



CITY OF OREGON CITY

CITIZEN INVOLVEMENT COMMITTEE (CIC)

MINUTES

Virtual Meeting
Monday, March 01, 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

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

PRESENT: 11- Karla Laws, John Kies, Bob La Salle, Steve Van Haverbeke, Dennis Anderson, Linda Baysinger, Karin Morey, Amy Willhite, Dorothy Dalhsrud, Denise Beasley, Jeff Akin, Harold and Jody (last names not stated)

STAFFERS: 2 - Senior Planner, Christina Robertson-Gardiner and City Commissioner Denyse McGriff.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no public comments.

PRESENTATIONS

1. Chamber of Commerce - Victoria Meinig

Victoria Meinig, Director of the Oregon City Chamber of Commerce (Chamber), provided an update. The Chamber received Cares Act funds through Clackamas County, and they are one of several business recovery centers that can assist small businesses apply for PPE grants. The PPE is on pause currently, but the contract with the County will be extended through June 2021. There is a fundraising auction event on March 10, 2021. The Chamber member directory will be published and available at the end of March 2021.

2. Forest Ridge Emergency Annexation - Dave Hays

David Hays, resident of Oregon City, presented his emergency annexation of his property into Oregon City due to sewer issues. There are no zoning changes regarding the property. Ms. Robertson-Gardiner indicated that since the South End neighborhood is not meeting this presentation to the Citizen Involvement Committee (CIC) was a last requirement, per the annexation process.

3. Oregon City Behavioral Health Specialist - Valentia Muggia

Valentia Muggia, Behavioral Health Specialist with the Oregon City Police Department introduced herself and described her new position in the department. She has been in the mental health field for 20 years and intervention services for over 10 years. Ms. Muggia primary function is to reach out to clients experiencing mental health crisis issues and also their families.

Amy Willhite asked about engaging someone with issues and Ms. Muggia explained about voluntary and involuntary holds and that her services are limited to within Oregon City.

Dorothy Dalhsrud asked about a recurring complaint with a homeless person in crisis in her neighborhood and what to do. Ms. Muggia discussed calling the non-emergency police line and reporting a mental health issue so she would receive a call out and would respond with an officer.

Ms. Laws asked if there were plans to do proactive mental health education in neighborhoods or could she provide service on the homeless shower days at the vet clinic in Barclay Hills. Ms. Muggia indicated that her current position is mostly limited to crisis services and does not provide for much educational outreach.

Mike Mitchell, member of the Planning Commission in attendance, asked about the percentage of homeless individuals that have mental health issues. Ms. Muggia indicated that only 10% of the crisis calls are homeless related and that most are the elderly and young people.

Mr. Anderson asked about if encountering mental health person, what to do. Ms. Muggia indicated to call the non-emergency police number and indicate a mental health issue is involved.

4. Suggested Charter Changes - Mike Mitchell

Mike Mitchell, resident of Oregon City and member of the Planning Commission, spoke to the CIC as a resident and not as a Planning Commission member. Mr. Mitchell asked the CIC to request the City Commission start a review of the City Charter. Mr. Mitchell specifically indicated he thinks there are issues with how candidates must pick specific positions and their opponents, preventing the residents from selecting their favorite candidates. Mr. Mitchell also indicated that there are issues with how members are chosen for Historic Review Board and Planning Commission, which matter to people's lives. Mr. Mitchell also feels term limitations need clarification and that this a good time to conduct the charter review due to renewed citizen interest in light of recent City events. Mr. Mitchell requested the CIC Chair to write a letter to the City Commission requesting the City Charter review.

Commissioner McGriff indicated charter review was included in the top 10 goals recently discussed in by the City Commission in the recent months.

Karin Morey indicated the charter had recently been updated for inclusiveness.

Commissioner McGriff indicated the City Commission was aware of his charter review suggestion.

Dennis Anderson supported forming an ad hoc committee to look at having Commissioners represent specific neighborhoods to improve communications.

Motion made by Linda Baysinger, seconded by Karla Laws, to direct CIC Chair La Salle to draft a letter to the City Commission requesting a review of the City Charter.

Amy Willhite, Karin Morey and Dennis Anderson discussed that the the City Charter review request letter should include specific requests.

Ms. Robertson-Gardiner indicated an ad hoc group would be formed through the City Commission. The CIC would have a role in the ad hoc committee.

Karin Morey commented on prior charter changes and asked Mr. Mitchell what he was referring to. Mr. Mitchell reiterated what he had mentioned earlier.

The members of the CIC discussed withdrawing the motion. Karla Laws withdrew her second of the motion. Linda Baysinger renewed her motion. John Kies indicated he would second the motion. Linda Baysinger clarified that her motion is specifically for a letter including the recommendations by Mike Mitchell.

Motion made by Linda Baysinger, seconded by John Kies, for CIC Chair La Salle to draft a letter to the City Commission requesting a City Charter review, specifically on how Commission positions and board/committee members are chosen and their term limitations.

