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## **CITY OF OREGON CITY YOUTH ADVISORY COMMISSION AGENDA**

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City Hall Commission Chambers, 625 Center St., Oregon City, OR 97045  
Monday, February 10, 2025 at 7:15 PM

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*Ways to participate in this public meeting:*

- Attend in person, location listed above. Please see the public comment guidelines below.
  - Register to provide electronic testimony (email [hschmidt@orc.org](mailto:hschmidt@orc.org) or call 503-496-1510 by 3:00 PM on the day of the meeting to register)
  - Email [hschmidt@orc.org](mailto:hschmidt@orc.org) (deadline to submit written testimony via email is 3:00 PM on the day of the meeting)
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### **1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL**

### **2. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

*Please see the public comment guidelines below.*

### **3. DISCUSSION ITEMS**

- a. City Day at the Capitol
- b. Spring Forward Community Resource Fair
- c. "If I Were Mayor..." Contest
- d. YAC Election Involvement Working Group - Letter of Support

### **4. WORKING GROUP BREAK OUT SESSION**

### **5. COMMUNICATIONS**

- a. Youth Nicotine Addiction
- b. Youth Houselessness Working Group
- c. Election Involvement Working Group
- d. Youth Physical and Mental Health Working Group
- e. Clackamas County Tobacco Prevention Program - Jack Solari
- f. Staff Liaison Report
- g. Commission Liaison Report

### **6. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- a. January 13, 2025 Youth Advisory Commission Meeting Minutes

### **7. ADJOURNMENT**

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### **PUBLIC COMMENT GUIDELINES**

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Complete a Comment Card prior to the meeting and submit it to the clerk. When the Chair calls your name, proceed to the speaker table, and state your name and city of residence. Each speaker is given 3 minutes to speak. As a general practice, the committee does not engage in discussion with those making comments. Complaints shall be addressed at the department level prior to addressing the committee.

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**ADA NOTICE**

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The location is ADA accessible. Hearing devices may be requested from the City Recorder prior to the meeting. Individuals requiring other assistance must make their request known 48 hours preceding the meeting by contacting the City Recorder's Office at 503-657-0891.

Agenda Posted at City Hall, Pioneer Community Center, Library, City Website.

Video Streaming & Broadcasts: The meeting is streamed live on the [Oregon City's website](#) and available on demand following the meeting. The meeting can be viewed on Willamette Falls Television channel 28 for Oregon City area residents as a rebroadcast. Please contact WFMC at 503-650-0275 for a programming schedule.



## CITY OF OREGON CITY

625 Center Street  
Oregon City, OR 97045  
503-657-0891

### Staff Report

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**To:** Youth Advisory Commission **Agenda Date:** February 10, 2025  
**From:** Hannah Schmidt, Community Engagement Specialist

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**SUBJECT:**

Item 3.b. - Spring Forward Community Resource Fair

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION:**

Staff recommends that the Youth Advisory Commission solidify members to take over the creation of brochures/pamphlets for the event.

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:**

Cole Solari submitted an application on behalf of the Youth Advisory Commission to table the Spring Forward Community Resource Fair on March 8, 2025. The Youth Advisory Commission should create a plan of the materials they would like to distribute at this event pertaining to their committee and initiatives.

**BACKGROUND:**

The City of Oregon City is thrilled to announce the upcoming Spring Forward Community Resource Fair on March 8, 2025. This event is designed to serve people of all ages, offering a variety of services that cater to everyone from youth to seniors. The City invites non-profit, government, and community-based organizations to apply to participate in the event. This is an opportunity for local organizations to share information about environmental initiatives, volunteer opportunities, and community resources, helping the public stay engaged and informed throughout the Spring season.



## CITY OF OREGON CITY

625 Center Street  
Oregon City, OR 97045  
503-657-0891

### Staff Report

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**To:** Youth Advisory Commission **Agenda Date:** February 10, 2025  
**From:** Hannah Schmidt, Youth Advisory Commission

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#### **SUBJECT:**

Item 3.c. - "If I Were Mayor..." Contest

#### **STAFF RECOMMENDATION:**

Staff recommends that the Youth Advisory Commission indicate which members will attend the Gardiner Middle School school-wide assembly on Thursday, Feb 13 at 3 p.m. Members will be participating to help promote the "If I Were Mayor..." Contest.

#### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:**

Principal Beck of Gardiner Middle School has invited the Mayor and the Youth Advisory Commission to attend a school-wide assembly to promote the "If I Were Mayor..." Contest. Youth Advisory Commissioners were asked to complete a survey indicating their availability to attend this opportunity. If you confirmed your availability for this event through the survey, you agreed you would be responsible for arranging any necessary school-excused absences and securing your own transportation. Please plan to arrive 10-15 minutes early to check in at the attendance office.

#### **BACKGROUND:**

The Youth Advisory Commission has agreed to judge the local Oregon City "If I Were Mayor..." Contest. The local deadline will be on Sunday, March 30. The Youth Advisory Commission will hold a special meeting on Monday, March 31 to judge the contest entries and vote on the top candidates for each category below:

1. Posters
  - a. Open to students enrolled in grades 4 & 5 or being home-schooled at the same grade level for the 2024-25 school year.
  - b. Students are encouraged to be creative and may use any art medium (paint, felt pens, colored pencils, pastels, crayons, 3D art, etc.)
2. Essay
  - a. The essay contest is open to students enrolled in grades 6-8 or being homeschooled at the same grade level for the 2024-25 school year.
  - b. Essays must be 500-1,000 words in length and typed.
3. Multimedia
  - a. Open to students enrolled in grades 9- 12 or being home-schooled at the same grade level for the 2024-25 school year.
  - b. Presentations must be one to three minutes in length and may be submitted via email.



## CITY OF OREGON CITY

625 Center Street  
Oregon City, OR 97045  
503-657-0891

### Staff Report

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**To:** Youth Advisory Commission      **Agenda Date:** February 10, 2025  
**From:** Hannah Schmidt, Community Engagement Specialist

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#### **SUBJECT:**

Item 3.d. – Youth Advisory Commission Election Involvement Working Group - Letter of Support

#### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:**

The Election Involvement Working Group of the Youth Advisory Commission has prepared a letter of support for the Youth Advisory Commission to review. If approved by the Youth Advisory Commission, this letter of support will be presented to the City Commission at a City Commission meeting in the near future.

#### **BACKGROUND:**

The Election Involvement Working Group has been working on ways in which they can have an impact on allowing 16 and 17-year-old registered voters to cast ballots in school district elections. The attached letter of support was drafted by Youth Advisory Commissioner, Justin Evers. Other samples of letters of recommendations/support from internal City board/committees have been attached for reference as well.

#### **OPTIONS:**

1. Approve the Letter of Support to be presented to the City Commission at an upcoming meeting.
2. Approve the Letter of Support with amendments to be presented to the City Commission at an upcoming meeting.
3. Do not approve the Letter of Support and provide staff with further direction.

The election involvement working group of the Oregon City Youth Advisory Commission believes that the city of Oregon City should adopt a resolution recommending that the Clackamas County Commission allows 16 and 17 year-olds to vote in school board elections. Allowing 16 and 17 year-olds to vote in school board elections will allow youth voices to be heard in policy areas that affect them, engage them in their school policy, and foster lifelong civic involvement.

Students spend nearly every day in school. It makes sense that as students grow older they be allowed some level of influence over their school's policy. Allowing students to vote in their school board elections is a great way to allow the youth a clear voice at their schools. While the Youth Advisory Commission does recognise the value of advisory boards to their schools it is important to note that no advisory board, no matter how representative, can truly give a voice to every student, despite how important it is that students receive this voice. Voting in school board elections is how every student who wants to be heard can be heard.

School plays a pivotal role in the lives of students, and because of that it is vital for students to be engaged in their school. Allowing 16 and 17 year-olds to vote in school board elections will engage them in their school by giving them some level of input in it. By allowing younger students to see their 16 and 17 year-old peers involved in the school board elections it may foster excitement to participate. In contrast to requiring 18 years of age to be able to vote in these elections, which means that very few students are ever capable of voting for their school board while in secondary school, and therefore cannot foster the same excitement in their peers.

