City of Oregon

Meeting Minutes

Natural Resources Committee

January 13, 2016 7 p.m.

1. Meeting was convened at 7:00 p.m.

Staff: Pete Walter, Planner and Kelly Reed, Assistant Planner

Committee Members: Bill Clark, Trent Warness, Richard Craven, Doug Neeley, Jerry Herrmann, Dorothy Dahlsrud

The committee welcomed new members Dorothy Dahlsrud and Trent Warness.

Trent introduced himself and told the committee he recently moved from Gladstone to Oregon City. He commented he wanted to volunteer to contribute back to the community.

Dorothy introduced herself to the committee and stated that she prefers to be called Didi. Didi says she is a resident of Oregon City since 1975 who has recently retired.

Current members introduced themselves.

2.Agenda Analysis

Pete Walter explained the process for adding to agenda and asked that this be completed by email.

Kelly Reed, Assistant Planner, introduced herself and presented to the committee. She explained she is preparing a grant application for a group of organizations, including Oregon City and the Natural Resources Committee, by association. This grant is for Nature and Neighborhoods regional trails from Metro. The application is for a Master Plan for the McLoughlin to Canemah Trail, which Kelly explained is a section of the Oregon City Loop trail. She presented members with a map of the area she discussed. She stated that collaborating partners are: City of Oregon City, Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee (PARC), City of Oregon City Planning staff and Public Works, Canemah Neighborhood Association (C.N.A.), Oregon City Trail Alliance, McLoughlin Neighborhood Association and the Clackamas County Historical Society. Objectives in master plan process include; determining exact location of trail, type of trail, ADA accessibility and user types. Kelly stated the grant amount is $25,000, which would be used to hire a consultant and would be matched with cash, materials, staff and volunteer time by the City. Kelly explained volunteers from the community would be invited to give input in both an in-door and walk the potential trail format. Educational opportunities, invasive species removal and project ideas are ways Kelly stated volunteers can become involved.

Kelly discussed the potential location for the trail and showed slides and photos, including a natural resources overlay way presented over the map for the potential trail. Committee members discussed and raised questions about the general plan for trail. Kelly stated that, pending grant decision and

funding, NRC members would be asked to contribute expertise in Fall 2016. After the master plan is completed, the process would move into construction planning.

Doug Neeley gave his opinions on the potential location and impact of trail. He also suggested involving the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) and getting their input.

Kelly answered committee questions about how they should respond to help with the grant application. Kelly suggested sending a letter composed by committee or by a single member of committee that states they are interested in the project and plan to help with the process.

Jerry Herrmann asked the committee if they want to submit a letter and the response was, yes.

Didi asked Kelly Reed what the CNA has said about this potential trail. Kelly responds that they are a partner and they want to participate.

Kelly concluded her presentation and the committee thanked her.

3. Adoption of minutes

Jerry asked if there were minutes to adopt. Agenda of 8/12/2015 meeting were read by Pete Walter.

3a. Approval of minutes

Bill Clark moved to approve minutes, Richard seconded. Motion was approved, with vote as follows:

Bill Clark aye
Trent Warness aye
Richard Craven aye
Doug Neeley aye
Jerry Herrmann aye
Dorothy Dahlsrud aye

4.Public comment on non agenda items

No public comments

5. New Business

5a. Election of natural resources officers for 2016.

Chair, Vice Chair and Secretary are positions to be filled and Pete Walter read the guidelines and responsibilities for these positions.

Jerry nominated Richard as Secretary. Members discussed the nomination. Richard refused the nomination. Jerry Herrmann withdrew the nomination.

Richard Craven nominated Doug Neeley for Chair, Bill Clark seconded the nomination. Motion passed with vote as follows:

Bill Clark aye
Trent Warness aye
Richard Craven aye

Jerry Herrmann aye
Dorothy Dahlsrud aye

Discussion moved to Vice Chair position and its responsibilities. Bill Clark nominated Didi Dahlsrud for Vice Chair. Trent Warness nominated himself for Vice Chair; Richard Craven seconded.

Committee members discussed Vice Chair and Chair's public responsibilities with Pete Walter.

Doug Neeley nominated Trent Warness for Vice Chair and Didi Dahlsrud or Secretary. Richard Craven seconded both of these nominations. Doug volunteered to write a letter of support for the grant application mentioned earlier in the meeting. Motion passed, with vote as follows:

Bill Clark aye
Trent Warness aye
Richard Craven aye
Doug Neeley aye
Jerry Herrmann aye
Dorothy Dahlsrud aye

Jerry exited the meeting.

