



City of Oregon City

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

Monday, January 12, 2022

6:00 PM

Commission Chambers

1. Convene Regular Meeting and Roll Call

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

Present: 2 - Chair Nancy Broshot and Committee Member Samantha Wolf

Absent: 3 - Committee Member Devon Pilney, Committee Member Brian Kvistler, and Committee Member Chris Weaver

Staffers: 4 – Public Works Director John Lewis, Right of Way and Construction Manager Dante Posadas, Community Development Director Aquilla Hurd-Ravich, and Planning Manager Teresa Montalvo

2. Adoption of the Agenda

3. New Business/Discussion items: Officers & Staffing

4. Public Comment

*****Recording started here*****

5. Old Business: Street Tree List Update and Street Tree Planting Standards Drawing

John Lewis, Public Works Director; Dante Posadas, Right of Way and Construction Manager; and Teresa Montalvo discussed changes to the street tree planting standards that the NRC suggested at the last meeting. These included removing the 24-inch root barrier on all sides and removing the root barrier 12 inches from back of curb or impervious surface, adding a root barrier flush with the sidewalk edge at an 18-inch depth, minimum 10 feet length centered on tree trunk, and creating a soil berm 3-5 inches high around the tree center after backfilling. The root ball should rest on a pedestal of compacted subgrade to prevent settling. The root barrier should be installed flush against the paving edge and set ½ inch above finish grade. They should not wrap panels around the root ball that would impede root growth.

After staff review, staff wanted the root barriers for protection of the curb and asphalt. They would change the standard for the root barrier to be set 12 inches from back of curb or impervious surface and would extend 20 feet centered with the tree base along impervious surface only. For the berm, they would set the root trunk collar flush to one inch above finished grade for landscape areas and planter areas. Finished grade shall be flushed with top of curb, finished sidewalk, or at grade in landscape areas. For the root ball pedestal, they added a requirement for hand tamped native soil. They then explained how Oregon City's standards aligned with other municipalities.

Committee Member Wolf wanted to make sure the wording noted a pedestal was needed that lifted the ball up from the bottom of the hole for water to drain. The new wording could be a pedestal the width of the root ball shall be constructed for the tree to be planted with a trough around it so that water could infiltrate into the trough and the roots would grow downward. The hole should be at least two times the size of the root ball for the trough.

There was discussion regarding root barriers and how they shrank the plant site, coming up with a tree list for the smaller planter strips and only install trees when needed, making the landscape area as wide as possible for a healthier and bigger tree canopy, moving the root barrier to right up against the sidewalk on the sidewalk side, but not moving it off the curb.

Mr. Posadas explained how landscape plans were reviewed by Planning and Public Works, the construction process, and street tree inspections. They had talked about not planting trees in two and a half to three-foot planter strips and plant them on private property, but currently that would require a covenant on the property.

Committee Member Wolf suggested creating a grant for a covenant for small sites or providing more education on covenants which were not liens.

There was further discussion regarding making code changes for 2.5 to 3 foot planter strips including removing the requirement to put a tree if the planter was too small, getting rid of the covenant requirement for putting a tree on private property instead, changing the tree caliper size requirement, having a condensed tree list for 2.5 to 3 foot planters, come back with GIS representation of how many lots would be affected by these changes, and making it voluntary to put in a tree.

There was consensus for staff to come back with code change options for planters 3 feet or smaller.

6. Communications

Committee Member Wolf discussed a grant for the Arbor Day celebration.

Chair Broshot discussed a nomination for the Heritage Tree Hero Award.

Mr. Posadas discussed the Urban Forester job description.

It was noted two seats were open on the NRC.

7. Future Agenda Items

No future agenda items were discussed.

8. Adjournment

Chair Broshot adjourned the meeting at 7:31 PM.