By encouraging students to participate in civics from a younger age we are also helping to start lifelong civic habits. For example, when Alameda County, CA, allowed 16 and 17 year-olds to vote in their 2024 school board election youth turnout was 38.49%. These students who vote are learning habits that will engage them in civics for years to come, motivating them to become active and civic citizens.

In summation, allowing and encouraging 16 and 17 year-olds to vote in school board elections will promote beneficial civic habits. It is because having more responsible, civically minded, and engaged youth benefits our community that we suggest the commission adopt a resolution recommending that the Clackamas County Commission allows 16 and 17 year-olds to vote in school board elections..

January 8, 2025

Dear Members of the Oregon City Commission,

We are writing on behalf of the Oregon City Natural Resource Advisory Committee (NRC) to present our recommendations regarding the City's urban forestry efforts, particularly focusing on the preservation and enhancement of the city's tree canopy. We believe swift action is necessary to address the alarming decline of our tree canopy and to establish a more robust and sustainable approach to urban forestry. We provide recommendations to address tree canopy loss and improving the City's approach to urban forestry.

In alignment with the City Commission's 2023-2025 Goal 7.1 and the OC2040 Comprehensive Plan, which call for strengthening our "extensive tree canopy," we must act with urgency. The justification for focusing on this issue is clear, but the path forward requires concerted effort, improved policies, and proper funding. After careful review of current practices and policies with staff, we identified several key areas requiring improvement:

1. **Understanding our current tree canopy:** Currently, the City lacks a comprehensive, citywide understanding of this asset.
2. **City policies and plans for tree canopy management:** While our comprehensive plan acknowledges the importance of the urban tree canopy, there is no unified, adopted urban forestry plan to manage this vital resource.
3. **Preservation of mature trees:** The current policies fall short in safeguarding mature trees, which are the cornerstones of our urban canopy.
4. **Recommendations to updating tree code for better tree protections:** Our current tree code is fragmented and lacks the clarity needed to ensure the long-term preservation of Oregon City's tree canopy.
5. **Securing necessary funding:** We strongly recommend that the City pursue state grant opportunities in addition to prioritizing city budget towards managing this critical infrastructure.

The time to act is now. The longer we wait, the more costly it will be to repair the damage caused by tree canopy loss. If we commit to the necessary investments today, we can ensure that Oregon City not only preserves but enhances its urban tree canopy, providing lasting benefits for our environment, economy, and quality of life. We owe it to our residents, our children, and the generations that follow to protect and nurture the trees that make Oregon City a vibrant, healthy place to live.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter. We stand ready to work with the Commission to ensure the successful implementation of these essential initiatives.

Sincerely,  
Oregon City Natural Resource Advisory Committee

To the Oregon City Commission:

At a joint meeting on October 9 the Natural Resources Committee and Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee discussed recommendations for improving the City's approach to urban forestry, and address tree canopy loss.

The benefits of a healthy urban tree canopy are undeniable. Beyond environmental advantages, it enhances public health, increases property values, reduces crime, and mitigates the effects of climate change. These benefits are well-established, yet we are losing ground. Urban canopy loss is accelerating, and if we fail to act now, the costs to our community—environmentally, socially, and economically—will only rise. This is not just a matter of preserving trees; it's about ensuring a livable, resilient, and thriving community for future generations. Oregon City Commission 2023-2025 Goal 7.1 and the OC2040 Comprehensive Plan call for supporting our "extensive tree canopy". The justification for prioritizing this topic is not in question.

The issues at hand involve what to do to improve our tree canopy.

1. To what extent do we understand our current tree canopy?

Reports that the city provides for annual Tree City USA designation document tree removal, pruning, and replacement numbers is collated from three city departments. These numbers do not represent an accurate or thorough assessment of our Urban Canopy. Given this gap in information regarding important green infrastructure, a public tree inventory is needed as a basic measure to support the work of management and establishing clear canopy goals.

