



CITY OF OREGON CITY

NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE

AGENDA

695 Warner Parrott Rd, Oregon City, OR 97045

Wednesday, June 12, 2024 at 6:30 PM

This meeting will be held in person at the Community Development Community Room at 695 Warner Parrott, Oregon City, 97045. There will be an online option via Zoom; please contact ocplanning@orc.org for the meeting link.

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Natural Resources Committee members have the opportunity to rearrange, remove, or add items on the agenda. Adding an item to the agenda requires the consensus of the Natural Resources Committee.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Please review minutes prior to meeting.

1. Meeting Minutes Approval for 4/14/2021, 6/9/2021, 7/14/2021 and 11/8/2023.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Citizens are allowed up to 3 minutes to present information relevant to the City but not listed as an item on the agenda. The Chair has the discretion to waive limitations. Prior to speaking, citizens shall complete a comment form and deliver it to the Staff Member. The Natural Resources Committee does not generally engage in dialog with those making comments but may refer the issue to the City Manager.

OLD BUSINESS

2. NRC Applicant Recommendations

NEW BUSINESS/DISCUSSION ITEMS

3. NRC Tree Canopy Recommendation to the City Commission

COMMUNICATIONS

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

ADJOURNMENT

PUBLIC COMMENT GUIDELINES

Complete a Comment Card prior to the meeting and submit it to the City Recorder. When the Mayor/Chair calls your name, proceed to the speaker table, and state your name and city of residence into the microphone. Each speaker is given three (3) minutes to speak. To assist in tracking your speaking time, refer to the timer on the table.

As a general practice, the City Commission does not engage in discussion with those making comments.

Electronic presentations are permitted but shall be delivered to the City Recorder 48 hours in advance of the meeting.

ADA NOTICE

The location is ADA accessible. Hearing devices may be requested from the City Recorder prior to the meeting. Individuals requiring other assistance must make their request known 48 hours preceding the meeting by contacting the City Recorder's Office at 503-657-0891.

Agenda Posted at City Hall, Pioneer Community Center, Library, City Website.

Video Streaming & Broadcasts: The meeting is streamed live on the Oregon City's website at www.orcity.org and available on demand following the meeting. The meeting can be viewed on Willamette Falls Television channel 28 for Oregon City area residents as a rebroadcast. Please contact WFMC at 503-650-0275 for a programming schedule.



City of Oregon City

625 Center Street
Oregon City, OR 97045
503-657-0891

Meeting Minutes - Draft Natural Resources Committee

Monday, April 14, 2021

6:00 PM

Commission Chambers

1. Convene Regular Meeting and Roll Call

Chair Broshot called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

Present: 7 - Chair Nancy Broshot, Committee Member Chris Weaver, Committee Member Mike Hamilton, Committee Member Devon Pilney, Committee Member Brian Kvistler, Committee Member Samantha Wolf, and Committee Member Carrie Young

Absent: - ???

Staffers: 3 - Community Development Director Laura Terway, Senior Planner Pete Walter, and Public Works Director John Lewis

2. Adoption of the Agenda

The agenda was adopted as presented.

3. Public Comment

William Foster, resident of Oregon City, discussed the issue of ivy on many trees in Canemah and how most of the storm damaged trees were those covered in ivy. He proposed the City send out a mailer to make homeowners aware of how damaging ivy was with an emphasis on avoiding future property damage as well as how to remove the ivy properly without using herbicides. He thought the City could remove ivy on public property and offer incentives or assistance in ivy removal or use Code Enforcement to require ivy removal in lots with severe infestations.

Doug Neeley, resident of Oregon City, asked about a proposed road to access a private property that would go through Park Place Park. Mr. Walter said the City Commission would be discussing it soon.

4. Presentation: Oregon City Arbor Day and Neighborhood Tree Planting Event

Pete Walter, Senior Planner, reported on the Arbor Day ceremony and tree planting. Committee Member Wolf discussed the partnership with Friends of Trees and thought the event went well.

