



City of Oregon City

625 Center Street
Oregon City, OR 97045
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Meeting Minutes - Final Natural Resources Committee

Wednesday, October 9, 2013

7:00 PM

Commission Chambers

1. Call to Order

Vice Chair Spady called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

Present: 4 - Richard Craven, Bob Roth, Douglas DeHart and Sha Spady

Absent: 2 - Bryon Boyce and Jerry Herrmann

Staffers: 1 - Pete Walter

2. Approval of the Minutes

[13-584](#)

Approval of Minutes for the April 10 and May 8, 2013 Natural Resources Committee Meetings.

Sponsors: Planner Pete Walter

Mr. Craven stated he was absent for both the meetings. Pete Walter, Planner, confirmed he could still vote on the minutes.

A motion was made by Mr. Roth, seconded by Mr. DeHart, to approve the minutes of the April 10 and May 8, 2013 meetings. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 4 - Richard Craven, Bob Roth, Douglas DeHart and Sha Spady

3. Public Comments on Non-Agenda Items

There was no public comment on non-agenda items.

4. General Business

[13-576](#)

Heritage Tree Code - Final NRC Recommendation for Approval

Sponsors: Planner Pete Walter

Mr. Walter said the staff report summarized the items discussed at the last work session. He reviewed the revisions that had been made to the Heritage Tree Code. The NRC voted to forward the Code to the regular meeting that night for a recommendation of approval to the Planning Commission and City Commission.

There was discussion regarding charging a fee to property owners for the heritage tree plaque. There was consensus to remove the sentence regarding the fee.

James Nicita, resident of Oregon City, thanked the NRC for their work on the Code

and encouraged adoption of it. He was concerned about a public records request about the Heritage Tree Code and had received a partial response. He thought there was an attempt to delete language that would have prevented heritage grove applications from being considered on property that was subject to a pending or approved land use application. He thought there would be an effort from staff to insert the language during the Planning Commission and City Commission hearings. The Mayor did not think heritage groves were the right way to address habitat considerations. He was concerned that there was no corresponding effort to strengthen the land use ordinances to address tree issues.

There was consensus that the NRC review the current Codes to see if there were gaps or issues to address and look at what other cities did for tree retention and preservation.

A motion was made by Mr. Roth, seconded by Mr. DeHart, to recommend approval of the Heritage Tree Code as amended. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 4 - Richard Craven, Bob Roth, Douglas DeHart and Sha Spady

5. NRC Member Reports

There were no NRC member reports.

6. Staff Updates

Mr. Walter gave an update on the Willamette Falls Heritage Project meeting on October 10, reported that the City Commission designated Water Board Park as a heritage grove and postponed the nomination for the Public Works site, and stated the Fall Foliage Heritage Tour was a success. He asked if the NRC would like a tour of the Blue Heron site. There was currently one vacancy on the NRC and there would be a second when Mr. Herrmann's term expired at the end of 2013. He hoped Mr. Herrmann would reapply. The Tree City USA reapplication process was underway and the NRC was serving as the standing tree subcommittee.

Ms. Spady suggested on the next agenda a discussion regarding recommendations the NRC would like to make to the City Commission.

Mr. Walter suggested getting the NRC's work plan done as early in the year as they could and see how they corresponded with the Commission goals.

There was discussion regarding the NRC being more engaged with the Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee, Planning Commission, and City Commission. Ms. Spady suggested members of the NRC attend PRAC meetings and report on what the NRC was doing as a way to start the conversation between the committees. She thought Mr. Herrmann could be the representative to the PRAC.

Mr. Walter said an ongoing project was the NRC website which would hopefully be launched by the end of the year. The NRC needed to start working on the 2014 work plan. He then reported on the Sign Code update, South End Concept Plan, and street tree removal and possible replanting project. He suggested at the next NRC meeting a discussion on a Natural Resource Overlay District Type 2 review and Type 1 exemptions.

Mr. Craven asked if there was still an application for the heritage grove for the Public Works site since the nomination had been postponed indefinitely.

Mr. Nicita stated there was no time certain when a decision would be made. If it was decided Public Works would stay at the site, the application would be part of the land use process, and if Public Works went somewhere else it could also be decided at that time. It could take several years and he was concerned staff might try to reinsert the language the NRC removed.

Mr. Roth said the Multnomah County Health Department put out a report on the potential impacts of climate change.

7. Next Scheduled Meeting date: November 13, 2013 - Tentative Agenda Items:

Mr. Walter reviewed the agenda for the next NRC meeting on November 13. The next PRAC meeting was October 24 and an NRC representative would go to report on the Heritage Tree Code.

Library Site Concept Presentation with Q&A

Overview of OCMC 17.49: Natural Resource Overlay District

8. Adjournment

Vice Chair Spady adjourned the meeting at 8:08 PM.