Tools are available to help with quantifying current canopy distribution and develop processes for canopy growth. Supporting geospatial software (GIS) and data from aerial imagery is already available for city staff. Comparing canopy extent across the city over time to evaluate canopy change is a straightforward analysis that many GIS professionals can accomplish. The City can then determine if the urban tree canopy meets the national average of a minimum canopy standard (33%) and measure the relative distribution. This information would also identify areas that receive insufficient shade and focus future planting and maintenance work by priority areas rather than areas that require emergency work or because a landowner can afford it. With baseline canopy information we can better understand current canopy coverage and develop a proactive urban forestry plan with public input. We can then use that plan as a basis for updating city code, policies, management, and resource allocation for our urban tree canopy.

2. What are the City's current policies and plans for managing tree canopy?

We currently have no adopted urban forestry plan that sets policy direction for managing city trees or the tree canopy. The comprehensive plan includes a few sentences about the importance of the city's tree canopy and a handful of goals and strategies. There are at least three chapters in city code addressing tree removal and replacement. For example, public trees in the city code are in Chapters 12.08 – Public and Street Trees under Title 12 – Streets, Sidewalks and Public Places, while trees on private properties undergoing development are

located in Chapter 17.41 and, if applicable, the Natural Resources Overlay District in Chapter 17.49 under Title 17 Zoning regulations. Currently, the city's codes do not prohibit the removal of healthy, large canopy trees, or require a sufficiently large proportional number of replacement trees when such trees are removed from a proposed development site. proposed development may choose the easiest course of clearing a lot and is not required to prioritize existing trees or stands as per Chapter 17.41.

If the City desires to preserve mature trees on development properties, codes need to be amended to explicitly include clear and objective standards to protect and set aside some density or percentage of larger trees (e.g. larger than 20" diameter at breast height (DBH), similar to the cities of Portland, Milwaukie and Gresham.

**A comprehensive tree code** specifying retention, planting, mitigation, and canopy coverage goals is important to validate urban forestry management and practices that support an extensive tree canopy.

3. Does the current code support the preservation of mature trees which provide the most substantial canopy?

The short answer is no. Current code has four chapters that discuss tree preservation and mitigation. Oregon City's Heritage Tree program (OCMC 12.32) recognizes special mature trees but enrollment in the program is voluntary. Aside from Heritage Trees, the city code does not require the protection of large mature trees on public or private property. Chapter 12.08.35 speaks to protecting all city-owned trees during development if those trees are planned for retention. If a capital-improvement project (CIP) requires tree removal, then the city would replant according to Chapter 17.41 (Tree Protection, Preservation, Removal and Replanting Standards). Chapter 17.41 allows for the removal of trees in development and requires mitigation for trees within or beyond the construction area. Although there are clear and objective standards and options available within Chapter 17.41 that are intended to incentivize the preservation of mature trees through reductions in lot sizes and dimensional requirements for residential subdivisions, these provisions are seldom chosen, since the cost of installing public infrastructure, grading and preparing land for development is astronomical compared to the undervalued benefits of preserving trees on a development site. Chapter 17.41.060.E allows the option for existing trees within a tract to be protected by a permanent restrictive covenant or easement (as was implemented for a development in Park Place) but is rarely used. Chapter 17.40 discusses tree preservation and mitigation during development within Natural Resource Overlay Districts to meet Metro Titles 3, 13 and Statewide Planning Goal 5.

Despite the stated goals listed at the beginning of these chapters, canopy retention is not sufficiently supported within new developments, public right-of-ways (ROW), or parks. **Existing code and supporting policy that guide preservation must be implemented to support our extensive urban canopy.**

**Fee in lieu options for development must be set to encourage the retention of healthy large trees that provide 30% lot canopy coverage. Tree mitigation requirements must be implemented for removing large trees regardless of tree health or safety risks. In cases of natural tree loss, replanting needs to occur to return the canopy lost.**

4. How can the city best update code for better tree canopy protection?

The NRC and PRAC have identified the following as ways to better align City code with the goal of supporting a healthy tree canopy:

