CITY OF OREGON CITY
CITIZEN INVOLVEMENT COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES

Commission Chambers, 625 Center St., Oregon City
Monday, April 7, 2025 at 7:00 PM

1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order by Chair, Linda Baysinger, at 7 p.m.

PRESENT: 11
Linda Baysinger, Dennis Anderson, Karla Laws, Dan Berge, Duane Hanson, Sara Peterson, Josh Kayser, Denise Beasley, Tim Powell, Bob LaSalle, and Nick Dierckman.

STAFF: *Hannah Schmidt, James Graham, and Dayna Webb.*

EXCUSED: *Betty Mumm, Dorothy Dahlsrud, Commissioner Adam Marl, and Commissioner Scott Wilson.*

ABSENT: *Lisa Guirsch*

2. PRESENTATIONS

a. James Graham, the Economic Development Manager, presented on the Enhancement Grant Program and distributed a handout detailing the economic development update looking back on the past 5 years, and looking towards the future (2020 – 2027).

Graham explained that the Enhancement Grant Program has $400,000 allocated to advance Oregon City, with grants up to $50,000 and a 30% match requirement which could be in-kind or cash. Applicants need to meet one of ten goals outlined in the guidelines. Some goals include - increasing recycling efforts, improving city cleanliness, and enhancing wildlife and/or recreational areas. Applications are currently open and will be due on May 23. The Enhancement Grant Committee will review applications at a meeting on June 16.

Neighborhood Associations are encouraged to apply. James Graham suggested projects like neighborhood cleanups and watch programs. During the Q&A, it was noted that the grant committee includes the Mayor, City Commissioners, and citizens. James Graham confirmed that in-kind and cash matches are scored equally.

b. Brooke Brownlee, Senior Manager of Labor Workforce and Community for Portland General Electric (PGE), and Alex Cousins, Community Engagement Manager, presented on PGE's new community engagement team.

Brownlee emphasized that their goal was to be the interface with the community and encouraged reaching out with questions or concerns. Brownlee provided an overview of PGE's history and current operations, serving about 934,000 customers (approximately 1.9 million residents) in the Portland metropolitan area and Willamette Valley. She explained that the community engagement team was formed to build trust and be more visible within the communities they serve.

The presentation covered four main areas of focus:

1. Major projects and community engagement
2. Transparency and accessibility
3. Equitable and regulatory engagement
4. Wildfire community engagement

Brownlee discussed PGE's plans for increased community involvement, including establishing regional community advisory committees, conducting one-on-one meetings, and attending neighborhood association meetings. She also mentioned new programs aimed at increasing transparency and equitable engagement. During the Q&A session, committee members expressed concerns about communication regarding rate increases and their impact on customers. Tim Powell suggested that PGE should focus on grassroots communication, particularly through neighborhood associations, rather than relying on bill inserts. Bob echoed these sentiments, stating that community trust had been damaged due to rate increases.

Karla Laws raised questions about a specific project on Holmes Lane and the distinction between developer and contractor responsibilities. Brownlee acknowledged the concerns and offered to look into the specific issues raised. Nick Dierckman asked about timeline clarification for the Holcomb Boulevard project, which was reported to be about 6-7 months behind schedule. Brownlee explained that delays were primarily due to private utility issues and discussed efforts to improve project planning and communication.

c. Dana Webb, Public Works Director, presented updates on multiple public works projects under the theme of why residents "love public works without knowing it." Highlights were:
   - 24/7 emergency response, e.g., for sewer overflows.
   - Removing non-degradable "flushable" wipes from pipes.
   - Regular water system maintenance and testing.
   - Sewer projects like the Connie Court Sanitary Extension.
   - Use of advanced equipment for inspections.
   - In-house paving and pothole repairs.

- Sweeping 5,000 yards of debris annually.
- Water reservoir updates.
- Traffic safety with new signage and signal timing.
- Storm drain upkeep.

Project-specific updates included:

- Holmes Lane has seen contractor delays, with plans to complete or possibly terminate the contract.
- Holcomb Boulevard Safe Routes to School is delayed by utility relocations but targeted for June completion.

In the Q&A, CIC members inquired about costly public sewer connections, maintenance and safety issues, project communication improvement, and addressing inactive neighborhood associations in land use actions. Dayna Webb welcomed suggestions for better communication on Public Works projects and activities.

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS

No public comments were made.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

a. Denise Beasley moved to approve the meeting minutes for both February and March. The motion was seconded by Tim Powell. The motion passed unanimously.

5. STAFF LIAISON UPDATES

a. Community Engagement Specialist, Hannah Schmidt provided staff updates to the CIC for the month of March which were included in the Agenda Packet for the meeting.

An application for a legislative land use decision regarding the adoption of the Parks Master Plan to the Comprehensive Plan has been received. Public comments are due by April 18 to be included in the staff report.

Hannah Schmidt provided a budget update, noting that the Citizen Involvement Committee has just over $10,205.75 remaining. She mentioned that if all neighborhood associations spend their full budgets as projected, there would be a deficit of $1,023.72. However, it was noted that Elyville NA is not likely to spend their full budget, which would help offset potential overages.

6. ROUNDTABLE

Committee members provided updates from their respective neighborhood associations:

Canemah: Announced the annual Historic Canemah Pioneer Cemetery clean-up on May 10 and expressed concerns about a homeless camp in the Canemah area.

Caulfield: Reported on new leadership with increased energy and participation in their meetings.

Elyville: Announced that they will be having a meeting in May and that it will be the last potential general meeting held within the 2024-2025 fiscal year.

Gaffney Lane: Announced Gaffney Lane NA's adoption of a street for cleanup and an upcoming emergency preparedness workshop on May 17.

Hillendale/Tower Vista: Reported on a successful community meeting with high attendance, particularly for presentations on the courthouse project and Wesley Lynn dog park.

McLoughlin: Shared upcoming events for McLoughlin neighborhood, including a street cleanup and plans for a neighborhood garage sale in August.

Park Place: Provided an update on Park Place's leadership situation, noting Nick Dierckman will take on acting chair and the NA is working on filling other positions. The next scheduled general meeting is on May 19.

For more information on upcoming neighborhood association meetings and contacts please visit: https://www.orcity.org/community/neighborhood-associations

7. ADJOURNMENT

Linda Baysinger adjourned the meeting at 9:41 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Hannah Schmidt, Community Engagement Specialist

Date Approved: 5/5/2025