Voting Yea: Karla Laws, John Kies, Bob La Salle, Steve Van Haverbeke, Dennis Anderson, Linda Baysinger, Amy Willhite, Dorothy Dahlsrud, Jeff Akin

Voting Nay: Denise Beasley, Karin Morey

5. Mitigation Funding - Jerry Herrmann

Mr. Herrmann provided a presentation concerning the opportunity to create an environmental mitigation banking program for the North End District, including the Clackemette Cove and the surrounding areas. Mitigation banking is a system of credits and debits devised to ensure that ecological loss, especially to wetlands and streams resulting from various development works, is compensated for by the preservation and restoration of wetlands, natural habitats, streams, etc. in other areas so that there is no net loss to the environment. Mr. Hermann explained the benefits of forming a mitigation district and provided examples of mitigation projects in other local cities and their positive outcomes. There is an upcoming clean-up event on March 13, 2021 at Clackamette Cove.

Dorothy Dahlsrud commented that Oregon City needed to pursue the mitigation banking. Mr. Hermann indicated he had spoken with City staff recently as to the current status.

Denise Beasley asked how much money was available. Mr. Hermann indicated there could be upwards of \$100 million available for all the associated projects.

Ms. Robertson-Gardiner indicated she spoke with Pete Walter, Senior Planner, and he will be checking on the mitigation funding effort and report back to the CIC.

Commissioner McGriff indicated that Mr. Konkol is negotiating with mitigation banker RestorCap Investments on re-entering an agreement.

John Kies asked if there are different mitigation funding sources that should be pursued and Mr. Hermann indicated there were and provided examples.

6. Activation of Neighborhoods - Bob La Salle and Christina Robertson-Gardiner

Mr. La Salle recognized the individuals in the inactive neighborhoods that have responded and are taking action to organize and reactivate.

Ms. Robertson-Gardiner commented that active neighborhoods could partner with reactivating neighborhoods to help them review their bylaws and vote in new officers.

Amy Willhite and Karin Morey indicated they were willing to help. Harold and Jody (no last names mentioned) asked how they would go about getting assistance and they were advised in discussion.

Ms. Robertson-Gardiner can set-up one-time Zoom meetings for the reactivating neighborhoods to connect to other neighborhoods.

Karla Laws offered to have members of the reactivating neighborhoods participate in their next meeting on Zoom to gain experience with holding meetings.

Commissioner McGriff offered any assistance possible to the reactivating neighborhoods.

MINUTES

STAFF LIAISON UPDATES**7. Staff Liaison Update**

Christina Robertson-Gardiner presented an update on the recent ice storm that caused significant damage throughout the City. City crews have been working 24/7 to clear roads and remove dangerous debris. The ice storm resource page has updated information on tree and debris management and other community resources. The City encouraged neighbors to check on the welfare of others and appreciate community members who are offering to help friends and neighbors experiencing hardship.

Letters to residents located within inactive meeting neighborhood association boundaries were mailed the first week of February. Those interested in helping to reform neighborhood associations can contact CIC Chair Bob La Salle or CIC Liaison Christina Robertson-Gardiner for more information. Also discussed was how to sign up for the Trail News Monthly E-newsletter, how to learn about development applications in the City and how to submit a public records request.

Commissioner McGriff provided an update on electrical information related to the ice storm that was posted on the City website and how the City staff helped with the ice storm responses. The Commission met for the third goal setting session and related the progress made on prioritizing goals. Commissioner McGriff is willing to meet with residents and hear their concerns on any issue.

GENERAL BUSINESS**ROUNDTABLE**

Steve Van Haverbeke- They held a general meeting on Feb 22, 2021 and discussed the lowering of speed limit on Holcomb. Residents are concerned about a potential road through Park Place Park to access private property. A steering committee meeting will be held on March 15, 2021 regarding the Park Place Park playground equipment was damaged in the storm.

John Kies- They held a general meeting in January 2021. Meeting again on March 23, 2021.

Linda Baysinger- No meeting was held due to the ice storm. Residents of the Canemah neighborhood struggled during and after the storm and were not aware of what the City was doing in response.

Dennis Anderson- They had a reach-out from the developer of the Cottages, who has faced issues with the neighborhood regarding his construction.

Karla Laws- There will be a meeting next Tuesday March 9, 2021 as a general check-in with residents.

Bob La Salle- no update.

Denise Beasley- They held a steering committee meeting on February 4, 2021.

Karin Morey- Rivercrest Park had considerable damage. Complimented the City responses to the storm damage. Members are staying in touch as much as possible. Ms. Morey asked about when the compatible change survey will go out. Ms. Robertson-Gardiner indicated the link to the survey will be going out soon.

Amy Willhite- They had a steering committee meeting on general business and area developers have had issues regarding construction. Ms. Willhite was grateful for all the City's work at the Cove after the storm. Some clean-up issues in the neighborhood, post-storm. Clarification with Christina regarding the email spam that had been previously received and what efforts the City has done to lessen or eliminate the spam.

Jeff Akin- The first membership meeting will be on April 6, 2021 in partnership with the Hillendale neighborhood.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 9:07 PM.