- A. **A robust tree code and a city forester are critical to create goals of overall canopy protection across the city and implement actions to reach them.** The development of sound tree management policies facilitate urban forestry health and public safety. An urban forester can review development applications to ensure city code is properly implemented and guide projects to meet community tree goals. Much like the staff in Public Works care for our streets, lights, and utility infrastructure, an urban forester can facilitate better tree maintenance that promotes healthier, and safer, trees for the community. This staff position would be responsible for overseeing and maintaining the urban forest holistically including establishing protocol for how trees in the city are managed and how best to mitigate risks to public safety.
- B. **An urban forest management plan is needed.** This plan outlines city wide canopy goals set by the community and informed by industry best practices. Like any master plan, this document would provide direction for the maintenance and improvement of an important resource, our urban forest. An urban forest master plan responds to environmental mandates, community values, and clarifies urban forest management and authority. An urban forest management plan anticipates changes to tree codes and communicates with the public. This plan, implemented by a city forester, would serve as a template for community guidance regarding tree canopy preservation and growth.
- C. **When proposing tree code updates, utilize and defer to the best practices and integrate public engagement to ensure alignment with community values.** Examples from the Arbor Day Foundation, the City of Milwaukie, West Linn, and Portland provide examples of tree codes that place greater emphasis on tree preservation for public and private development. Also, they provide clear standards for planting and pruning to ensure new trees are established for success and mature trees are maintained for health and safety.
- D. **The city must adopt industry standard practices for assessing hazard trees.** When evaluating tree health, the city can require Tree Risk Assessments performed only by Certified Arborists. To prevent a conflict of interest, an assessing arborist should never be from the same contractor hired in case of removal. This conflict underscores the

importance of a city forester to objectively review removal requests and ensure trees are maintained properly and are not needlessly removed for financial gain.

- E. **The city should develop clear policy with reasonable deference for tree retention in cases where healthy trees are impacting sidewalks.** For sidewalk uplift, we should correctly indicate that the sidewalk is the hazard rather than an adjacent tree where the tree is not considered dead, dying, or dangerous. If uplift from trees creates a non-compliant sidewalk that violates ADA requirements, alternatives to tree removal including sidewalk repair, rerouting and/or prudent root pruning by a certified arborist should be the first options explored. An adjusted sidewalk may be feasible at a lower cost than tree removal depending on context.

If code allows tree removal in cases where deemed absolutely necessary, we urge more robust mitigation requirements to replace lost canopy. Acceptable replacement trees should include consideration of potential canopy size (not only tree count). Mitigation requirements must include care and maintenance for establishment after planting. Income from fees can support more tree plantings, improved maintenance, and better compliance enforcement. Adjustments to the City's Sidewalk Replacement Assistance grant program could be modified to include funding support for easement or covenant costs on adjacent private property.

For 4-foot strips and larger without overhead wires, compulsory replanting is recommended following guidance from the Street Tree Planting List and right-of-way planting standards.

5. What are the relevant funding needs and prospects?

- A. The cost of an Urban Forester staff position is possible given vacancies in current FTEs in the Public Works and Parks Departments. Adjustments in adding this position would not significantly alter current staff expenditures for the city.
- B. To support the development of a Tree Code and an Urban Forest Management plan, there are two major state grants available. These funds are available without any match requirement. Projects such as increased tree planting, conducting Tree Canopy Assessments, Tree Inventories, and Urban Forest Plan development, and other green infrastructure projects are activities supported by these grants. Oregon Department of Forestry and the Oregon Department of Land Conservation and Development are requesting proposals to fund efforts such as we propose here. We are recommending that the City allocate staff time to pursue these grants.
- C. The work of updating code and developing a long-term tree canopy plan could be done with a mix of staff time, volunteer involvement, and hired contracting. These activities

January 8, 2025

may be supported with grant funding without significant costs to current city budget. We urge the commission to direct staff to pursue such grants.

- D. Along with the overall plans and policies, a dedicated FTE for an Urban Forester position would be the best investment in managing the canopy long-term. This position would relieve less-specialized workers in Public Works and Parks and inform/oversee contract work to ensure best practices are used in the areas of the city with the most need. It would also enable the city to identify and address tree issues sooner before they become more costly. As the City needs to manage trees regardless, this staff role will save the city money.

