

Meeting Minutes
Natural Resources Committee
June 13, 2012, Commission Chambers—City Hall

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Members Present: Bryon Boyce, Bob Roth, Marlo Smith, Richard Craven

Members Late: Jerry Hermann

Staff Present: Pete Waller, AICP, Associate Planner

Members Absent: Eric Carr, Andrew Senase

2. Approval Of The Minutes

Chairman Boyce made a motion to approve the April 11, 2012 minutes. Mr. Craven said he was not present at that meeting, and there wasn't a quorum available to vote on the minutes. Mr. Waller agreed that the approval of the minutes should be tabled until the next time a quorum of members at the April meeting was available.

3. Public Comments

No public comments were made

4. Old Business

4a Waterboard Park/Oregon City Public Works Heritage Tree Grove Nomination

Mr. Waller reviewed maps, surveys, site photos, definitions, and the 120313 CC Commission Report, all from the April 11 meeting, clarifying what tax lots and where in Waterboard Park would be nominated as a Heritage Tree Grove. He also pointed out that no heritage designation of a public works site could occur until the city found an alternative site for a public works department facility. He focused on the four criteria the site had to meet to be designated a heritage tree site. The first one was the tree or grove needed to be of landmark importance to the city. The second was the tree or grove needed to be listed as a state heritage grove as designated by the state department of forest resources. The third qualification was it was required to be a rare species or habitat for rare species. The final qualification was that the tree

or trees not be irreparably damaged. Mr. Waller expressed his opinion that the second qualification was not met, and that the reports were not clear if the other three were met. He advised that additional information might need to be provided, either by the applicant (McLoughlin Neighborhood Association), or staff, and that most likely a professional arborist would need to be involved. Mr. Craven stated that he, Mr. Boyce, and Mr. Hermann made a tour of Waterboard Park, and had made up a document summarizing their findings. The document was passed out to the members of NRC, and one was given to Mr. Waller. Mr. Craven expressed his concern of the lack of clarity of information provided as to whether or not the sites would meet the heritage tree criteria, and wasn't sure there was enough information to make an informed recommendation to the city council at this time. The meeting was then opened up to public comment.

The following individuals gave public comment:

1) Phil Daniels-representative of the McLoughlin Neighborhood Association

Mr. Daniels felt that since the grove was on city property, the neighborhood association was acting as stewards by nominating it to be a heritage grove site. He also pointed out that if additional studies needed to be done, and the neighborhood association was asked to finance them, they did not have the finances to cover the costs. He also believes that very little progress was being made the process of coming up with a decision of the properties being a heritage grove site.

2) Norm Stewart

Mr. Stewart wanted to let the NRC know all of the volunteer work being done in Waterboard Park to clean up invasive species and remove graffiti, and also how many people enjoyed using the park.

3) James Nacita, land use and development attorney

Mr Nacita wanted to inform the NRC that the way the code was written, that legally not all 4 areas of the criteria to be designated a heritage tree site had to be met. He went into specific detail about how the wording of the code meant that only two criteria needed to be met, and expressed that in his professional opinion, there was enough in the reports given to designate the site as a heritage grove, and the NRC had enough information to make a vote tonight.

4) Kathy Roth—member of McLoughlin Neighborhood Association

Ms. Roth wanted to second Mr. Daniels comments and also express concern about the health and environmental impact of Public Works being relocated in the McLoughlin neighborhood.

After public comments, Marlo Smith made a motion to express the NRC support of the designation of the Waterboard Park site as a heritage grove site to the city commission. The motion was seconded by Mr. Craven.

All in favor: Jerry Hermann, Bryon Boice and Bob Roth

All opposed: None

Result: Motion Carried

The NRC took a 5 minute recess before starting new business.

5. New Business

Deputy City Attorney Jennifer Bragar gave a “Land Use 101” presentation to the NRC, in which she went over 4 types of land use review in Oregon City and how the NRC fits in with the process, and explained what power they had to act upon their decisions. She also defined what constituted a public meeting of the NRC, and what the legal requirements were of making them open to the public, and what the responsibilities the NRC had to make all forms of communication and documents discussed at public meetings available to private citizens.

6. Discussion Items

Marlo Smith wanted to know what other committee members thought of inviting Anthony Magi from the Oregon League of Conservation Voters coming to speak to the NRC and give his suggestions as to how to make the NRC an effective committee within the Oregon City political structure. All members present voiced their opinion it would be a good idea.

Jerry Hermann wanted Pete Waller to give an update on the Jughandle Mitigation Project concerning the wetland area around Highway 213 and Interstate 205. Mr. Waller indicated he had a detailed report concerning that, and would put it in as a future agenda item.

7. Communications

Mr. Waller wanted to give an update on the Cove Peninsula status, but after searching, was unable to find the information on his computer, so the update was pushed to a later meeting.

8. Future Agenda Items

Mr. Waller addressed the need for the NRC and the Parks and Recreation committee to have a joint yearly meeting. Mr. Waller said he would speak to Scott Archer about coordinating a time that the NRC and PRC could meet to discuss overlapping business between the two committees.

Mr. Boice wanted to start a sub-committee to better define and further clarify heritage tree ordinances and revisions.

Mr. Waller wanted to review the NRC work plan as a future agenda item.

Mr. Craven wanted to have the Greater Oregon City Watershed Council come and make a presentation at a future meeting.

Mr. Boice voiced his concern that this was the third meeting in a row Andrew Senase had missed without being excused. He was going to have Mayor Doug Neely talk to Mr. Senase about the requirements of being on the committee.

9. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 10:01 PM.