5. New Business/Discussion Items: Restoring Tree Canopy Damage from the 2021 Ice Storm

Laura Terway, Community Development Director, shared pictures from the storm damage in February. Some of the major factors for the tree damage were structural deficiencies and lack of proper pruning. She discussed removal review, process for approval, and delayed permitting requirements for trees that came down in the storm. The City Commission directed staff to waive permits/replanting requirements for trees removed from February 11 to May 31 that were outside an overlay district and to alter the fee/process for trees removed within an overlay district to an \$89 permit with only an online public notice. All City removal of significant trees would be reviewed for compliance in a group permit with only an online public notice. They encouraged voluntarily replanting and maintenance of existing trees with \$200,000 of tree mitigation funds. She then reviewed the updated program for use of the \$200,000 and next steps.

There was discussion regarding the allocation of the funds, how the small tree giveaway would be done, tree inventory as priority, PGE pruning, bare root trees vs. trees in pots, skepticism that nurseries could accommodate the tree demand in the next two years, and taking care of dangerous limbs was more of a priority than planting trees.

John Lewis, Public Works Director, thought they had a good tree canopy currently that should be preserved and enhanced. However, he thought the community might be uncertain about the value of trees due to all the recent damage. He agreed public education on ivy would be beneficial. He suggested looking at the tree regulations as well.

There was discussion regarding reallocating funds from the small tree giveaway to the tree inventory, timing of a tree inventory and doing a pilot this year and full inventory next year, and mailing to the public to include information about working with Friends of Trees and arborists as well as information on invasive species.

Ms. Terway would draft the mailer and bring it back to the NRC for review. There was consensus to invite Mr. Lewis to a future meeting.

Discussion: Preliminary Discussion about Invasive Weeds Enforcement, updating the Oregon City Street Tree, Native Plant, and Nuisance Plant Lists

Mr. Walter gave a background on the current Street Tree List and how there was flexibility to approve trees from an arborist recommendation or those on other cities' lists.

The Committee wanted to update the list to include native species and remove rapidly growing trees that were most damaged in the ice storm and those that would be most vulnerable to invasive pests. They should be trees that could tolerate climate change and air pollution as well. The Committee also wanted to make sure there was

a variety of trees planted on the streets, and not only one species where one blight would take them all out.

Mr. Walter gave a background on the current Native Plant and Nuisance Plant lists.

The Committee discussed plants to add to the lists and those to remove. There was consensus to create a Google Doc to share the lists and the Committee could add to them.

Mr. Walter then explained the current mechanism of enforcement for nuisance plants. There was discussion regarding sending out a flyer about invasive species removal with pictures of the plants and the reasons for removal.

Committee Member Weaver volunteered to help with the flyer.

6. Communications

Mr. Walter thought they should table the discussion on Park Place Park until after the City Commission meeting. He gave an update on the Thimble Creek heritage tree designations. A group would take a look at the trees on April 23. He shared a Community Resources Guide that was on the City's website and discussed the OC2040 visioning project and upcoming meetings.

Chair Broshot said she was working on a nomination for Heritage Tree Hero and would send the letter to the Committee for approval.

Committee Member Hamilton was working on a series of virtual courses done through the Environmental Learning Center at Clackamas Community College.

7. Future Agenda Items

There was discussion regarding future agenda items.

8. Adjournment

Chair Broshot adjourned the meeting at 8:08 PM.



City of Oregon City

625 Center Street
Oregon City, OR 97045
503-657-0891

Meeting Minutes - Draft Natural Resources Committee

Monday, July 14, 2021

6:00 PM

Commission Chambers

1. Convene Regular Meeting and Roll Call

Chair Broshot called the meeting to order at 6:06 PM.

