



CITY OF OREGON CITY CITIZEN INVOLVEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Community Room, Community Development Building,
695 Warner Parrott Rd, Oregon City, OR
Monday, December 1, 2025 at 7:00 PM

1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Chair Linda Baysinger called the meeting to order at 7 p.m.

PRESENT:

Linda Baysinger, Dennis Anderson, Donna Renee Larsen, John Kies, Joy Allen, Dorothy Dahlsrud, Betty Mumm, Duane Hanson, Christopher Nolte, Mark Beatty, Sara Peterson, Josh Kayser, Denise Beasley, Tim Powell, Ryan Richards, Bill Carton, Kathy Robertson, Commissioner Scott Wilson, and Commissioner Adam Marl.

STAFF: *Hannah Schmidt, Community Engagement Specialist*

EXCUSED: *None.*

ABSENT: *None*

2. PRESENTATIONS

- a. Juliana Allen, Executive Director of Downtown Oregon City Association (DOCA), provided an update on downtown Oregon City businesses following the courthouse's move out of downtown in May 2025. She explained there was no general consensus on how businesses were doing, as impacts varied significantly. Some businesses like Coffee Rush that relied on courthouse traffic were negatively affected, while others benefited from increased parking availability.

Juliana Allen highlighted the recent Small Business Saturday, which saw good engagement throughout the district. She also discussed the "Well Lit Trees" project funded by a Metro enhancement grant, which recently completed its first phase with uplighting installed on trees between 9th and 10th Street. The next phase will proceed once additional funds are raised.

She announced the upcoming holiday tree lighting on Saturday, December 6th from 4:30-7:00 pm at Liberty Plaza. When asked about DOCA's position on the courthouse redevelopment, Juliana Allen clarified that while DOCA doesn't have an official stance, the majority of businesses are excited about bringing new life to the district and are glad the building won't remain vacant.

- b. Kelly Hart introduced herself as the new Community Development Director, replacing Aquilla Hurd-Ravich who left in April. She shared her educational background, which includes a bachelor's degree in urban planning, a master's degree in environmental sciences, and a second master's degree in public administration that she is currently pursuing.

Hart explained her professional experience, having worked in Lebanon, Oregon for six years and in Stanton, California prior to that. She noted that Oregon City represents her ideal community size, being on the fringe of the urban area while still maintaining its unique character. Hart discussed her current focus on understanding internal department operations before expanding to more external community engagement.

When asked about her background in historic architecture, Hart explained she had experience with historic preservation programs in Lebanon, which managed over 100 properties. She expressed a personal interest in historic preservation dating back to her childhood interest in architecture.

- c. Josh Wheeler presented on code amendments required by House Bill 2658, which was passed by the Oregon Legislature in summer 2025. The bill requires cities to exempt developments from frontage improvements when the cost is less than \$150,000 and the total building square footage does not increase.

Wheeler explained that Oregon City already exempted developments when square footage wasn't increasing but needed to add the cost threshold exemption to comply with state law. He presented the redlined code changes showing the addition of the \$150,000 threshold exemption and clarification of existing exemptions.

When asked about the reason behind the exemptions, Wheeler suggested the legislature was trying to make housing development more affordable. Committee members expressed concerns that the exemptions might shift infrastructure costs to taxpayers and create potential issues with services like sewers and electricity, but Wheeler clarified this was state-mandated legislation the city must implement.

- d. Pat Wilson, Executive Director of Clackamas County Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (VOAD), and Jana Norton from Red Cross presented on disaster preparedness and response coordination. Wilson explained that VOAD is a 501(c)(3) organization that coordinates voluntary organizations to efficiently deliver services during immediate, intermediate, and long-term disaster recovery. They highlighted VOAD's role in bringing together various organizations before disasters occur to establish working relationships and coordinate responses. Norton emphasized that Clackamas County is well-positioned with strong disaster management coordination compared to many other counties. Wilson described how VOAD was founded in 2020 and successfully served 165 wildfire survivors, raising over \$1 million and coordinating donated materials and labor.

The presenters discussed the "2 Weeks Ready" program and encouraged neighborhood associations to partner with VOAD for disaster preparedness resources, training, and communication tools. They suggested neighborhood associations consider becoming "resilience hubs" for their communities and offered to connect interested members with training resources. Wilson invited committee members to sign up for VOAD's newsletters and monthly partner meetings.