It is our recommendation that the above steps will be most effective if we do not delay. Our tree canopy is a long-term investment, and one that is best managed with planning and policies that are geared towards long term preservation. We have seen major canopy loss in recent years, and we need to understand it and slow the loss to get on track to eventual recovery and resilience. To have a healthy canopy in 2040 aligned with the OC2040 vision, we need to work today to protect and enhance the canopy we have now.

Sincerely,  
Oregon City Natural Resource Advisory Committee

Dear Mayor McGriff and Commissioners;

On August 5<sup>th</sup>, 2024 the Citizens Involvement Committee received a shocking report about the fate of retired police K-9's. It seems that once they have retired from their various and dangerous duties as Police Officers they seem to be forgotten by the City. The City no longer provides for veterinary care or feeding of these brave K-9 officers. These substantial costs (we were given a figure of \$15,000 per year) are borne by the handler. The nature of their work leaves many of these veterans in need of substantial, and sometimes specialized care.

Our hearts were touched at the presentation of the plight of these wonderful dogs. We on the CIC ask that the City Commission provide the funding necessary to obtain veterinary care and feeding for these deserving former officers. It seems an on-going retirement fund for their care is the least the City can do for its four footed friends and loyal servants.

Most Sincerely;

CIC Membership



## CITY OF OREGON CITY

625 Center Street  
Oregon City, OR 97045  
503-657-0891

### Staff Report

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**To:** Youth Advisory Commission **Agenda Date:** February 10, 2025  
**From:** Hannah Schmidt, Community Engagement Specialist

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### SUBJECT:

Item 6.d. – February Staff Report

#### 1. Honorary Page Program

The [Honorary Page Program](#) is steeped in history and allows students to get a first-hand look at the legislative process, meet their elected representatives, tour the building, work on the Floor of the House of Representatives, and make memories that will last a lifetime.

The Page Program offers both 6-hour and weeklong options. Representative Hartman's Office has asked me to pass this information along to the Youth Advisory Commissioners. Please let me know if you are interested in applying!

#### 2. Youth and Young Adult Action Team

The Youth and Young Adult Action Team is a subcommittee of the [Clackamas County Suicide Prevention Coalition](#). The group aims to provide suicide prevention-related education and resources for individuals 24 and younger and their caregivers. This year, they are seeking to increase youth membership! Youth will get \$50/meeting attended, which take place virtually on the second Tuesday of each month from 4:30pm – 5:30pm. Please refer to the attached flyer for more information. **You can contact Shayla Littau at [slittau@clackamas.us](mailto:slittau@clackamas.us) or Carlos Benson Martinez at [cbensonmartinez@clackamas.us](mailto:cbensonmartinez@clackamas.us) to sign up for this opportunity.**

#### 3. Email Communications

Please remember that Hannah Schmidt MUST be cc'd on any email communications that you have with non-members of the Youth Advisory Commission regarding subjects pertaining to this commission. Hannah Schmidt's email is [hschmidt@orc.org](mailto:hschmidt@orc.org). This is to guarantee clear communication and ensure your safety as a minor.

All email communications can be made from your personal emails. If you are not comfortable with communicating with your personal email or wish to create a separate email for Youth Advisory Commission purposes, you are more than welcome to do so, but you must ensure that email does not have any official city affiliation. If you have any questions about this, please don't hesitate to contact me.

#### 4. Community Events/Volunteer Opportunities

## **Lunar New Year Celebration – Clackamas Community College Environmental Learning Center**

The Environmental Learning Center is hosting a Lunar New Year Celebration and are looking for support with set up, tear down and also assistance with games and activities during the day.

Date: February 16, 2025

Time: 12 p.m. – 3 p.m.

- 2-hour volunteer slots are available from 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Location: Environmental Learning Center at Clackamas Community College  
21 Inskeep Dr, Oregon City, OR 97045

Visit <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0E4FA5A72AA7F9C70-54475156-lunar> to see the volunteer shifts that are currently available. Please contact Trieste Andrews at [trieste.andrews@gmail.com](mailto:trieste.andrews@gmail.com) with any questions.

