



CITY OF OREGON CITY

CITIZEN INVOLVEMENT COMMITTEE (CIC)

MINUTES

Virtual Meeting
Monday, June 07, 2021 at 7:00 PM

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

CALL TO ORDER

PRESENT: 10 - Karla Laws, Linda Baysinger, John Kies, Amy Willhite, Sara Peterson, Steve VanHaverbeke, Bob LaSalle, Karin Morey, Dennis Anderson, Robert Malchow

STAFFERS: 5 - Senior Planner Christina Robertson-Gardiner, Planner Kelly Reid, Commissioner Adam Marl, Commissioner Denyse McGriff, Mayor Rachel Lyles-Smith

PUBLIC COMMENT

John Kies commented on the prospect of tolls in Oregon City, and the majority of citizens are not in favor of them but feel the city is continually trying to proceed with it. He discussed concerns that the toll funds are being used for social issues and that the toll will never end even when the project has been paid for. It is not popular that the funds going to social issues are only being paid for by some and not all citizens in the area.

PRESENTATIONS

1. Mayor Rachel Lyles-Smith-Mayoral Approach and Objectives

Mayor Lyles-Smith is the new mayor, and she was asked to come to the CIC meeting to discuss a few items. Her primary style and objective is to make sure commission meetings are professional, respectful, and welcoming. She wants folks to feel welcome to give public comment and would like to see a commission that tries to listen and make changes.

The issue of homelessness has been an issue brought up often and by many citizens of Oregon City. She has been working with Chief Band on new tasks which include creating and implementing an Oregon City strategy. She states there has been a lot of funding spent on this issue including staffing, behavioral specialists, homeless camp sweeps, and bathroom facilities. She would like to work with some neighboring counties on this as well. The issue is one of her top 3 objectives.

Willamette Falls Legacy Project: This is moving along slowly. Grand Ronde presented their vision to the city commission, and the mayor really likes this. It includes several alternatives for buildings and parking. This information can be found on the Grand Ronde website. Grand Ronde received a grant for \$800,000 for this project. There will be a significant amount of cleanup as well as the need for some structural assessments on buildings to understand if they are salvageable.

Riverwalk: This piece of the Willamette Falls Legacy Project has slowed down. The trust was tasked to work on an engagement piece with the tribes who have a history in the area and have expressed interest, so a pause has been put in place so this could be incorporated. In addition, there were some safety concerns with the original plan, and Grand Ronde has requested a change in alignment to move the project away from Main Street and focus it along the river. This will require new drawings and permits with the Army Corp of Engineers.

2. Downtown Bicycle and Pedestrian Needs Inventory and Action Plan-Kelly Reid Planner (<https://bit.ly/34nk8DR>)

Kelly is representing staff for the Transportation Demand Management Working group. This is a group of stakeholders that formed in 2018 following the adoption of the city's transportation demand management plan. This was in response to the Willamette Falls Legacy Project to better manage the parking and transportation to include biking, walking, and other transportation. In order to get this started, a needs inventory was created. Kelly shared a story map that is on the Oregon City website. The story map showed a collection of information that was reviewed such as dangerous intersections, missing/not to code ADA ramps, dark areas, bicycle safety/stress, missing sidewalks, transit stops, and existing bicycle parking. Volunteers offered feedback via an app and interviews on observed conditions and suggestions for improvement. A survey is available on the website to give feedback. Kelly also showed some renderings for potential projects to visualize solutions for safer traffic areas. She ended by asking for suggestions from the CIC about their priorities and if they know of other people or organizations to talk to who may offer other input.

3. Chamber of Commerce Update-Victoria Meinig, Executive Director

Victoria has been involved in the business recovery centers and has been doing this since November 2020 by going out to businesses in the city to see what they need for support. She has also been working on the governor's \$2.7 million emergency fund. She has a request in and a commitment from the state representative and senator for about \$1.3 million from the ARPA fund (American Rescue Plan Act) that is a 3-point system of technical assistance, support services, and grant funding.

