



City of Oregon City

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

Natural Resources Committee

Wednesday, September 14, 2016

7:00 PM

Commission Chambers

1. Call to Order

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

Present: 5 - Ginger Redlinger, Doug Neeley, Dorothy Dahlsrud, Trent Warness and Nancy Broshot

Absent: 2 - Jerry Herrmann and Bill Clark

Staffers: 3 - Laura Terway, Pete Walter and Martin Montalvo

5. Public Comments

Roger Fowler-Thias, member of the Oregon City Parks Foundation, said the Foundation was applying for a grant with HDR Engineering for removal of invasive species at Water Board Park, cleaning up the road to accommodate bicycles, and putting in trails. He requested a letter of support from the NRC.

There was consensus to draft a letter of support.

William Gifford was also a member of the Foundation. He asked that the letter be drafted in time for the deadline tomorrow.

Paul Edgar, resident of Oregon City, discussed wetlands in Canemah that had not been mapped. The wetlands had been delineated and adjudicated by the Department of State Lands. He was asking for a legislative action to include them in the Oregon City wetlands mapping. There were several water sources in Canemah and the area was susceptible to land slides. The wetlands needed to be protected and properties in Canemah needed to be developed properly. He suggested the NRC take a tour of the area to see what he was talking about. He would bring this up at the next Canemah Neighborhood Association meeting.

Laura Terway, Community Development Director, said the last wetlands inventory was done in 1999. Anyone could apply for an amendment to the Natural Resource Overlay District boundary. The NRC could work on finding funding for the work. She explained the process for making an amendment to the Overlay District.

2. Presentations

Mr. Clark said there was a Marine Board Open House tomorrow. Mr. Clark left the meeting.

2a. Presentation on Urban Canopy Descriptors and the role of trees in urban modelling, by Jackson Voelkel, PSU

Jackson Voelkel, researcher at PSU, gave a presentation on the urban canopy. He discussed important questions, such as how to measure the amount of trees, what trees were important, and how to identify the trees that were in need of preservation. He explained the use of Lidar data, singling out large trees, and steps to identifying trees. He then discussed how to inform statistical models with tree data for air quality, urban heat island effect, predictive heat surfaces estimated with machine learning algorithms, and assessing the role of canopy in temperature reduction. He described the current progress of UHI research. They now knew where all of the trees were located in the metropolitan area. They took the 1.8 million tallest trees and put them on a map and he gave examples of how the map was used. With all of this data they hoped to increase public knowledge about the impact of trees, educate policy makers on the connections trees have to the environment, and nominate Heritage Tree status for important trees. Future research would include more modeling and new Lidar mapping.

2b. Presentation on Public Works Master Plan, Martin Montalvo, PE, Operations Manager

Martin Montalvo, Public Works Operations Manager, discussed the proposed site plan for the Public Works facilities. The upgrades to the facilities were necessary due to the current condition of the buildings. It was not because of lack of maintenance, but the buildings were old and it was taking a lot of resources to keep them going. They were trying to be good stewards and the time had come to make these changes.

3. Approval of the Minutes

3a. Approval of NRC Minutes for March 9, 2016

A motion was made by Mr. Warness, seconded by Ms. Redlinger, to approve the March 9, 2016, minutes. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 4 - Ginger Redlinger, Doug Neeley, Dorothy Dahlsrud and Trent Warness

Abstain: 1 - Nancy Broshot

4. Agenda Analysis

6. New Business

6a. Support for the Public Works Master Plan

A motion was made by Mr. Warness, seconded by Ms. Dahlsrud, to approve the letter of support for the Public Works Site Plan. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 5 - Ginger Redlinger, Doug Neeley, Dorothy Dahlsrud, Trent Warness and Nancy Broshot

6b. NRC Presentation to the Citizen Involvement Committee

Chair Neeley said he would be making a presentation to the Citizen Involvement Committee on October 3. He asked for input on what he should cover.

Some of the items the NRC suggested were: the Heritage Tree program, Natural Resource Overlay District, NRC participation in projects, and Street Tree list update.

7. Old Business

There was no Old Business to discuss.

8. Communications

Ms. Terway reported the City hired a new planner to replace her old position. There was a new Community Services Director as well.

Chair Neeley welcomed Ms. Broshot to the Committee.

Ms. Redlinger acknowledged that the NRC was making progress in being connected to the parks groups.

Mr. Warness asked about the Cove project. Chair Neeley said the Planning Department had not received the design for the second phase yet. He suggested having the developer give a presentation to the NRC. He also suggested scheduling a goal setting Work Session.

Mr. Walter discussed recent annexation applications.

Chair Neeley discussed the Greater Oregon City Watershed Council activities including assessing habitat at Abernethy Creek. They were having a breakfast fundraiser on October 1.

Ms. Dahlsrud said the Oregon City Parks Foundation was putting together a bottle drive and were seeking sponsors.

Mr. Herrmann arrived at 8:27 PM. He announced there would be a Marine Board meeting tomorrow to discuss the boat ramp at Clackamette Park. Classes at the Environmental Learning Center were being organized.

9. Future Agenda Items

Ms. Dahlsrud wanted an update on the trees at Water Board Park.

10. Adjournment

Chair Neeley adjourned the meeting at 8:30 PM.