



CITY OF OREGON CITY

CITIZEN INVOLVEMENT COMMITTEE (CIC)

MINUTES

Virtual Meeting
Monday, February 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

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

Present: 9- Karla Laws, John Kies, Steve VanHaverbeke, Dennis Anderson, Linda Baysinger, Karin Morey, Amy Willhite, Dorothy Dalhsrud, and Denise Beasley

Absent: 1 - Bob La Salle

Staffers: 5 - Senior Planner Christina Robertson-Gardiner, City Manager Tony Konkol and City Commissioner Denyse McGriff.

PRESENTATIONS

1. Downtown Oregon City - Liz Hannum liz@downtownoregoncity.org

Liz Hannum, Executive Director for the Downtown Oregon City Association, provided an update that two new restaurant parklets have been established. The City permit cost has remained low, but the materials to build out the parklets is expensive. There are three new retail businesses and there are numerous business vacancies currently. There will be the openings of a food cart pod at the end of the month on 14th Street. Parking downtown is still free, but vehicles are ticketed if parked over two hours in one location. The shared parking program with designated parking lots for after-hours public use continues. The "Oregon Trail Game" is becoming a virtual game for tourists.

2. Proposed Improvements at John McLoughlin Elementary School, Mercedes Serra 3J Consulting

Wes Rogers, Bond Manager with the Oregon City School District, presented the proposed improvements at the John McLoughlin Elementary School on South End Road, with construction beginning in early June through August 2021. The school will have security and ADA upgrades to interiors and outside areas. There will also be improvements to the crosswalk across South End Road. Project funding for the capital improvements is through a bond measure approved by voters in 2018.

3. Landfill Development - Elaine Franklin- Summit Development

Brad Kilby, and Seth Henderson with Summit Development Group presented the proposal to develop the Rossman landfill area next to Home Depot and HWY 213. Mr. Henderson outlined that Summit has worked closely with the community and Oregon City for input and talked about the prior development proposals and what was lacking with those proposals. The area is considered mixed use including the potential for multi-family housing and grocers. Development efforts have been ongoing for the last fourteen months.

Greg Mitchell with LRS, presented on the site plans, constraints and design/design objectives, including how potential floods would impact the site. The design calls for streets to replicate a downtown feel with high pedestrian access and public spaces. The development application process was discussed. Mr. Henderson outlined the various potential federal and state funding sources that may be utilized, including urban renewal funds. Potential retail opportunities were discussed, taking into consideration the current economic situation and future economic recovery. Physical construction is estimated to be in 2024-2025. Potential retail/entertainment businesses were discussed that could occupy the three larger buildings on the site.

Kurt Lango with Lango Hansen Landscape presented on the proposed landscape and open spaces on the site. Because the site was previously a landfill, additional soil will need to be brought in to sustain the variety of native plantings proposed.

Phil Worth with Kittelson and Associates presented the proposed infrastructure and roadway improvements that will be implemented concurrent to the site. Enhanced pedestrian/bicycle routes are envisioned throughout and connecting to the End of the Oregon Trail facility. A traffic impact study is being conducted and will be submitted in March this year.

In the open question and answer segment with the public, the methane recovery system was discussed, which is a DEQ requirement for the site for thirty years due to the prior landfill. Special filtering will be used to mitigate any leaching of subterranean toxins in the soil from mixing with the water table during heavy rains/flooding. It is anticipated there will be input and interaction with the various local business associations on how to attract public interest to the site but also balance public interest with the established downtown and the mill development. Mr. Henderson indicated there are no comparable mixed-use developments given the topography/issues.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no public comments.

MINUTES

4. October 5, 2020 Draft Minutes

Motion made by Dennis Anderson, seconded by Linda Baysinger, to approve the Meeting Minutes for October 5, 2020 and November 2, 2020. Motion carried with the following vote:

Aye: 9 - Dorothy Dalhsrud, Linda Baysinger, John Kies, Denise Beasley, Amy Willhite, Steve VanHaverbeke, Dennis Anderson, Karin Morey and Karla Laws

5. November 2, 2020 Draft Minutes

STAFF LIAISON UPDATES

6. Liaison Report

Inactive Neighborhood Association Letters to residents located in inactive/not currently meeting neighborhood association boundaries will be in the mail the first week of February. Residents that are interested in helping to reform neighborhood associations can contact Bob LaSalle or Christina Robertson-Gardiner for more information. The funds for each letter were taken out of their respective postcard budgets and approved by the CIC at the January 2021 meeting. A statement soliciting the public to join their neighborhood association has been added to the monthly e-newsletter and social media posts.

Two CIC members have indicated that they have been spammed recently and noted either the Neighborhood Association or CIC membership in the spam. CIC members were advised to let staff know if this should happen to them. Additional CIC members indicated they were also subject to spam. The City is looking at ways to balance providing contact information on our website and reducing spam.

Also covered was the development application process, how to see new land use notices, how to place a public records request.

ELECTIONS

GENERAL BUSINESS

ROUNDTABLE

Steve VanHaverbeke- A steering committee meeting was held on January 18, 2021 and general meeting also on January 18th via Zoom discussing Park Place Urbanization Plan. Mayoral candidates presented at the same meeting. The Park Place area sign was damaged in the recent storm and a new sign is going in with the help of city staff. A general meeting will be held on February 22, 2021. The speed limit on Holcomb Boulevard has been reduced to 35 miles per hour.

Linda Baysinger- Concerned about the fire and burnt building at the Blue Heron Mill. City Manager Konkol commented that the Grande Ronde tribe is working with the DEQ to determine if the burnt building should be demolished. A decision should be made by May.

Karla Laws- Their last meeting was on January 12, 2021 with mayor candidate's speeches. Concern regarding an abandoned house on Molalla Avenue that recently caught fire due to squatters inside the structure. Commissioner McGriff indicated the owner has been contacted and efforts are being made to board up the structure or demolish it.

Amy Willhite- Speed bump went in near the Gaffney Lane School.

Denise Beasley- Update regarding the study for the proposed pedestrian bridge between Oregon City and West Linn.

Commissioner Denyse McGriff- The City Commission Retreat was held on January 29 – 30, 2021 to review and establish goals. A wide range of topics and issues were discussed in depth and additional work will be done by the Commissioners to address concerns. Update on the Molalla Avenue project and work on the new Public Works Facility.

City Manager Tony Konkol- Commented there was a presentation to the Oregon City Business Alliance with the City's year-end report.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 PM.