, and the Willamette River Greenway Overlay District.

NRC Responsibility #4: Conduct Orderly Meetings that result in Good Communications

1. Maintain and Update a list of Natural Resources Committee priorities and activities to share with Planning Commission and City Commission.

NRC Responsibility #5:

Coordinate with the Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee (PRAC) and Planning and City Commissions on at least an annual basis that results in good communication and mutually beneficial results.

1. Strengthen coordination with PRAC and parks staff through regular interaction and attendance at PRAC meetings.
2. Support funding initiatives and grant applications for parks and open space.
3. Invite Parks staff to attend NRC meetings.



CITY OF OREGON CITY

NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE

DRAFT MINUTES

Virtual Meeting

Wednesday, October 11, 2023 at 6:00 PM

This meeting will be held online via Zoom; please contact ocplanning@orccity.org for the meeting link.

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

6:03pm

Absent: Brian Kvisler, Dave Trotter

Present: Emily Lisborg, Samantha Wolf, Nancy Broshot

Guest- Didi Dalhstrom

Staff: Aquilla Hurd-Ravich, Community Development Director

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Agenda was accepted as is.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Didi talked about the dying heritage trees at the cemetery. These are Camper Down Elms that have die off at the top and are planted in a place where there is no water in the cemetery. Suggestions were to water and mulch.

NRC recommends for two Camper Down Elm heritage trees in the Cemetery to the Parks Department to be properly pruned to remove dead material prior to an ice storm by a certified arborist. The trees should be watered during the summer months and have arborist mulch put down. Encourage longer duration soaks over shorter duration soaks - can use a water butler tool for 10 minutes or 40-50 gallons.

A motion was made by Samantha, seconded by Emily that the recommendation be approved.

The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 3 Emily Lisborg, Samantha Wolf, Nancy Broshot

MEETING MINUTES

1. Natural Resource Committee Minutes Approval for February 08, 2017; August 12, 2020; January 13, 2021; June 14, 2023.

A motion was made by Nancy, seconded by Samantha to approve the meeting minutes.

The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 3 Emily Lisborg, Samantha Wolf, Nancy Broshot

COMMUNICATIONS

2. Communication Items:

Staff presented an updated about Bee City USA efforts:

Bee City USA

Planning, Public Works and Parks staff have met several times to discuss the operational and resource management implications of enrolling in the Bee City USA program to gain a clearer understanding of Integrated Pest Management, what practices Parks and Public Works currently uses, and what other commitments the program requires. City Commission direction will be needed in order to move forward, and input and direction from the Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee (PRAC) in particular.

We met with staff from Tualatin to understand their program. Their City Council gave them direction to move forward with an application. In our situation, the NRC needs to meet with PRAC and discuss this further. In Tualatin and West Linn the Bee City USA is managed by the Parks and Recreation Directors because they manage some of the City owned land and this is a public program, we're not looking to adopt private standards. PRAC has purview over some of the publicly owned land. If they support this idea then representatives from both committees should approach City Commission with a recommendation.

NRC Discussion:

Emily asked if the Xerces Society should present to PRAC? She may present or talk to PRAC. Is there a pollinator garden near the Pool.

Estacada recently adopted a Bee City, teen from Estacada who designed the new license plate.

Staff presented information on the Street Tree Inventory Update:

Street Tree Inventory Project

Staff has completed all available recorded street tree plans for residential subdivisions, which numbered over 400, starting with the plat for Oregon City from 1850. In general, subdivisions prior to the mid 1990's have no street tree plans.

We are starting to look at commercial developments which have landscaping plans and street tree plans, then city capital improvement projects. Once that is done, we'll add available tree species information. This will provide us with some baseline data to ground truth. In any event, this information is not ready to share with NRC at present. Public Works supports a limited tree inventory for ash trees.

So far, we have flagged approximately 100 ash trees on plans for the Land's End (1999), Bay Meadows (2004) and Abernathy Bluff Condominiums stormpond (2016), but much work is left to be done.

Continue identifying Ash trees using existing available as-builts. When all possible ash trees have been identified we'll know which areas of the City to ground truth. Then we d

reach out to the State Oregon Department of Forestry Community Forestry program to help train us on the use of the app. We will ask for NRC support with volunteer efforts to ground truth and use the State's app to verify existing ash tree.

NRC Discussion:

Better to ground truth in the later spring/ early summer when there are leaves. Samantha is happy to do a workshop on how to identify Ash Trees. At that time of year more Emerald Ash Borer adults will be flying so we can assess if we have an infestation.

Expiring Terms and Member Applications

Staff presented information about NRC membership:

Sam, Nancy and Brian's terms expire at the end of 2023. Sam has re-applied already and we encourage Nancy and Brian to re-apply as well so that we can schedule interviews in November and the NRC can approve a recommendation before December 12th (which is the date we post the 12/20/2023 regular meeting agenda with the staff report of appointments). We will invite the Mayor to attend the meeting or provide her with the recording of the meeting to watch later (we don't live stream/broadcast the interviews, but we still have to do minutes and post an agenda like any other public meeting). There is some flexibility built into the timeline, so we could appoint in January if necessary and hold the interview in December.

NRC Discussion

Nancy will not be reapplying due to health and personal reasons. Samantha has reapplied.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

1. Street Tree Code needs to be re-examined. Three years ago the street tree code changed. What did the street tree code say four years ago when a tree could be removed. What other modifications can be made to sidewalks to keep trees when the sidewalk is lifted rather than removing. The hazard is not the tree but the lifted sidewalk. Look at how 12.08.035 was changed to add "Hazardous trees".
2. Help City do a Climate Action Plan- for November meeting as a discussion topic
3. Discuss topics on work plan for agenda topics
4. IRA (inflation reduction act) funding will come out soon as grant opportunities, 5- year opportunity. Sam can forward the link to the grant application with a tool to identify the target communities.

Discussion about when to elect new positions, in January after new members appointed.

ADJOURNMENT

7:18pm

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Staff Report

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

To: Natural Resource Committee
From: Administrative Assistant Kay Neumann

Agenda Date: 11/08/2023

SUBJECT:

Natural Resource Committee Minutes Approval

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends Natural Resource Committee approve the meeting minutes attached for your review from October 11, 2023.



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A motion was made by Samantha, seconded by Emily that the recommendation be approved.

The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 3 Emily Lisborg, Samantha Wolf, Nancy Broshot

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