



City of Oregon City

625 Center Street
Oregon City, OR 97045
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Meeting Minutes 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.