City of Oregon City

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Meeting Minutes - Final

Natural Resources Committee

Wednesday, March 8, 2017 | **7:00 PM** | **Commission Chambers**

1. Call to Order

Chair Neeley called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

Present: 7 - Doug Neeley, Dorothy Dahlsrud, Trent Warness, Bill Clark, Nancy Broshot, Jerry Herrmann and Matt Kuhl

Staffers: 2 - Laura Terway and Pete Walter

2. Agenda Analysis

The agenda was adopted as presented.

3. Approval of the Minutes

There were no minutes to approve.

4. Presentations

Francesca Anton and Pam Kromer, residents of Oregon City, introduced a project they had been working on, an inventory list of notable and possible Heritage Trees in the McLoughlin neighborhood. Several years ago there was a Tree Committee that met for two years to review and update the City's Tree Ordinance. The purpose of this project was to post the list that had been compiled on the City's website. There were trees that should possibly be preserved, those that needed to be taken out, and there were areas where trees should be planted. More trees needed to be added to the Heritage Tree program along with better care of the trees in the neighborhood. They thought there was enough interest to get volunteers to help with this effort.

Pete Walter, Planner, discussed incentive options for the program, such as offering grants for maintaining the trees.

Ms. Anton thought they should survey those who had a possible Heritage Tree and see what they thought. Most people did not know about the program and needed help maintaining these trees, especially pruning them.

Ms. Dahlsrud was in support of the idea. She suggested there be more public education on it.

Chair Neeley suggested they apply for a Metro Enhancement Grant for funds to do a more detailed survey in the McLoughlin neighborhood. He thought the NRC would be happy to write a letter of support for their effort. The City's Finance Department could help direct them through the grant process.

Jesse Buss, resident of Oregon City, expressed his support for this effort. The NRC's letter of support was a good idea, but he requested the NRC go a step further. One of the City Commission's goals was to ehance the livablity of the community and this project directly spoke to that goal. He thought it needed to be addressed in the budget now, which was currently being prepared. He also suggested that a potential goal of this project could include sending notifications to new owners of the homes with significant trees on their land. He agreed incentives should be created for owners who wanted to list their trees as the trees were a public resource and benefit.

Chair Neeley thought the NRC could make a presentation to the City Commission on this issue. Mr. Walter could put in a request to the City Recorder.

Mr. Walter said this was also a goal of the NRC and he read the goal. Ms. Terway thought the NRC should hold a Work Session on the topic before going to the Commission. There was consensus to schedule a Work Session before the next regular meeting.

Mr. Herrmann volunteered to help Ms. Anton and Ms. Kromer in this effort.

5. Public Comments

Paul Edgar, resident of Oregon City, stated Canemah was platted in 1865 creating legal lots of record. There were also LIDAR map landslide conditions in this area. The area needed to be identified in the geologic hazard code. It became important when properties were to be developed, especially if they started to cut into the tow of the landslide hill. He thought developments in this area should be reviewed by the Natural Resources Committee. Canemah was also an area with many creeks and water percolating. There was a historic Canemah Waterworks as well which created a wetland. That wetland was a historically identified wetland, but it wasn't mapped. Because it was not mapped, there was no setback requirement and a builder wanted to build right up to the wetlands. He thought these were waters of the state since they had been delineated recently and they needed to be preserved. The City needed to make sure the code was correct in these situations.

Mr. Walter said the City had adopted multiple revisions to the Geologic Hazard Code, the most recent in 2010. He explained the definition of geologic hazard area, the required buffers, and overlay district.

Laura Terway, Community Development Director, explained how the City had received the request to set aside funding to look at these areas that were not originally covered in the Natural Resource Overlay District. That decision for funding had not been made yet. There were protections for the wetland itself, but there was no buffer, and there was a development application before the Historic Review Board. The application would also have to go through site plan and design review and geologic hazards review.

Mr. Walter described the overlay district expansion process.

There was discussion regarding notifications for these reviews and the process and cost for mapping the wetlands and creating a buffer.

Francesca Anton, resident of Oregon City, discussed ivy and invasive species in the City. Other cities had a No Ivy Day where ivy was removed and she thought the NRC should encourage the CIC and Parks Foundation to schedule some No Ivy Days.

