



City of Oregon City

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Meeting Minutes - Final Natural Resources Committee

Monday, July 8, 2020

7:00 PM

Commission Chambers

1. Convene Regular Meeting and Roll Call

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

Present: 5 - Chair Nancy Broshot, Committee Member Chris Weaver, Committee Member Doug Neeley, Committee Member Mike Hamilton, and Committee Member Devon Pilney

Absent: - Trent Warness

Staffers: 2 - Community Development Director Laura Terway and Senior Planner Pete Walter

2. Adoption of the Agenda

The agenda was adopted as presented.

3. Public Comment — None

4. Old Business

Draft Permitting and Notification Process for Tree Removal on Institutional and City Owned Properties

Pete Walter, Senior Planner, gave an update on the draft permitting and notification process for tree removal on Institutional and City owned properties. He explained the direction that had come from the City Manager and City Commission regarding the process improvements, new definition for Institutional lands, previous recommendations from the Natural Resources Committee, adding Pacific Madrone to the Heritage Tree Species and Sizes table, Planning Commission comments, Public Works Department comments, Parks and Recreation Department comments, and proposed policy steps.

There was discussion regarding what should be included in the arborist report, dedicated fund for the alternatives analysis, sidewalks and tree preservation, staff comments received, and the City hiring an arborist.

5. New Business/Discussion Items

Review NRC Work Plan

Mr. Walter reviewed the NRC Work Plan and the items that would have to be put on hold due to Covid-19. He also discussed the NRC's responsibilities.

There was discussion regarding putting invasive species identification and mitigation information on the City's website, expanding current overlay districts, new upland habitat overlay district, providing recommendations to the Planning Commission regarding applications that reduced the NROD corridor, bringing Planning Commission decisions back to the NRC for further discussion if they reversed or altered a recommendation from the NRC, activities on the Work Plan that should be put on hold, and adding an item to the work plan--propose policies that could be implemented at the local level to combat climate change.

Thimble Creek Upland Habitat Overlay District

Laura Terway, Community Development Director, gave a history of the natural resource inventory for this area and how the areas identified were not in any overlay district. The City Commission directed staff to work quickly to implement a new overlay district for trees in areas 3 and 4. The habitat had not been re-inventoried and the City did not know how much still existed and the quality of the trees. She asked for direction on creating the overlay district. She discussed the options and the pros and cons of each.

Wayne Hall and Kim Southworth, residents of Oregon City, asked questions about the proposed overlay, which included their property. They were concerned that the overlay would affect their ability to build on the property and thought the area should be adjusted to follow along the ridge of the golf course and not on their property.

There was discussion regarding the School District's intent for the property, whether the regulations would allow removal of the trees as long as they were replaced or the trees could not be removed at all, and boundaries of the overlay.

A motion was made by Committee Member Neeley, seconded by Committee Member Weaver, to approve a site visit to the Hall property and golf course to look at the condition of the trees with their permission. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 5 - Chair Nancy Broshot, Committee Member Chris Weaver, Committee Member Doug Neeley, Committee Member Mike Hamilton, and Committee Member Devon Pilney

Mr. Walter said the original recommendation from the NRC for creating this overlay focused on the problem of forest fragmentation in urban areas and not just individual trees but also the habitat associated with it.

Committee Member Neeley said after they saw the site they might make recommendations as to the width of the corridor itself.

6. Communications

Committee Member Neeley said the Greater Oregon City Watershed Council finished an invasive control project at Abernethy Creek Park. He suggested the NRC look into applying for grant funding for invasive removal.

Mr. Walter gave an update on OC 2040 and the community conversation kits.

7. Future Agenda Items

Mr. Walter discussed upcoming agenda items.

8. Adjournment

Chair Broshot adjourned the meeting at 9:02 PM.