



City of Oregon City

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Meeting Minutes - Final

Natural Resources Committee

Wednesday, March 9, 2016

7:00 PM

Commission Chambers

1. Call to Order

Chair Neeley called the meeting to order at 7 PM.

Present: 4 - Jerry Herrmann, Doug Neeley, Trent Warness and Bill Clark

Absent: 3 - Ginger Redlinger, Richard Craven and Dorothy Dahlsrud

Staffers: 1 - Pete Walter

2. Agenda Analysis

A discussion of the Cove was added to the agenda.

3. Staff Presentation

Pete Walter, Planner, discussed use of the meeting room technology. The touch screens had been replaced by mice. The amount of paper was being minimized and the documents could be accessed online. He read the portion in the Boards and Commissions Orientation Manual that related to the NRC and the portion dealing with the public meetings law.

4. Approval of the Minutes

4a. Adoption of NRC Minutes for October 14, 2015.

A motion was made by Mr. Warness, seconded by Mr. Clark, to approve the October 14, 2015, Minutes. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 4 - Jerry Herrmann, Doug Neeley, Trent Warness and Bill Clark

5. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

6. Old Business

7. New Business/Discussion Items

7a. CCC Environmental Learning Center (Planning Files NR 15-08 / DP 16-01)

Mr. Walter said notice had been sent out for public comment for the detailed development plan and natural resources overlay district application for Clackamas Community College's Environmental Learning Center. This was a staff level review and was based on the Code. The applicant was not requesting any variances or adjustments. The comment period went to March 28 and a decision would be made after that. This was a five acre site and the project primarily involved restoration of the wetlands associated with the Environmental Learning Center. The college received a Metro grant to improve the area which involved getting the sediments out of the ponds, recreating some burms, replanting native species, getting rid of invasive species, and creating a way to provide slower water movement through the site to cool it before going into the Newell Creek headwaters. He explained the location, what was existing, and what would be new on the site. The project included restoring 15,000 square feet of new plantings to off-set the 7,500 square feet of new impervious surface area. There would also be plantings in the wetlands and replacement of existing weirs and bridges and new weirs and bridges put in. Trees were being removed for some of the improvements and 75 new trees would be planted as well as many shrubs and groundcover plantings. The walkway and interpretive trail through the site would be improved. The path would not be lit after hours.

Jerry Waters of Yost Grube Hall Architecture discussed the renovation of the existing pavilion, how the bathrooms would be renovated to be ADA accessible, and an outdoor classroom space would be created. He also explained the improvements to the pathway.

Mr. Walter said the natural resources overlay district part of the application was being reviewed by a David Evans and Associates and they would be providing a report to staff. He expected good feedback from the public on this application. The college already met with the Caulfield Neighborhood Association. Public Works said since it was an enhancement project they did not need an official stormwater report and would be reviewing the staff report.

There was discussion regarding the stormwater drainage of the college. The water from the new development would be pre-treated and then go through the site.

Mr. Herrmann wanted to know where the stormwater run off from Moss Junior High was going. There was further discussion regarding oil and heavy metals separators, trees to be removed, down logs and woody debris would be left on the ground, amphitheater improvements, down facing lighting, outdoor outlets, removal of a storage building and concrete, removal of the bull frogs, how the water would be slowed down, and how the silt would be removed.

Mr. Walter said Ms. Dahlsrud had some ideas regarding the interpretive signage, but was in favor of the application.

There was consensus that this was a good project.

8. Communications

Mr. Neeley said the City Clean Up Day was on April 23 and one project was invasive species removal and tree planting at Hillendale Park. The Greater Oregon City Watershed Council would be doing invasive species removal at Abernethy Creek Park on April 16. An Environmental Learning Center event to show the new design would be held on Saturday.

Mr. Clark referred to the heritage tree and fines for cutting down a tree discussion from the last meeting. Water Board Park was a totally different issue and would be handled through the Oregon Forestry Act. The Heritage Tree Program covered heritage trees. He did not want to make the Heritage Tree Program so punitive that no one would agree to nominate heritage trees. That was not the issue at Water Board Park.

Mr. Walter said Ms. Dahlsrud had started attending the neighborhood association meetings to get the word out regarding the Heritage Tree Program.

Mr. Warness asked about landslides and the Berry Hill and Forest Edge apartment complex evacuation. Mr. Walter said the owner had applied to put in a retaining structure. There were active slide zones in the City and when there was wet surface conditions, the situation was exacerbated. Existing developments had to be responded to as issues arose, but new development had to comply with a more stringent Geologic Overlay District Code. He explained the new code regulations.

Mr. Walter gave a Clackamette Cove update. The engineering plan had been submitted for staff review.

Mr. Herrmann discussed nominations for the Lower Harbor Trust Fund for the Willamette Falls region. The City Commission authorized spending \$50,000 for a feasibility study for what could be done in the Cove to meet the Trust Fund goals. An RFQ was being put together for companies to submit their proposals for the work. He would like to invite John Runyan to an upcoming meeting to discuss it further.

Mr. Walter said on March 30 there would be a meeting to give an update on the Willamette Falls Legacy Project. Two new planners had been hired.

Mr. Herrmann suggested helping Clackamas Community College to nominate a heritage tree stand on their property.

9. Future Agenda Items

10. Adjournment

Vice Chair Neeley adjourned the meeting at 8:35 PM.