5b. Review and Update Natural Resources Committee 2016 work plan.

Pete led a review of the work plan and discussion of what document is used for and how to make changes. There was a discussion of items within the document and who is assigned to each task. Pete said this document is a working document and should be updated frequently. Pete discussed projects referenced in the document. He stated that NRC can help with an upcoming Earth Day and Arbor Day event at Clackamette Cove and Hillendale Park. He stated that the NRC can play an advocacy role in getting the public excited about these events and getting people to volunteer. Pete said the Parks Department is working on getting plant materials for Hillendale Park to specifically address the need for shade on its stream.

Ginger Redlinger entered meeting.

Doug posed a question as to whether the Watershed Council has been informed of this need for planting materials.

Doug and Richard discussed who is working on a draft materials for the NRC that would become a City document. Doug decided to take this task out of the work plan because the person who was working on it is no longer a part of the committee and similar information for public already exists.

Didi asked if the City is trying to become a City of Streams in the same way it is a City of Trees. Doug suggested finding a place to fit that into a different category.

Pete continued to address items in the work plan and said that some items are on going without a deadline. Pete discussed responsibilities of Chair and Vice Chair within the work plan. Doug asked that titles be used instead of people's names. Changes in dates of work plan meetings were discussed. It was decided to make some dates earlier to avoid problems with attendance during the holidays.

Didi and Doug discussed placing signs on trails and at streams to give the public more information about their existence. Pete wrote developing signage for improved public awareness into the work plan. He discussed the regulations of signage and the need for Public Works to be involved.

Scheduling a meeting with the Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee is discussed as being part of the NRC's bylaw. Pete said that Doug is also on the PRAC but stated a need for both committees to communicate. Doug suggested that both committees come together to share budget items that could be shared.

Pete talked about needing to communicate and schedule meetings with the Planning Commission. He also asked for discussion on maintaining a list to share with Planning and City Commissions.

Ginger discussed possible combining of items that seem to repeat on the work plan. Changes to work plan were agreed upon by all members.

Didi spoke about communicating with schools about the Heritage Tree program and said school properties hold many trees that could be a part of the program. Didi stated that she heard from schools about their concerns about what it would involve from them, as far as workload, to be a part of the Heritage Tree program. Doug said the city is involved with the schools as far as replanting trees that had to be removed and this involvement may allow for connections to schools about the Heritage program.

Doug asked the committee to start at top of the work plan document and look for areas where activities can be entered or deleted in the plan. Ginger stated that she was reluctant to cut any items from the work plan that align with City's master plan. The committee discussed the need for their goals and City of Oregon City's goals to match up.

Pete Walter stated he will bring an updated draft to the next NRC meeting. Committee decided to move to next item on agenda.

5c. Discussion of Clackamas Community College Environmental Learning Center.

Pete presented new plans for CCC but said they have not been reviewed by on-call wetland consultants. He gave information to the committee about how the back-and-forth process with consultants goes until the plan is approved. Pete explained about what happens when the Public Notice period begins, what type of notice it is and that it will be 14 days. Pete explained the laws the NRC must follow to give their input on the project, including public notification and all committee discussion.

Doug suggested having CCC present their plan to the NRC, and then asked about a proposed outdoor learning building, which someone on the committee then confirmed has been deleted from the plan. Pete talked about why this change may have been made by CCC because they discussed it with the planning department.

Pete said that restoration of habitat, enhancement of ELC ponds for storm water management, building modifications, trail improvements and interpretive features are all items included in the CCC ELC plan.

Doug asked if tree removal is part of the plan and Pete responded that tree removal will be addressed in one of the sections. Doug indicated that he wants to make sure that any trees that are removed are used for enhancing habitat for animals within the plan area. He discussed specific species that need land

habitat as well as water. He again stated his desire to have CCC to present their plan to the NRC. Pete confirmed that he will talk to CCC about this possible presentation.

Pete addressed a question from member about when public notice will begin. He stated that it will begin after plan finalization and discussed where the notices for public comment will be posted.

Doug discussed the evolution of plans for this site over time and said that he believes the college has been receptive to public input about the plan. Pete stated that the Metro funding for this project requires public involvement and engagement.

The committee members discussed an interview that Doug will be have with CCC.

Doug asked about stormwater management for the entire CCC campus and said that he assumes it will be dealt with in the master plan. He indicated that he wants to address it with CCC when and if they present to NRC.