Present: 7 - Chair Nancy Broshot, Committee Member Mike Hamilton, Committee Member Devon Pilney, Committee Member Carrie Young, Committee Member Brian Kvistler, Committee Member Chris Weaver, and Committee Member Samantha Wolf

Staffers: 2 – Community Development Director Laura Terway and Public Works Director John Lewis

2. Adoption of the Agenda

The agenda was adopted as presented.

3. Public Comment

None.

4. Old Business: Draft Invasive Species List and Associated Flyer

Chair Broshot discussed the invasive species list that was put together by Committee Member Weaver and how they had talked about creating a flyer with the top five or ten species with pictures to focus on removing. She thought the NRC should discuss which plants should be on the list, or if they should make two lists, one a list of all invasives and the other a list of the worst that people should not plant.

Sam Leininger, Weedwise Program Manager, said they had to decide what the desired use of the list would be, regulatory or outreach. The Clackamas Soil and Water Conservation District had a noxious weed list for the states of Oregon and Washington, as well as a County list, which the City could adopt. They could make a list of invasives to highlight, however he cautioned there were species that were still

horticulturally sold and could be a problem to regulate. If there was a plant they wanted to see prohibited from sale, they should take it to the Oregon Department of Agriculture and nominate it as a noxious weed listing. Ivy was on the list already.

There was discussion regarding examples of successful outreach campaigns, creating a weed abatement event, developing neighborhood weed programs, coordinating with neighborhood associations, potentially hazardous areas for pulling weeds, and particular areas in the City that needed attention.

Laura Terway, Community Development Director, noted they could not adopt the County's list as the City's nuisance plant list for planning purposes. They had to go through the resolution process to update and approve the City's list.

Mr. Leininger thought it mattered if it was for planning purposes or enforcement purposes. The County's noxious plant list was reviewed and updated annually. The state's list was updated twice a year.

The protocol for updating the lists would be brought back to a future meeting.

Updating the Oregon City Street Tree List

Ms. Terway gave a background on the street tree list and reasons for updating it. She noted that people could pick a species off this list, they could use another local jurisdiction's list, or they could plant a tree with approval from a certified arborist. The amended list would need to be adopted by resolution.

Andrew Land, Friends of Trees, discussed the NRC's idea to remove Maple trees from the list. They were desirable trees, and he thought some species should be permitted. Also, they did not know how many Maples there were until they did a tree inventory. He discussed qualities to look for and species to avoid. He then discussed other tree species to add to make the list more robust.

Ms. Terway said the City Commission passed the tree canopy recovery program. Money had been set aside for arborists and a tree inventory. However, they were not getting interest in arborist services. They could shift some of that money to the tree inventory.

There was discussion regarding street tree inventory apps or programs, optional Maple species, trees to add and remove from the list, good options for tree wells, caliper size, inventory, and pruning standards.

Committee Member Wolf would integrate the suggestions and update the list, including some varieties of Maple. The NRC would discuss the list at the next meeting. It might be valuable to have a separate list for tree wells.

5. Communications

Ms. Terway gave an update on the Heritage Tree Program. They were working with property owners in the Thimble Creek Concept Plan area for heritage tree grove designations. Staff was working on outreach to citizens about the Tree Recovery Program.

There was discussion regarding getting volunteers involved in the tree inventory and inviting ODF to the next meeting to discuss their tree inventory grant program.

Ms. Terway said there would be a presentation at the City Commission Work Session in August about the street tree and sidewalk repair assistance program.

6. Future Agenda Items

At the next meeting there would be a presentation from ODF, discussion on the street tree list, and a Parks and Recreation Director presentation. The next meeting would start at 7 p.m., and the official award ceremony for Ms. Dahlsrud would be at 6 p.m.

7. Adjournment

Chair Broshot adjourned the meeting at 8:38 PM.



City of Oregon City

625 Center Street
Oregon City, OR 97045
503-657-0891

Meeting Minutes - Draft Natural Resources Committee

Monday, June 9, 2021

6:00 PM

Commission Chambers

1. Convene Regular Meeting and Roll Call

Chair Broshot called the meeting to order at 6:04 PM.

