



City of Oregon City

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

Meeting Minutes - Final Natural Resources Committee

Wednesday, March 13, 2013

7:00 PM

Commission Chambers

1. Call To Order

Vice Chair Spady called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM.

Present: 6 - Bryon Boyce, Richard Craven, Bob Roth, Douglas DeHart, Sha Spady and Jerry Herrmann

Absent: 1 - Erik Carr

Staffers: 2 - Pete Walter and John Lewis

2. Presentation

[13-173](#)

Stormwater / NPDES Permit Presentation

John Lewis, Public Works Director, and Krista ??, Brown and Caldwell, gave a presentation on the Stormwater NPDES Permit. Mr. Lewis provided a background on the permit, which was a five year permit that began in 2011. Krista?? gave a recap of the requirements for the permit. She explained the new requirements for illicit discharges detection and elimination, industrial and commercial facilities, construction site runoff control, education and outreach, public involvement and participation, post construction site runoff, pollution prevention for municipal operations, structural stormwater control operation and maintenance activities, and monitoring and reporting. The new permit elements were hydromodification assessment, retrofit assessment, TMDL waste load allocation attainment evaluation, and documenting the City's adaptive management process. She explained the impacts and upcoming compliance deadlines.

Mr. Herrmann arrived at 8 PM.

There was discussion regarding the analysis for the hydromodification assessment, costs for the work to be done, and the impacts of the requirements.

Chair Boyce arrived at 8:15 PM.

3. Approval of Minutes

There were no minutes to approve.

4. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

5. Discussion Items

a [13-171](#)**Amendments to the Heritage Tree Code.**

Pete Walter, Planner, reviewed the red line and non red line versions of the Heritage Tree Code. The concerns from the last meeting were: the need to allow a different kind of report besides an arborist report to satisfy the site and condition criteria, allowing for a report submitted by a forester or ecologist instead of a certified arborist, replacing the term grove with a different term such as stand and improve the definition based on the canopy cover, need a good definition for hazardous tree, and need to clarify the role of the NRC in the heritage tree review process. If the NRC was inactive, applications would be sent to the City Commission.

There was discussion regarding either using 80% canopy cover or two, three, or more trees for the definition of a tree stand.

There was discussion regarding the definition of ornamental tree and that the NRC would serve as tree subcommittee.

Mr. Walter discussed a modification to the site and condition criteria, that the subject property on which the tree or trees were located was not the subject of a submitted or approved land use application.

Ms. Spady stated under gifts and funding, there needed to be a review of the Community Development Director's choices of the type of trees that were selected. She thought there should be replanting of evergreen trees.

Chair Boyce had species to add to the tree list for proper selections including evergreens. He would email his suggestions to Mr. Walter.

James Nicita, resident of Oregon City, raised some issues he had with the ordinance. These amendments were proposed as a consequence of an application for a heritage grove for Water Board Park and he reviewed the history of the application. It had not been sent to the City Commission for a vote. He was concerned that the changes being made would extinguish this application. He requested adding in a timeline for the time something was submitted to the time it was reviewed by the NRC. He did not think the site and condition criteria should include the subject of a submitted or approved land use application. He thought it should say that the property was not the subject of a pending land use application. He also had issue with the statement that if a tree or stand was located on City property or public right of way under City jurisdiction, the nomination form must be signed by the City Manager.

There was discussion regarding informing the City Manager instead of him signing it off and the time it would take to get applications to the NRC.

Ms. Spady suggested the following changes: add a section on the process timeline, delete the sentence in 1B??, and delete the sentence about the submitted or approved land use application.

Mr. Herrmann clarified the criteria regarding significance distinguishable to an entity and significance which contributed to Oregon City's heritage status. He thought it should say heritage status or natural resource value.

Ms. Spady suggested adding to the purpose a definition of heritage trees or stand of trees.

There was discussion regarding the criteria of designating trees beyond historic value and celebrating biologic value.

Ms. Spady suggested saying the tree or stand of trees has age, size, or species significance which contributes to Oregon City's ecological and historical heritage.

Mr. DeHart thought the definition of stand of trees was still confusing. He thought it needed to be more than stating two, three, or more trees. The Committee would think more about it and discuss it at the next meeting.

b [13-172](#)

Amendments to Street Tree List

Mr. Walter said Mr. Carr had two suggestions, add a yes or no column for whether a tree was power line friendly or not and add a column for whether the tree was a native tree or not.

Chair Boyce would send an email of edits he made to the list regarding species that should be taken off and added to the list. He thought some evergreen trees could be added as suggested by Ms. Spady.

Mr. Herrmann would work with Chair Boyce and Ms. Spady on evergreen options.

6. Communications

a [13-169](#)

Update on Willamette Falls Legacy Project Visioning and Master Planning Process

Mr. Walter gave an update on the Willamette Falls Legacy Project. The City put out a Request for Proposals for development of a conceptual master plan for the property. There were a number of environmental issues on the site. The City was in the process of signing an agreement with the trustee for the master plan process. He discussed the four shared values the partners had agreed to and would be the guiding principles for the master planning process.

b [13-170](#)

Update on Metro's Climate Smart Communities Scenarios Project

Mr. Walter would send the Committee his Climate Smart Communities update including the Metro report regarding reducing carbon dioxide emissions.

Mr. Roth announced a local climate change discussion at the Environmental Learning Center on April 20. He asked that staff give a presentation on how the City was addressing climate change.

Mr. Herrmann said he and Chair Boyce conducted the first Lower Clackamas River Task Force subcommittee meeting where major issues were identified. The next meeting would be held on April 24. Chair Boyce discussed how the Willamette Special Interest Partnership was looking at reconnecting the Clackamas River to its lost channels.

Mr. Herrmann then discussed development at Clackamette Cove. Mr. Walter said the master plan for the Cove was approved in 2007. Any new land use application would have to go through the process and be reviewed by the NRC and other City committees. What was resolved in the previous application could serve as a guide for future applications.

7. Future Agenda Items

Chair Boyce said a lot of the same agenda items would be brought back to the next meeting.

Mr. Herrmann wanted to meet with the Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee, Planning Commission, and City Commission.

Ms. Spady requested staff forward the Code regarding public parks and trees to the NRC.

8. Adjournment

Chair Boyce adjourned the meeting at 10:16 PM.