

City of Oregon City
Meeting Minutes
Citizen Involvement Committee

January 6, 2020

7:00 PM

City Hall, Commission Chambers

1) Call to Order 7:00 PM

Members Present: Steve Van Haverbeke, Karla Laws, Janice Morris, Dennis Anderson, Linda Baysinger, John Kies, Denise Beasley, Bob La Salle, Rita Mills

Members Excused: Amy Willhite, Vern Johnson

Staff Present: Christina Robertson-Gardiner, Head Planner, Tony Konkol, City Manager, Rachel Lyles Smith, City Commissioner

2.) Presentations

2a.) Fernwood Apartments Sign Variance – Christopher Slovic, Ramsay Signs

Christopher Slovic and Todd Mros, representing Ramsay Signs, came to give a presentation to the Citizen Involvement Committee (CIC), since the apartments were in the South End neighborhood, which had no neighborhood association to which they could give their required presentation. They requested a sign variance for three non-illuminated entrance signs to the Fernwood Apartments. The apartments are in a single-family residential zone where only one sign is allowed. There are three signs there already, but they might not have gotten approval. They presented a sign design to the CIC, and let them know that the sign dimensions and numbers would comply with what was allowed for signs in a multi-resident zone, and also conformed to the fire department regulation of having the addresses on them, since the addresses on the buildings could not be seen. Head Planner Christina Robertson-Gardiner said she would let the Planning Commission know that Ramsay Signs had their required meeting and the process could continue.

2b.) Downtown Oregon City Association (DOCA) Update, Liz Hannum, Executive Director

Liz Hannum gave the CIC an update of what had been happening with the DOCA in the past year, explaining that Amy Willhite had invited her to do so. Ms. Hannum shared the 2019 Annual Report, detailing DOCA's events, income and expenditures. She pointed out that DOCA is a member of the National Main Street Organization and bases its marketing, economic, and organizational strategies on that model. The future focus is going to be on retail business generation. She opened the discussion for questions. Dennis Anderson asked her to talk about the elevator signs. She spoke of the holiday lighting of the elevator, and how DOCA has been working with Illuminate Oregon City for other lighting, and they are in the permit process with the City. She spoke of the fact that DOCA had just renewed their contract with the City to run the elevator for three more years, and is planning to have an informational kiosk on the observation desk, which would be up and running by March. Bob La Salle asked if there were any plans to reduce the amount of money DOCA gets from the City. Ms. Hannum stated that they had already received \$60,000 from the City for the next two years, and the Oregon Downtown Main Street Organization has a mandatory qualification of membership affiliation that an organization must

receive funding from its City to be a member. Mr. La Salle also asked if DOCA was doing anything about parking. Ms. Hannum said they are working on a shuttle service for events, and shared parking with private lots.

3.) Public Comments

There were no public comments.

4.) Staff Liaison Updates

Ms. Robertson-Gardiner had the presentation documents from the December meeting in a PDF on this month's agenda. She let the CIC know that if the individual neighborhood associations hadn't turned in a candidate application for the CIC for the new year, they needed to do that with Kattie Riggs, City Recorder, right away. She had requests from CIC members to learn more about development projects, and pointed out where to find them on the City website, and how to get on the listserv to do so.

5.) Elections

5a.) Election of Chair, Vice Chair and Secretary Positions

Janice Morris moved that the CIC hold off elections until next month, due to not having CIC representatives from four neighborhoods. John Kies seconded. A roll call vote was taken: Steve Van Haverbeke, aye, Denise Beaseley, aye, John Kies, aye, Dennis Anderson, yes, Janice Morris, aye. The motion was carried unanimously.

6.) General Business

6a.) Amendments to OCMC 12.30 - Citizen Involvement Committee Creation of Bylaws

The matter was continued until the next meeting, as the Bylaw Committee had not met yet.

6b.) Request for Citizen Involvement Committee Support: Park Place and Barclay Hills Neighborhood Association Request for Future Pedestrian Crossings

Mr. La Salle gave a presentation on behalf of the Park Place Neighborhood Association, asking for the support of the CIC in their quest to get the Public Works Department to prioritize installation of crosswalks on Holcomb Boulevard. He cited a 2017 traffic study which showed that over 9000 trips per day were taken on the road and, with new construction planned, that number would more than double. He also spoke to the fact that there are no sidewalks, traffic signals, or crosswalks on that stretch of road, and cited statistics of the City's other busiest roads that have multiple crosswalks or traffic lights, and have sidewalks. He mentioned that the Transportation Advisory Committee had already unanimously given them their support.

Ms. Laws spoke regarding the unsafe crossing situations on Molalla Avenue due to a lack of streetlights, and the hill the road is on, and mentioned that a pedestrian was killed while trying to cross at Pearl Street. The Park Place Neighborhood Association is requesting blinking traffic crossings in several spots on Molalla Ave. Janice Morris said that Officer Wadsworth had been the one who recommended that they ask for blinking crosswalks, because Police had noted that they were having a hard time on patrol seeing people cross the street. Mr. La Salle expressed his desire for the crosswalks, which he wanted to be blinking light ones also, due to the limited sight distance and speed limit on Holcomb.

Bob La Salle moved that the CIC draft a letter to Public Works in support of Park Place's and Barclay Hills' position to raise the priority of installing blinking light crosswalks and to get funding for them by any means possible. Janice Morris seconded. A voice vote was taken, and all members expressed unanimous support. Steve Van Haverbeke, aye, Denise Beaseley, aye, John Kies, aye, Dennis Anderson, yes, Janice Morris, aye. The motion passed.

7.) Roundtable

Bob La Salle, Park Place, passed.

Linda Baysinger, Canemah, said there will be a Steering Committee meeting on January 8 to talk about the 78 code violations discovered in the natural resources overlay and how it is affecting the residents.

John Kies, Caufield, said that they have new leadership in their Association, but otherwise not much is happening.

Karla Laws, Barclay Hills, reported that there will be an Association meeting on January 14 to discuss Vision 2020.

Janice Morris, Barclay Hills, nothing to add.

Steve Van Haverbeke, Park Place, said they will be having a Steering Committee meeting on January 20, with a presentation being given about the new playground structure for the park.

Dennis Anderson, Canemah, voiced his opinion that he was very disappointed in how the government was not acting in the best interest of the citizens of Canemah in regards to the natural resource overlay code violation findings, and said he believes that their arbitrary regulations were creating hardship, as well as emotional and financial trauma for the citizens.

Denise Beasley, McLoughlin, let the CIC know that the old hospital building was bought, and going to be significantly restored and turned into a 40-45-bed assisted-living center.

Ms. Robertson-Gardiner said she would provide the CIC with a link to information about what the Canemah issues referred to by Ms. Baysinger and Mr. Anderson.

Tony Konkol, City Manager, informed the CIC that James Graham would be the new Economic Development Manager, starting on January 21, and that the current library director, Maureen Cole, would be retiring on January 31, and would be replaced by Greg Williams, who would start on January 27.

Rachel Lyles Smith, City Commissioner, announced that the first official meet-and-greet with the Grand Ronde tribe would take place at the end of January.

8.) Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:25 PM.