Present: 6 - Chair Nancy Broshot, Committee Member Chris Weaver, Committee Member Mike Hamilton, Committee Member Devon Pilney, Committee Member Brian Kvistler, and Committee Member Samantha Wolf

Absent: 1 - Committee Member Carrie Young

Staffers: 1 - Senior Planner Pete Walter, Planner Kelly Reid, and Public Works Director John Lewis

2. Adoption of the Agenda

The agenda was adopted as presented.

3. Public Comment

None.

4. New Business/Discussion Items: Oregon City Tree Recovery Program - Restoring Tree Canopy Damage from the 2021 Ice Storm

Pete Walter, Senior Planner, introduced Kelly Reid, Planner, who had been working on the Tree Recovery Program.

Ms. Reid explained the Tree Mitigation Fund, new Tree Recovery Program which included waiving the street tree removal permit and replanting requirement for these trees, contract with Friends of Trees to plant up to 415 trees throughout the City, holding pruning workshops, offering arborist advice, replacing 35 trees along main corridors, funding to support a tree inventory, and tree vouchers for the overlay districts.

There was discussion regarding Friends of Trees follow-up with homeowners, tree removal and replacement in City parks, if the funding could include removal of trees on the ground that were dead fuel for potential fires, possible grants, website where people could submit information about the trees to be removed, and getting the information out.

John Lewis, Public Works Director, spoke about a potential street tree and sidewalk assistance program. He then talked about focusing tree plantings in parks rather than street trees, especially those in planter strips, that damaged sidewalks. He thought there would be more value in putting trees on the back sides of sidewalks that were not as likely to affect the sidewalks.

There was discussion regarding the value of street trees, need to put the right tree in the right location, capturing the cost associated with tree removals and replacements, talking to nursery stock providers to get recommendations for street trees, widening the planter strips, and need for an urban forester staff position.

5. Old Business: Street Tree List Update

Committee Member Wolf reviewed the list that she had compiled. She had added species to the list and noted ones that she thought should be removed. She suggested retiring Maples because there were too many in the City and there were pests and pathogens they anticipated would target the Maples. She also removed trees that had been problematic in the past.

There was discussion regarding the lack of native trees on the list, removing Ash trees due to the Ash Borer, putting native Oaks on the list, regulating trees on private property, City sponsored trees on private property to incentivize keeping and maintaining large trees, City of Eugene's pilot project for urban forest carbon crediting to support their urban forestry program, trees' impact on property assessment, and creating an ecosystem in the planter strips instead of a monoculture.

Mr. Lewis asked if there was support for planting replacement trees behind the sidewalk instead of in the constrained planter strip. Mr. Walter noted the option existed in the code currently but was not the priority. There would need to be a code change to change the priority from the planter strip to the private property. There would have to be a covenant on the tree on private property to protect it as a street tree. The difficulty would be tracking it.

There was consensus to move forward with the proposed street tree list pending the tree inventory. There was discussion regarding adding climate change species. There was further discussion regarding when Maple trees could be back on the list, such as after an inventory where they were 10-20% and did not represent a large percentage of the canopy.

6. Approval of Minutes

There was consensus to approve the July 8, 2020 minutes.

7. Communications

Chair Broshot said Ms. Dahlsrud had received the Heritage Tree Advocacy Award.

She would like to present the award at the July meeting.

Mr. Walter would invite Kendall Reid, Parks and Recreation Director, to the next meeting as well.

Committee Member Weaver discussed the Invasive Species List he compiled. There was discussion regarding putting the invasives list on the City's website with photo examples, distribution of the list as flyers and in the Trail News, adding a QR Code, adding the top five or ten invasives on the back side of flyers, setting up a weed tour in a park, and creating a slideshow of pictures for the website.

Committee Member Wolf said OCT was going to have an Urban and Forestry Conference on September 14-15. She planned to invite the OCT Board to Oregon City for their quarterly meeting in December.

