



City of Oregon City

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

Monday, November 10, 2021

6:00 PM

Commission Chambers

1. Convene Regular Meeting and Roll Call

Chair Broshot called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

Present: 5 - Chair Nancy Broshot, Committee Member Carrie Young, Committee Member Mike Hamilton, Committee Member Devon Pilney, and Committee Member Samantha Wolf

Absent: 2 - Committee Member Brian Kvistler and Committee Member Chris Weaver

Staffers: 2 – Planner Kelly Reid and Public Works Director John Lewis

2. Adoption of the Agenda

The agenda was adopted as presented.

3. Public Comment

None.

4. Old Business: Street Tree List Update

Committee Member Wolf said she had gotten feedback from Oregon Department of Forestry on the species on the street tree list, especially suggestions for trees that could withstand ice storms and droughts.

John Lewis, Public Works Director, wanted to make sure the trees would not be a problem in the future regarding how they were planted and lifting sidewalks. He thought shrubs were a good solution for the smaller planter strips, however site distance at intersections was a concern.

Ms. Reid thought they could add an asterisk to those species and say not within a certain number of feet to an intersection.

There was discussion regarding putting bark mulch around the newly planted trees, adding more native species to the list, adding tree-like shrubs to the list, species to take off the list, species to put back on the list, recommended species for the 2.5 to 3 foot planter strips or recommending no trees in those narrow strips, alternative of replanting trees in front yards instead of in the planter strips, and what trees would be approved for front yards.

There was consensus to look at the narrow planter strip list again and add shrubs with visibility and pruning requirements. For replanting a tree in the front yard rather than the planter strip, the size of the tree would be based on how big the yard was. The list would be brought back to the next meeting.

Tree Planting Standards

Mr. Lewis asked for clarification on the proposed change to root barriers.

Chair Broshot said it was a recommendation for the root barrier to go on only one side of the new planting instead of all sides as the roots would not have enough room to develop.

Mr. Lewis was concerned about long root masses that would still affect the sidewalks. He showed a picture of a root mass that had been pulled up in the Trail View subdivision.

Ms. Reid suggested adding a condition that if there was infrastructure like a water meter, another root barrier would be added.

There was discussion regarding the minimum caliper size that should be planted, 1.5 vs 2 inches.

This item would be discussed at the next meeting.

5. New Business/Discussion Items: Friends of Trees call for planting volunteers for November 20

Christine Smith, Friends of Trees, said they would be planting 85 trees on November 20. They needed volunteers for this event and future events including crew leaders.

8. Communications

Committee Member Hamilton said this was his last meeting. Committee Member Young said it was her last meeting as well.

The Committee thanked them for their service.

Ms. Reid said it was Laura Terway's last day as well. She had taken a position with Happy Valley.

Mr. Lewis discussed the sidewalk replacement assistance program and street tree assistance program as well as funding for a City Forester position.

9. Future Agenda Items

There was discussion regarding future agenda items.

Committee Member Wolf suggested a discussion on next year's Arbor Day celebration and possible OCT grant.

10. Adjournment

Chair Broshot adjourned the meeting at 8:42 PM.