## **LoveOne**

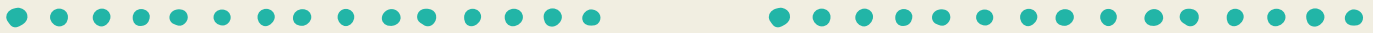
- Oregon City Brax Laundry & Shower Event – Wednesday, February 12, 6 p.m. – 8 p.m.
  - For more information about the event, including access to sign up to volunteer, visit the link: <https://www.loveone.org/events/loveone-laundry-events-oregon-city-brax-laundry-2025-02-12-18-00>
- Oregon City Brax Laundry & Shower Event – Wednesday, February 26, 6 p.m. – 8 p.m.
  - For more information about the event, including access to sign up to volunteer, visit the link: <https://www.loveone.org/events/loveone-laundry-events-oregon-city-brax-laundry-2025-02-26-18-00>

## **Greater Oregon City Watershed Council (GOCWC) is Looking for Artists!**

The GOCWC is accepting submissions of nature-themed visual art from local artists to be used in new interpretive signs to be installed in Singer Creek and Abernethy Creek Parks in June 2025. Youth Artists who have submissions accepted will receive an honorarium of \$100 per accepted art piece. GOCWC is looking for submissions of photos, drawings, or paintings of...

- Native fish, insects, and wildlife
- Landscapes of Oregon City rivers and streams
- Native plants and trees

To request more information or submit your work, contact Kira at [kira@gocwc.org](mailto:kira@gocwc.org) with your name and phone number. **Submission deadline is March 10, 2025.** Please reference the flyer within the Agenda Packet if you wish to spread the word.



# **YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULT ACTION TEAM**

**Please join us in our efforts to reduce suicide  
rates among Youth & Young Adults in Clackamas  
County**

**We meet virtually every 2nd Tuesday of the  
month 4:30 to 5:30 PM**

**If you are interested, please contact us for an invite to our  
next meeting!**

**CONTACT:** Shayla Littau, [slittau@clackamas.us](mailto:slittau@clackamas.us)  
Carlos Benson Martinez, [cbensonmartinez@clackamas.us](mailto:cbensonmartinez@clackamas.us)

**LEARN MORE: [clackamas.us/publichealth/spc](https://clackamas.us/publichealth/spc)**



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## CITY OF OREGON CITY YOUTH ADVISORY COMMISSION DRAFT MEETING MINUTES

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City Hall Commission Chambers, 625 Center St., Oregon City, OR 97045  
Monday, January 13, 2025 at 7:15 PM

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### 1. **CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL**

The meeting was called to order by Vice Chair, Myles Kinney at 7:15 p.m.

#### **PRESENT: 15**

*Justin Evers, Jack Solari, Myles Kinney, Julain Guerra Molina, Cole Solari, Elyjah McFarland, Sydney McFarland, Sofia Weis, Gaby Rysdam, Max Bishop, Hyrum Freestone, Desi Hanson, Melanie Gabriel, Adam Marl, Denyse McGriff*

**STAFF:** *Hannah Schmidt, Jakob Wiley*

**EXCUSED:** *None*

**ABSENT:** *None*

### 2. **PRESENTATIONS**

- a. Jakob Wiley, City Recorder for the City of Oregon City, overviewed the role and authority of advisory commissions within the City. Wiley emphasized the ways in which advisory commissions have influenced change throughout the City: Letters of recommendation, Resolutions, and Ordinances being the main outlet for this work. Letters of recommendation/opposition are statement made are not usually binding. Resolutions are formal and binding documents voted on by the City Commission and officially signed by the Mayor. Resolutions are typically instated for administrative functions and only need to be presented before the City Commission for one approval cycle. Ordinances area proposed to create City Code amendments and need to be presented in front of the City Commission twice for approval (at two separate meetings). Charter amendments cannot be changed by the City Commission but rather must be referred to voters for approval. Wiley explained that the Youth Advisory Commission can carry out letters of support/opposition to receive support on their initiatives from the City Commission, but they can not create and vote on resolutions or ordinances on the City's behalf. However, the Youth Advisory Commission, along with other advisory committee/boards can support/oppose certain resolutions/ordinances. The Youth Advisory Commission should be focused on working within the scope of what the City has power to do (the City of Oregon City does not have authority to change the voting age for school board elections).