Committee Member Hamilton said the Environmental Learning Center was holding a series of professional workshops.

Mr. Walter gave an update on the OC2040 vision statement and survey.

8. Future Agenda Items

It was suggested to discuss tree inventory strategy and urban forester job description at the next meeting.

9. Adjournment

Chair Broshot adjourned the meeting at 8:08 PM.



CITY OF OREGON CITY

NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE

DRAFT MINUTES

Virtual Meeting

Wednesday, November 8, 2023 at 6:00 PM

This meeting will be held online via Zoom; please contact ocplanning@orccity.org for the meeting link.

NRC INTERVIEWS

6:00 pm

The committee held interviews with applicants Samantha Wolf and Doug Neeley.

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

6:34 pm

Present: Nancy Broshot, Emily Lisborg, Samantha Wolf, Brian Kvisler, Dave Trotter

Staff: Pete Walter, Planning Manager

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

6:35 pm

Agenda was accepted as is.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Street Tree Code

6:36 pm

The committee discussed street trees affecting sidewalks. There may be a scenarios where trees may be cut down based only on the presence of damage to the sidewalk. The NRC as a group would like to suggest that trees should not be removed if the only reason for removal is damaged sidewalks.

The committee suggested making public comment to the city commission about street tree removal. Samantha reminded the committee that the city does not currently assess a fee for a street tree removal permits.

Nancy suggested language like "I'm here to voice a concern about how street tree removal is handled and request a work session to consider alternatives to the current process."

Samantha suggested that we may want to plan talking points and submit them as a committee.

There was discussion about improving/rewriting the tree code to be more focused on conservation.

Pete offered to prepare a comparison of area tree codes and invite public works staff to attend a future meeting to talk about the sidewalk repair and permitting process.

Climate Friendly And Equitable Communities

7:19 pm

Pete provided an overview of the Statewide Climate Friendly and Equitable Communities (CFEC) legislation and timing for city compliance with this program. The program requires that local jurisdictions adopt new standards for reduction of minimum parking requirements, electric vehicle charging infrastructure, climate friendly urban design, roadway design, bicycle parking and other standards. The city already adopted many of these requirements and will be working on implementing the remaining standards with City Commission input and direction throughout 2024-2025.

NRC Work Plan Topics

7:28 pm

Nancy suggested the committee wait for the appointment of new members to the committee before evaluating the work plan. The committee generally agreed and this item was tabled for later discussion.

MEETING MINUTES

7:38 pm

The Committee unanimously approved the October 11, 2023 minutes.

COMMUNICATIONS

There were no communication items.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

1. Street Tree Code / Sidewalk Permitting.
2. Discuss topics on work plan for agenda topics.
3. Discussion about when to elect new positions, in January after new members appointed.

ADJOURNMENT

7:39 pm



CITY OF OREGON CITY

Staff Report

625 Center Street
Oregon City, OR 97045
503-657-0891

To: Natural Resource Committee
From: Pete Walter, Planning Manager

Agenda Date: 06/12/2024

SUBJECT:

NRC Applicant Recommendations

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Make recommendations to the Mayor for appointments to the NRC.

BACKGROUND:

The NRC interviewed three applicants for open positions at the 2/29/2024 meeting and made a recommendation for Brian Kvisler to be re-appointed and he has been re-appointed.

Shannon Ehleringer is no longer interested in serving as confirmed via separate email 6/4/2024.

Staff and the Mayor request that the NRC make a recommendation for the remaining application by Dan Tooze, Sr.

The redacted application is attached.

OPTIONS:

1. Recommend that Dan Tooze, Sr. be appointed to the NRC.
2. Do not recommend that Dan Tooze, Sr. be appointed to the NRC.