Destination Ready is a marketing campaign that will include all three levels of the city: For profits/nonprofits, tourism sites, and neighborhoods. This is a partnership she is working on with the city of Oregon City and the Downtown Oregon City Association that is set to launch in September.

4. OC2040 Update- Pete Walter, Senior Planner (www.oc2040.com)

The Oregon City Comprehensive Plan Update is still in its visioning phase. There have been 7 project advisory team meetings, a survey with over 1,000 responses, a mailed citywide survey that received 130 responses from multifamily households, and the project advisory team facilitated 20 community conversations. This work will be used to update the 2003 Comprehensive Plan based on a vision statement of where Oregon City wants to go over the next 20 years for managing growth and changes in population. Unfortunately, the pandemic has slowed the progress a bit, but everything is moving forward with the aim to adopt the vision statement by the end of June. The team has settled on four vision themes: Healthy communities, resilient economy, connected infrastructure, and a protected environment. There was a community vision forum link provided for additional information and input on draft statements. Pete asked for suggestions from the CIC on their priorities and other people and organizations to speak to.

STAFF LIAISON UPDATES

Staff Liaison Report - Christina Robertson

Christina shared a link to the “How do I...?” section of the Planning Department page (planning@orc.city.org) for answers to common project planning questions. She is also looking for interest in neighborhood association representation for inactive neighborhoods. She made the CIC aware that development applications, comment deadlines, and public records requests are available in the monthly liaison report. Christina reminded the CIC that there will be no meeting on July 5th in observance of the July 4th holiday.

GENERAL BUSINESS

Barclay Hills Postcard Budget - Bob La Salle

The postcard budget for the Gaffney Lane neighborhood went over budget, and Amy Willhite has volunteered to pay the overdraft; however, another neighborhood offered to pay the overdraft with some of their budget funds. This issue brought the question up of the need for a budget increase with the cost of postage and materials rising. Bob anticipated going in front of the city commission for a budget increase for this but advised that some adjustments will need to be made until then to stay within the budget. Christina has offered to put a monthly postcard budget update in her liaison report.

Organization of Inactive Neighborhoods – Bob La Salle

Zoom meetings are scheduled for the South End and Hazel Grove/Westling Farm neighborhoods as these are the only two outstanding neighborhoods right now. Margie Hughes has been helping reorganize the Two Rivers neighborhood.

ROUNDTABLE*Rivercrest – Karin*

The Rivercrest secretary treasurer resigned. They have not met, but they do stay in touch by phone, Facebook, and Next Door. The neighborhood is hoping to have an annual picnic in August depending on what parks are allowing and shelter reservations. It is desired to meet in person again in the fall. Karin is on the Parks and Recreation Committee, and she attended the park dedications for Tyrone S. Woods Park in Caufield and DC Latourette Park.

Park Place – Steve VanHaverbeke

The Park Place neighborhood had a steering committee meeting in May and had a “kerfuffle” when the chair suddenly could not attend the meeting. There was a scramble to get the Zoom links working. This was a large meeting because the Park Place Concept Plan Area was being discussed, and it is a contentious issue. The next steering committee meeting will be June 17th.

McLoughlin – Denise Beasley

Latourette Park opened on Saturday. There was an ivy pull at Barclay Park on Saturday morning, and another ivy pull will be at Waterboard Park on July 17th. A cleanup will take place at Promenade Park the following Saturday between 9:00-11:00 a.m. Working has been happening for sign toppers for the neighborhood thanks to Bill Daniels and the Public Works and Denyse McGriff. McLoughlin had a steering committee meeting this previous week in person. The next general meeting will be July 1st on Zoom. There is hope to meet in person at September meeting. A concern has been raised in neighborhood about tree cutting. There is frustration concerning an arborist’s opinion about some large trees and the need to remove them and the subsequent removal.

