



City of Oregon City

625 Center Street
Oregon City, OR 97045
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Meeting Minutes - Final Natural Resources Committee

Wednesday, January 8, 2014

7:00 PM

Commission Chambers

1. Call to Order

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

Present: 4 - Bryon Boyce, Bob Roth, Douglas DeHart and Jerry Herrmann

Absent: 2 - Sha Spady and Richard Craven

Staffers: 1 - Pete Walter

2. Public Comments on Non-Agenda Items

There were no public comments on non-agenda items.

3. Discussion Items:

3a [14-061](#) Heritage Tree Nomination for Edward Howell House - 712 12th Street

Sponsors: Planner Pete Walter

Pete Walter, Planner, stated the tree was across from Barclay School and was a Douglas Fir 39 inches thick and well taken care of with a height of 100 feet. Mayor Neeley had nominated the tree. He explained the research that was done on the nearby historic house and tree. The tree was viewable from the public right of way and not many trees were similar in the area. He discussed how the tree met all of the review criteria and that he endorsed the nomination.

The Committee discussed the merits of the tree and how it met the criteria.

A motion was made by Mr. Roth, seconded by Mr. Herrmann, to recommend approval of the heritage tree nomination to the City Commission. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 4 - Bryon Boyce, Bob Roth, Douglas DeHart and Jerry Herrmann

3b [14-062](#) NRC Goal Setting and Priorities Discussion with Carol Kemhus

Sponsors: Community Development Director Tony Konkol and Planner Pete Walter

Mr. Walter introduced Carol Kemhus, visioning consultant. Chair Boyce and Mr. Herrmann had met with Ms. Kemhus earlier for a preliminary discussion on a more effective focus for the committee.

Mr. Herrmann reviewed the NRC Issue Summary. Some of the issues were lack of information about natural resource issues until they happened, not finding out about

projects that the NRC could interact on, receiving things for a sign off instead of allowing for constructive input, meeting annually with the Parks and Recreation Board, want to be in the loop instead of playing catch up, and NRC recommendations needed to be moved forward.

Mr. Walter suggested a more structured approach for recommendations. Mr. DeHart thought there should be a certain class of projects or actions that it would be the normal procedure to take to the NRC.

Ms. Kemhus read a list of concerns she thought the NRC had including process, communication, respect, being heard, and information in a timely manner. She began a discussion on which goals were the most important to the NRC in an effort to narrow down the goals to three.

There was discussion regarding needing thresholds for projects; that if it affected a certain number of trees, wetlands, or the Public Works or Parks departments, it should be sent to the NRC. There was further discussion regarding what was the NRC's role.

There was consensus that Ms. Spady would combine the first four goals and come up with a broad statement that could be used as a preamble or mission statement. This would be a draft and the whole committee would review it.

There was discussion regarding the rest of the goals. Some goals were crossed off and others were identified as activities. Mr. Roth suggested adding climate change to the list.

The changes would be brought back in March for a discussion with the full NRC in attendance.

4. NRC Member Reports

Chair Boyce announced the Illuminate Oregon City event on January 22.

Mr. Herrmann discussed trees being damaged by beavers in Clackamette Cove. He suggested the NRC send a recommendation to the City Parks department about what to do. He thought the trees that were weakened should be cut down and left in the Cove for the beavers. He also talked to the developers of the Cove to let them know about the beaver problem.

Chair Boyce suggested wrapping trees that were planned to be preserved in chicken wire and let the beavers have the rest of them.

There was consensus for Mr. Herrmann to write the recommendation to be forwarded to City staff.

A motion was made by Mr. Herrmann, seconded by Mr. Roth, to send a proposal to staff to protect desirable trees, allow the beavers to harvest other trees that were going to be removed anyway, and if the beavers did not finish a tree in two months, to fell the tree, and if trees were felled, fell them towards the water and leave them there. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 4 - Bryon Boyce, Bob Roth, Douglas DeHart and Jerry Herrmann

5. Staff Updates

Mr. Walter stated interviews for the two NRC openings would be held in February.

He gave an update on the Willamette Falls Legacy project and celebration event on February 6, discussed the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permit review and update of the stormwater design manual and grading standards, and reported on the South End Concept Plan, Tree City USA application, volunteer tree planting project, Municipal Code update, grant opportunities, and land use applications.

6. Future Agenda Items

Chair Boyce said for the next meeting, interviews would be held along with work on the goal project and a report on new development in Canemah. There was discussion regarding using the street tree in lieu fund for tree planting and partnership with Friends of Trees.

7. Adjournment

Chair Boyce adjourned the meeting at 9:46 PM.