CITY OF OREGON CITY

Staff Report

625 Center Street
Oregon City, OR 97045
503-657-0891

To: Natural Resource Committee
From: Pete Walter, Planning Manager

Agenda Date: 06/12/2024

SUBJECT:

NRC Tree Canopy Recommendation to the City Commission

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Discuss the NRC recommendation letter.

BACKGROUND:

The following text of the draft letter is provided below as drafted and circulated to NRC members on 4/30/2024.

To the Oregon City Commission:

The Natural Resources Committee has written this letter to the City Commission to provide input as to the City's current urban forestry codes and policies and make a recommendations to address the loss of tree canopy

A healthy tree canopy goes beyond environmental benefits and extends to economic concerns, public health, community development, and more. Any questions as to the extensive benefits of urban canopy can be directed to members of the Natural Resources Committee, the Oregon Department of Forestry, or OSU Extension Office. In addition to the City Commission's Goal #7, , the OC2040 Community Vision explicitly calls for supporting our "extensive tree canopy". The justification for prioritizing this topic is not in question.

The issues at hand involve what to do.

1. To what extent do we understand and protect our current tree canopy?

A public tree canopy assessment or inventory is essential. With this information, the city can determine realistic goals for how the tree's canopy should be managed. A realistic urban forestry plan developed with proper public input is the next logical step in the process, and from that plan, improved city code, policies, management and resources for our urban tree canopy can be developed.

2. Does the current code prioritize the preservation of mature trees?

City code identifies a tree as a “hazard” when a side-walk is uplifted. It is important to note that Hazard trees adhere to arboriculture industry safety standards that are rigorously studied and reviewed.

Hazard tree is not a designation influenced by positioning of sidewalks but are describing the health of the tree itself without consideration to possible mobility issues navigating around that tree.

Current code allows adjacent property owners to remove large mature street trees in three-foot planting strips (within the ROW) with minimal justification or consideration for alternative actions to maintain the tree. Older trees with substantial shade are frequently replaced with smaller species if mitigation occurs. When a mature street tree is removed due to sidewalk up lift, no mitigation occurs and the city has no opportunity to recoup the loss of canopy.

3. Are there ways to change code to better protect tree canopy?

To align city code with the City Commission Goal of increased canopy, the OC2040 Community Vision and other city planning goals, the City’s tree code requires key changes. The NRC has identified the following as ways to more closely align City code with long term goals set fourth through various means of public input.

1. For 4-foot strips and larger, compulsory replanting is recommended. Installation of low growing shrubs or perennials (as suggested on the city website here) is recommended should replanting not be feasible for 3 foot and narrower strips.
1. If uplift from trees creates a non-compliant sidewalk that inhibit mobility, alternatives to removal including sidewalk repair, rerouting and/or prudent root pruning by a certified arborist should among the first options explored. An adjusted sidewalk may be feasible at a lower cost than tree removal. A requirement to have a hazard report as well as a removal estimate could provide further insight as to the health of the tree and inform possible alternative solutions to removal.
1. If tree removal is unavoidable and mitigation is not possible, a higher fee-in-lieu of to support planting efforts elsewhere in the city is recommended. A fee to remove a street tree provides more incentive for retention. With the income from fees for removing street trees, more funding can be allocated for tree plantings, improved maintenance, and compliance enforcement.
4. The city can improve its assessment by requiring Tree Risk Assessments be performed by Certified Arborists only. To prevent a conflict of interest, the arborist should not be the same contractor hired in case of removal. This conflict underscores the importance of a city forester to objectively review removal requests and ensure all city-trees are maintained properly and are not needlessly removed for financial gain.

Best practices provided by the Arbor Day Foundation, the City of Milwaukie, West Linn, and Portland provide example of tree codes that place greater emphasis on tree preservation for public and private development. Pragmatic and successful tree canopy should be based on a

clear understanding of what resources we currently have and where we want to go as a city. This boils down to the essential components of a sustainable urban forestry program, and one that is integral to combatting the effects of climate change.

OPTIONS:

1. Discuss topics and determine next steps.