



City of Oregon City

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

Wednesday, August 14, 2013

7:00 PM

Commission Chambers

1. Call to Order

Chair Boyce called the meeting to order at 7:02 PM.

Present: 7 - Bryon Boyce, Erik Carr, Richard Craven, Jerry Herrmann, Bob Roth, Douglas DeHart and Sha Spady

Staffers: 3 - Pete Walter, John Lewis and Laura Terway

2. Citizen comments on items not listed on agenda

There were no citizen comments on items not on the agenda.

3. Presentation - Sign Code Update - by Laura Terway, Associate Planner

Laura Terway, Associate Planner, gave a presentation on the Sign Code update including a background on the project and public involvement campaign. A citizen advisory team was being assembled and a consultant had been hired to help staff through the process. She gave an overview of the website for citizen input on signs in Oregon City. She asked the Committee for their input on signs.

The Committee asked questions regarding current signs. They gave ideas for what they would like to see in the future including a sustainable enforcement program, art as a different category to include murals, signs should be down lit, not uplit, including signs for education and interpretation, and adding provisions for street light banners and cross street banners.

Ms. Terway explained the feedback form and summary of what the Sign Code did and did not allow. All the input collected would be reviewed by the citizen advisory team who would make recommendations to staff and staff would write Sign Code amendments. Beginning in January the amendments would go before the Planning Commission and City Commission for adoption in June or July.

4. General business

4a. [13-499](#)

Final Draft - Heritage Tree Code - OCMC 12.08.040.

Mr. Walter reviewed the final draft of the Heritage Tree Code. The City Attorney had looked at the draft and had no concerns. The draft would go to the Planning Commission and City Commission if approved.

Chair Boyce suggested using reputable adopted lists rather than any list for the tree list. There was consensus to make that change.

James Nicita, resident of Oregon City, referred to Section C, Review Process, and

stated he did not see anything that addressed trees on City owned property. He suggested adding in subsection 4b "if the tree or stand of trees was located on public property or City property or within the public right of way" and make sure it was consistent throughout the document. The same issue was in Section D, Site and Condition Criteria, that subsection 3 would be applicable in every case especially if it was exclusively on City owned property. There needed to be a protective covenant on City property in all sections.

Mr. Walter recommended tabling the draft and bringing it back for further discussion in a work session. He would clarify whether or not a covenant would protect a tree on public property.

The consensus of the committee was to table the item for a work session.

5. NRC Member Reports

5a/b. [13-503](#)

NRC Member Reports for August 14, 2013

Chair Boyce reported on the box culvert near the Cove under the freeway which would have challenges as an accessway especially during a flood.

Mr. Herrmann discussed the efforts being made to restore the Metro South wetland area. He volunteered to plan a heritage tour on October 5.

Chair Boyce said Metro committed to studying the trolley bridge for the possible purchase of the bridge.

Mr. Herrmann reported on the river tours that had been conducted.

6. Staff Reports

6a. [13-506](#)

McLoughlin Blvd. Enhancement Plan - Phase II. Tree Removal and Replacement.

John Lewis, Public Works Director, discussed the McLoughlin Boulevard Phase 2 project. There was a concern regarding existing trees in front of the Rivershore Hotel on Dunes Drive. He explained the initial plan for improvements on McLoughlin and the grants for the project. Several of the project elements met with resistance by the Urban Renewal Commission and some things were changed. There were also constraints due to storm drainage, balance of the cut and fill, and federal funding requirements. He then explained the layout of the stormwater quality facility. The trees had a lot of surface roots and were built on mounds. The plan was for a meandering sidewalk and trees planted along it. The existing trees would be impacted by construction of the sidewalk and grading of the pond and needed to be removed.

There was discussion regarding options for the stormwater facility and stormwater drainage in the area.

Mr. Lewis then explained the landscape plan including four to five larger heritage trees.

The Committee wanted to be involved in the project in the future but thought these items could have been dealt with in a different way. They wanted to come into the beginning of a project and use their expertise to help with the design.

Mr. Lewis explained the public input process staff was already doing and how they would continue to be better about it.

Mr. Roth suggested a formal process like a flow chart for getting guidance from committees.

Mr. Herrmann asked if there was an option for a redesign and salvaging the specimens under the trees. Mr. Lewis said there might be opportunity to salvage the plants, but they belonged to the Rivershore Hotel.

Mr. Nicita said there were some deep structural problems with the City Charter and lack of responsiveness to the citizens was in part structural. Staff did not change the structure, the City Commission did. He thought the members of the NRC should designate someone to go to the City Commission and express their concerns.

Mr. Roth thought going to the City Commission could also be discussed at the work session.

Mr. Herrmann suggested advising the Urban Renewal Commission about their concerns and options for the project.

Ms. Spady wanted the Committee to be informed about upcoming projects.

Mr. Lewis would ask Carlotta Collette, Metro Councilor, about the possibility of changing the design.

Mr. Craven said the Committee wanted to know their purpose and how they could best serve the City.

6b Willamette Falls Legacy Project Update

Mr. Walter said the Committee received the most recent brochures the consultant prepared. The opt in survey needed to be completed by the end of the month. He reviewed the timeline for the project. An open house had been held and was well attended with a lot of citizen input.

7. Next scheduled meeting date - September 11, 2013

Chair Boyce announced the next meeting would be held on September 11.

8. Adjournment

Chair Boyce adjourned the meeting at 9:44 PM.