



City of Oregon City

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

Wednesday, September 11, 2013

7:00 PM

Commission Chambers

1. Call to Order

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

Present: 4 - Bryon Boyce, Richard Craven, Jerry Herrmann and Bob Roth

Absent: 2 - Douglas DeHart and Sha Spady

Staffers: 2 - Pete Walter and Martin Montalvo

2. Visit with Mayor Neeley

Mayor Neeley discussed the resignation letter from Erik Carr and concern of the NRC that they could not move forward on some items such as the Heritage Tree Code. He explained the original intent of the Heritage Tree Code and how he thought protecting habitat should be a different process.

Pete Walter, Planner, said the plan was to forward the Heritage Tree Code to the Planning Commission for their review, and then to the City Commission.

There was discussion regarding where the Heritage Tree Ordinance was in the process and trees on city property versus private property and habitat versus an individual tree. The NRC could approve the Heritage Tree Code at the point it was currently or consider this new information, work it into the Code, and then move it forward.

Mayor Neeley said the NRC should discuss things from the standpoint of bringing them to the City Commission for discussion and inclusion of the Commission goals. The NRC goals should be accepted by the City Commission.

Mr. Craven said the NRC was waiting for the City to involve them in issues and thought there was lack of communication.

Mayor Neeley stated things the NRC thought should be looked at should be brought forward to the Commission's goal setting. He suggested a joint work session with the NRC and City Commission to discuss some of these concepts for potential goals. He thought the Planning department was committed to working with the NRC.

There was discussion regarding the need for a Volunteer Coordinator, Urban Forester, or Natural Resource Specialist.

A motion was made by Mr. Herrmann, seconded by Mr. Craven, to move the Heritage Tree Code to a work session with the intent of voting on it at the next regular NRC meeting and forwarding it to the City Commission. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 4 - Bryon Boyce, Richard Craven, Jerry Herrmann and Bob Roth

3. Approval of the Minutes

- 3a. [13-525](#) Approval of Minutes: August 14 and July 10, 2013

Sponsors: Planner Pete Walter

The Committee approved the minutes of August 14 and July 10, 2013, by consensus.

4. Public Comments on Non-Agenda Items

Kathy Roth, City Commissioner, did not think the NRC needed to align their goals with the City Commission. She thought they should come up with ideas and move forward with them. The Committee needed to present to the City Commission themselves, and not through staff.

There was discussion regarding the communications strategy and role of staff.

Commissioner Roth stated there was more expertise on the NRC than what was available from staff and she wanted to honor their expertise which could supersede the knowledge available to staff.

There was discussion regarding a possible grant for a Volunteer Coordinator or volunteer program.

James Nicita, resident of Oregon City, disagreed with Mayor Neeley that the intent of the Heritage Tree Code only applied to trees on a person's property as it included a section on groves. He thought they should have the legislative history of the Heritage Tree Code for the work session and what was the intent of adding heritage groves. He gave an update from the last McLoughlin Neighborhood Association meeting. The Association agreed to present a proposal to the City Commission to schedule a regular agenda item on the heritage grove application for Water Board Park and Public Works site.

5. Presentation by Martin Montalvo, Public Works Operations Manager

Martin Montalvo, Operations Manager, introduced himself to the NRC and gave a presentation on Public Works landscape maintenance. The City had been divided into three zones which were maintained by private contractors. He explained the work assignment form, work types and scheduling, contract costs, and some projects such as the Hanging Flower Basket Program, water quality ponds, and asset improvements.

There was discussion regarding the annual NPDS report which staff was currently compiling.

Mr. Montalvo clarified any site that was intended to be left in its natural state was not under the maintenance contract.

There was discussion regarding the maintenance of ponds in the City and clean up of the box culvert.

6. General Business

There was no general business.

7. NRC Member Reports

Mr. Walter discussed the memo from the Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee regarding the arborist report of trees in Clackamette Park. It included a list of trees planted in the last year and the conceptual plan for the proposed park improvements. He showed photos of the tops of some of the Cottonwoods that were taken down due to rot. This would be a great project for the PRAC and NRC to work together.

Mr. Herrmann suggested looking at design ideas for the rock clusters at the lower side of the path facing the river. There were also recommendations for planting certain species and adding signage identifying the restoration work.

Mr. Walter announced on October 10 there would be a Willamette Falls Legacy Project open house. There would also be a Willamette Falls Legacy Project booth at the Willamette Falls Festival on October 5. An event for former Blue Heron employees would be held on October 24. He explained the core values for the project and master planning process. Eclipse had purchased the property, but was willing to let the process continue.

Chair Boyce discussed bicycle and pedestrian paths in Newell Canyon suggested by Blane Meier. Mr. Meier was proposing to find the best route for tourist oriented mountain biking, foot traffic, and a commuter route. There was further discussion regarding the benefits of bicycle tourism.

Mr. Roth reported on the Pacific Northwest Climate Science Conference where adaption for climate change was discussed.

Mr. Walter would schedule the next work session for either September 18 or 25. He said there would be two vacancies on the NRC. Mr. Herrmann could renew his appointment and Erik Carr's position needed to be replaced.

8. Staff Updates

9. Next scheduled meeting date: Worksession to be announced Next Regular Meeting: Wednesday, October 9th, 2013

10. Adjournment

Chair Boyce adjourned the meeting at 9:54 PM.