6. Old Business

There was no old business.

7. New Business/Discussion Items

Mr. Walter presented information on a possible dark sky ordinance. He had distributed a copy of the existing section of the site plan and design review code that dealt with outdoor lighting which was adopted in 2008. This applied to development in all zones except single family residential. He explained the exemptions to the code. PGE controlled the street lights in the City and this code was written pre-LED technology. Light levels were required to be specified in applications. Generally it was not allowed to light beyond .5 foot candles at the property line. The lights had to be pointed downward and there were maximum height limits for lighting poles. Certain types of areas had to be lit to a minimum level of a .5 foot candle. They did not require other areas to be lit, but if areas were lit, they were not to overlight the areas. The International Dark Sky Association provided a model lighting code which recommended adopting an overlay in the City that regulated the lighting for certain areas. If the NRC wanted to change the code, it would take a legislative action and public hearing process.

Mr. Herrmann summarized what former NRC member Sha Spady had researched about this topic including the reasons for a dark sky ordinance. He suggested having Ms. Spady and other professionals come to a meeting to discuss it further.

Mr. Walter showed an example of the lighting plan for the Environmental Learning Center project.

There was discussion regarding how the street lights had been changed to LED lights.

Mike Mitchell, resident of Oregon City, thought dark skies was a great goal. He cautioned them about making regulations for residential lighting as it was expensive and there was not much demand. The current code was pre-LED and there was a section that called for specific bulb types and LED was not one of them. If they were going to make changes to the code, they should be written as technology neutral without saying what the source had to be because this industry was constantly changing. He suggested the LED lights be done warmer than they currently were, which was better for the health of humans and wildlife. It was a mistake to overlight areas at night as people did not need that much light. He also suggested negotiating with PGE to have down light cut off fixtures for new subdivisions.

Mr. Walter would talk to Public Works about this issue and come back to the NRC with more information.

Mr. Walter said the Willamette Falls Media Center had the NRC meeting dates as "to be announced" and that was being corrected. The City's website had the current dates for upcoming meetings.

Mr. Herrmann discussed his natural history walking tours proposal. This idea was tested in February and it was a positive experience. He referred to the NRC's work plan which included interfacing with tourism agencies for enhanced interpretive activities. He was asking for a letter of support from the NRC for a Clackamas County tourism grant he planned to apply for. He suggested the walks could be on the promenade, falls

overlook, Clackamas river, port of Oregon City, and Clackamette Cove. He trained youth to do the research and meet with qualified people and then lead the tours. The grant was due by the end of the month and would be used for marketing these tours and to pay the kids to do the research. He thought tours could be done in May, July, September, October, and November.

Chair Neeley clarified the NRC could write a letter of recommendation, but these were not NRC events. NRC members could help, but they would not be representing the NRC.

There was consensus for Chair Neeley to write a letter of support for the grant.

Mr. Walter thought the NRC work plan should be discussed at a future meeting. This was a working document and should be lined up with the recently adopted City Commission goals. He also needed direction on the items in the work plan that required funding, such as stream crossing signage and adding wetlands to the NROD. He requested the NRC send him any comments on the work plan, and he would compile the comments and bring them back to the next meeting.

8. Communications

Chair Neeley said the Greater Oregon City Watershed Council discussed putting signs on streams they had been working on. If they provided the signs, Public Works would be able to install them. He showed an example of the logo that would be on the signs. This was also an NRC work plan item, but it might not be a budget item for the City if the Watershed Council was able to do this.

There was consensus for the Watershed Council to move forward with the signs.

Ms. Dahlsrud had been attending the Parks Foundation meetings. Every Tuesday this month, Oregon City Brewing would donate $1 per pint to the Parks Foundation. There was a bottle drive for the Parks Foundation as well.

9. Future Agenda Items

Mr. Herrmann suggested a presentation by the Parks Foundation regarding the Water Board Park hillside. He would also like a discussion regarding the water quality issues at the Cove.

Mr. Walter said for the next meeting, there would be a Work Session on Heritage Trees and there would be an update on the lighting code from Public Works. There were no more vacancies on the NRC, and he suggested at the next meeting nominating a Secretary to help with the agenda preparation.

10. Adjournment

Chair Neeley adjourned the meeting at 9:03 PM.