Richard stated he does not understand the complex stormwater issues. Doug spoke about these issues, but wanted to know from Pete if the ELC plan is separate from the main campus plan he has heard is coming. He said he was of the opinion that these plans should be separate and stated that to Pete. Pete shared about Public Works' new standards for low environmental impact. He said he does not know the technical answer to Doug's question and would have to check with Engineering. He restated the question per request from member: Is the ELC sized to handle the master plan or will the plan have to be revisited? Doug asserted his opinion about how the ELC plan and master plan can join up with an example of large fields being used for flooding events. The committee discussed what water basin or basins are used at CCC.

6. Old Business

No old business

7. Communications

Doug addressed the NRC's being left out of the decision on sugar maple tree and asked Pete if he has information. Pete shared that the owner of the property where the tree is located is currently out of the country, which has made this process more difficult to maneuver. Legal description problems within documents submitted about the tree kept them from being recorded. There was a rain and wind event that occurred during this process and it was decided to remove the tree following discussion with owner, after a section fell in a public right-of-way. It was then discovered that the tree was rotted on the inside and would be a safety concern if left or if half of it was left standing. Didi stated that she went to the property during that time and saw the damaged tree herself. Pete said that the City asked for an arborist report before any further cutting was done and that he never received a response. He said that the City Manager and the Public Works director went ahead with the removal because of safety. Multiple members of committee said that they saw the tree in question and do not doubt it was diseased.

Richard asked Pete about communication between the City and NRC committee and how to best get information to everyone. The tree that came down is referenced as an issue that should have had more communication. Pete responded that the City of Oregon City staff try to reply to questions as much as

they can. He said that they are a staff of four people and two will be working on the Willamette Falls Legacy project. He said that he hears the committee's request and will try to do a better job of communicating in respect to items that NRC would like to provide input on.

Committee members and Pete discussed an incident in which a private citizen had public trees removed to improve his view. Richard asked why this incident had not been reported in the news, and Didi opined that the incident had been hushed. Cross-talk occurred between members about this incident.

Richard stated that he does have old business. He asked members about a "second letter." Ginger referred to the word "meandering" in a plan. The word in the plan was changed from "pooling" to "meandering." Pete clarified that this is the second letter relating to the CCC master plan. Richard said that is related to the ELC but the committee has other concerns that were to be addressed in a second letter. Pete said that this second letter was emailed to Bob Cochran, Dean of CCC Campus Services. Richard said he did not see the second letter. Pete said he sent the letter to everyone. Pete asked Richard to contact him ahead of the meeting so he can prepare for questions about a particular item. Doug asked Pete to send the committee the email that he sent Bob Cochran and Pete affirmed that he will.

Doug commented that the Department of Fish and Wildlife seems to be taking an interest in Abernethy Creek. Pete suggested looking at a potential collaboration for Abernethy Creek. Doug said that a problem would be a huge dark long culvert. Bill asserted that things like this can be changed. The Committee discussed the size dimensions of the culvert, back and forth. Pete asked about John Runyon's (who is a watershed ecologist) assessment. Doug said three individuals are contributing to the assessment.

Trent said he is trying to gather information and figure out what is being talked about.

Bill spoke about cooperative weed management and stated that it's a worthwhile effort. He asked why two planners have to work on the Willamette Falls Legacy project.

Pete talked about the two employees working with architects and demands from four other agencies. Bill said he is concerned about the project during the economic downturn. He said he is wondering what the owner will do. Pete said things sound positive when the City has discussions. He said they are looking to backfill planner positions and has candidates for this.

DIdi asked about Resolution 1529 from a discussion in an old meeting. Doug said this issue was from conflicting maps and Dorothy stated she tried to see these old maps. She then asked about 17 pine trees near Red Soils. She said the school district illegally removed trees and suggested talking to them about Heritage trees. She wanted to know how to let everyone know when trees have been removed. She wanted to know if NRC has any repercussions when trees are taken down. Doug said these actions have to go through the City itself. Didi said she is talking to the District Attorney about this. Pete said that the City does not issue permits to a private citizen to remove trees from public parks and that people can be prosecuted for doing so. Richard asked Didi if she has the name of the person who cut down the trees. She responded that she had two names. Cross-talk occurred between the committee members and then Pete said that City Parks Department is looking into the matter.

Didi asked if there is homework for next meeting. Pete said that the City Recorder's office likes to do a briefing for new members on general protocol for the committee and stated that he hopes CCC will

present to committee. Richard said they will get a packet in the mail. Pete asked that future agenda ideas be sent to Doug. Didi talked about a judge who used to have a tree that had to be renewed and now a new judge lives where a replanting will occur. She said this can be a fun item for the committee and said she looks forward to prosecution of person who cut down the tree.

8. Adjourned

The meeting was adjourned at 9:17 p.m.