Hillendale – Sara Peterson

Hillendale had a board meeting on Zoom and discussed having a neighborhood meeting in July. They hoped to have that meeting in person at Hillendale Park, but that will not be able to happen, so it will be a Zoom meeting. There is interest in the second spot for Hillendale on the CIC. Sara wanted to know if Hillendale could help other neighborhoods with their current postcard budget. These are covered, so it was not necessary, and the sentiment was appreciated.

Gaffney Lane – Amy Willhite

Gaffney Lane is having steering meetings but not in-person meetings. There has been construction on Molalla Highway, so residents of the neighborhood have had to be creative in ways to get to their homes. There was a 5-day closure on Gaffney Lane to fix a street alignment and put in a speed bump. She thanked Josh Wheeler and the Public Works team for keeping residents informed. The neighborhood was concerned about a proposal putting in an over-street banner versus a flashing light at a crosswalk because of line of sight. The banner is not favored because the driver will be looking up and not at the crosswalk where pedestrians could potentially be traveling. The neighborhood has brought this up through the entirety of the project and felt their concerns were and are still being ignored. They are still fighting it.

Caufield – John Kies

A meeting was planned in June, but it fell through. The next meeting will be in September. They tend to get more people attending at in-person meetings versus Zoom meetings, so the hope to get back to in-person meetings. Meyers Road work happening. The park is really nice.

Canemah – Dennis Anderson & Linda Baysing

On May 22nd, there was an annual cleanup of the Pioneer Cemetery. They had a large turnout who assisted in preparation. Metro had done a lot of prework in cleaning and preparing the site. Thank you to Metro.

A steering committee meeting will be held in person on June 24th at Canemah Park. They would like to have an ice cream pie social in August. At the meeting, a discussion is on the agenda for Canemah being a train horn free zone. They would like better communication with the city on historic homes. New owners would like to know what they can and cannot do. Christina Robertson added a link to the chat for the historic information on homes and advised that Kelly Reed, Preservation Planner, is best person to contact.

Barclay Hills – Karla Laws

Karla is considering dropping the December meeting in order to stay in their postcard budget since it is not well-attended. There is a steering meeting on June 8th and a general meeting in July. There was a meeting on land use issues. The neighborhood is unhappy about 535/545 homes coming in. They had a special meeting with seven days' notice, and it was publicly posted with screenshots. A lot of neighbors voted to appeal the issue. There is another land use issue coming on Warner Mill. There are concerns about traffic safety and sidewalks. Karla was approached by Clackamas County Tenants' Alliance, and she may have someone come to their meeting.

Commissioner McGriff

There have been a lot of meetings recently going through the budget. The 2021-2023 biennium budget has been passed. There will be some FEMA money coming in to help with a few expenses from the wildfires and ice storm. The Urban Renewal Budget was controversial. They would like to bring something forward for the community to review based solely on the properties that Oregon City owns. There are pending purchase and sale agreements, and it would be preferable to run that by the community. A renewed lease has been created on lower Washington street adjacent to the Metro South station, but it does have an out clause in case something comes up to redevelop that property. A pending purchase and sale agreement has been made on property at 10th and Main. The commission is trying hard to not spend money as requested by the vote on the charter. There is some basic administrative cost that accrues that will require spending. The city is looking at doing an IGA with the Urban Renewal Agency back to the city in order to keep a better tab on those costs. There are a lot of work session items. Some new policies and procedures were passed with regard to annexations. There are a lot more criteria, and there is now language in there about host-sale tree removal. Commissioner McGriff discussed some nice parklets Downtown and is looking to get the resolution of Park Place Park issues.

Commissioner Marl

Thanks everyone for being here and the warm welcome.

For more information on upcoming neighborhood association meetings and contacts please visit: <https://www.orcity.org/community/neighborhood-associations>

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:57 PM.