



CITY OF OREGON CITY

NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE

MINUTES

Virtual Meeting

Wednesday, October 11, 2023 at 6:00 PM

NRC approved these minutes on 11/8/2023. The meeting was held online via Zoom; a video of the meeting was also recorded.

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 can

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

Complete a Comment Card prior to the meeting and submit it to the City Recorder. When the Mayor/Chair calls your name, proceed to the speaker table, and state your name and city of residence into the microphone. Each speaker is given three (3) minutes to speak. To assist in tracking your speaking time, refer to the timer on the table.

As a general practice, the City Commission does not engage in discussion with those making comments.

Electronic presentations are permitted but shall be delivered to the City Recorder 48 hours in advance of the meeting.

ADA NOTICE

The location is ADA accessible. Hearing devices may be requested from the City Recorder prior to the meeting. Individuals requiring other assistance must make their request known 48 hours preceding the meeting by contacting the City Recorder's Office at 503-657-0891.

Agenda Posted at City Hall, Pioneer Community Center, Library, City Website.

Video Streaming & Broadcasts: The meeting is streamed live on the Oregon City's website at www.orcity.org and available on demand following the meeting. The meeting can be viewed on Willamette Falls Television channel 28 for Oregon City area residents as a rebroadcast. Please contact WPMC at 503-650-0275 for a programming schedule.