



City of Oregon City

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

Meeting Minutes 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.