Myles Kinney yields the Chair to Julian Guerra Molina at 7:31 p.m.

### **3. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

No public comments were provided.

### **4. DISCUSSION ITEMS**

- a. Cole Solari reported that the "If I Were Mayor..." Contest will be advertised on OCTV starting next week. A social media post has also been published on behalf of OCHS to help promote the contest as well.

Elyjah McFarland will share the contest information out to Clackamas Academy of Industrial Sciences. Youth Advisory Commissioners showed interest in conducting school visits to promote the contest. Hannah Schmidt will look into scheduling visits at the middle schools within the Oregon City School District to aid in promoting the contest.

- b. Hannah Schmidt reviewed the agenda for the 2025 City Day at the Capitol event on Tuesday, January 28, 2025. Schmidt emphasized that all members MUST turn in signed permission slips in order to attend the event in Salem. Commissioner Adam Marl may be available to conduct a personalized tour of the Capital for the Youth Advisory Commission.

Jack Solari motioned to wear matching Oregon City t-shirts to the City Day at the Capitol event. Myles Kinney seconded. Jack Solari, Julain Guerra Molina, Cole Solari, Elyjah McFarland, Sydney McFarland, Sofia Weis, Gaby Rysdam, Max Bishop, Hyrum Freestone, Desi Hanson, and Melanie Gabriel voted in favor. Myles Kinney and Justin Evered abstained. Motion passed.

- c. The Youth Advisory Commission expressed interest in having two meetings scheduled every month instead of one. Hannah Schmidt reported that upper management staff confirmed that given her current job duties, she does not have the time to be able to fulfil this request. The Youth Advisory Commission will continue to meet on the second Monday of every month, with flexibility to get work done outside

### **5. WORKING GROUP BREAK OUT SESSION**

The Youth Advisory Commission broke out into their Working Group sessions at 8:13 p.m.

Julian Guerra Molina called the meeting back to order at 9:00 p.m.

### **6. COMMUNICATIONS**

- a. Julian Guerra Molina reported that he attended the City Commission meeting on January 7 where he officially requested that the City Commission create and pass a Resolution in support of banning flavored tobacco products on behalf of the Youth Advisory Commission. The City Commission voted in moving this initiative forward, and a Resolution will be presented at an upcoming meeting related to supporting a ban on selling flavored tobacco and synthetic nicotine products.
- b. Melanie Gabriel reported that the Youth Houselessness Working Group's goal moving forward is to conduct more outreach to local non-profit organizations and learn about volunteer opportunities within the community that they can participate in and help spread the word about.
- c. Justin Evers reported that the Election Involvement Working Group have been conducting research and have a plan to move forward with their initiative. They plan to provide a letter of support that they intend to present to the City Commission at a future meeting date. The letter of support will indicate the importance of lowering the voting age to 16 for school board elections. This letter will need to go before the Youth Advisory Commission for approval before moving forward to the City Commission level.
- d. Elyjah McFarland reported that the Youth Mental/Physical Health Working Group will be focusing their efforts on advising the Parks and Recreation Department about what they would like to see regarding youth programming.
- e. Hannah Schmidt inquired if the Youth Advisory Commission would like to take part in the 2025 Spring Forward Event to help spread awareness about the commission and the work they are conducting. Cole Solari announced that he will submit an application for the event on behalf of the Youth Advisory Commission. Sydney McFarland and Jack Solari showed interest in taking on creating brochure/pamphlet information to be distributed to the public at the event. The Spring Forward Community Resource Fair will take place on March 8, 2025 from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. at the Pioneer Community Center.

## **7. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- a. Myles Kinney noted that his last name was misspelled in the December 9, 2024, Youth Advisory Commission Meeting Minutes. Myles Kinney motioned to approve the Minutes as amended. Justin Evers Seconded. Unanimous approval.

## **8. ADJOURNMENT**

Julian Guerra Molina adjourned the meeting at 9:28 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Hannah Schmidt

Date Approved: \_\_\_\_\_