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS

No public comments were provided.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- a. Tim Powell moved to approve the November 3, 2025 Citizen Involvement Committee Meeting Minutes. Betty Mumm seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

5. COMMUNICATIONS

- a. No update was provided at this time. The working group will have more of an update after the new year.
- b. Hannah Schmidt provided a brief update, noting all regular updates were included in the agenda packet. She emphasized that members planning to continue their CIC membership should submit their applications if they had not done so within the past year. She mentioned she would follow up with some members about meeting minutes but appreciated that all neighborhood associations had been responsive.
- c. No specific budget discussion took place beyond confirmation that all information was included in the packet.

6. GENERAL BUSINESS

- a. The committee discussed postcard mailing schedules for upcoming neighborhood association meetings. For February/early March mailings (including Canemah, Elyville, McLoughlin, and Park Place), the design deadline would be February 6 with delivery to residents by February 18 at the latest.

For March mailings (including Caufield, Gaffney Lane, and Hazel Grove - Westling Farm), the postcard deadline would be March 2 with delivery by March 11 at the latest. There was some concern about the timing for Hazel Grove's March 12

meeting, but it was noted that postcards typically arrive earlier than the latest projected date.

Hannah Schmidt clarified that these deadlines were guidelines to help coordinate mailings and save costs, but individual neighborhood associations could still manage their own mailings if the deadlines didn't work for them.

- b. The committee discussed the meeting venue, which had been relocated from the usual Mount Hood Room at City Hall due to projector issues for this specific meeting – but a discussion about relocation was already planned for the December agenda. Schmidt explained that due to the CIC's growth, the Mount Hood Room can no longer properly accommodate all CIC members, so the Community Development Community Room was proposed as their new meeting location.

Schmidt explained that the Hanlon Commission Chambers was considered as an alternative meeting space for the CIC, but that space only has 16 wireless microphones, which would not accommodate the full committee at its current size of 17 members and further potential growth at a maximum of 24 members. Committee members expressed concerns about visibility and audio issues in the Community Development Community Room, suggesting improvements such as additional TVs and microphones, especially for presenters.

The consensus was to continue meeting in the current location at the Community Development Community Room while Hannah Schmidt worked on audio-visual improvements. Committee members expressed a preference for maintaining the larger meeting space to accommodate all representatives rather than limiting committee size.

7. ROUNDTABLE

Canemah NA: Linda Baysinger mentioned that Canemah NA had a successful meeting with an election and noted their Facebook page brought in a new attendee. Dennis Anderson will not be continuing as a CIC member, a new individual has been elected to take his seat, and this will be his last meeting as a CIC representative for Canemah.

Caulfield NA: Donna Renee Larsen and John Keis reported that at their last meeting the NA discussed concerns about increased traffic related to the former Oregon City golf course development and have plans for a smaller meeting with Dana Webb from public works. Their next meeting is scheduled for January with upcoming presentations from the mayor, Commissioner Scott Wilson, and Seth Anderson regarding the redevelopment of the courthouse. Donna Renee Larsen reported that they have also confirmed a candidate forum to take place at their March meeting where all five candidates for State Representative House District 40 will be present for the forum.

Elyville NA: Dorothy Dahlsrud reported their next meeting would be in March and mentioned coordination with the Clayton Moore veterans apartments regarding heritage tree preservation.

Gaffney Lane NA: Duane Hanson announced election results with Mike Sullivan becoming the new chair, and plans for their next steering committee meeting at Prince of Life Church.

Hazel Grove/Westling Farm NA: Mark Beatty and Chris Nolte reported on growing membership in their NA with about 50 attendees at their last meeting. Chris Nolte mentioned the presentation from Clackamas County Fire on safety and aging in place was very well received by their community and he recommends the presentation to other NAs in the future.

Hillendale/Tower Vista NA: Sarah Peterson reported their next steering committee meeting was scheduled for tomorrow where they are hoping to be more productive.

McLoughlin NA: Denise Beasley and Tim Powell reported that at the last meeting the NA had a presentation on parks updates from the Deputy Director. Residents discussed concerns about the Sparks Wellness location (working on a good neighbor agreement), raised questions about Singer Hill Cafe's future, and there was significant interest in the courthouse redevelopment plans. Denise Beasley also reported that this would be her last meeting as a CIC member, she is stepping down from her seat and Amy Wilson was voted in as the new CIC representative to take her place.

Park Place NA: Ryan Richards reported that plants were planted in Park Place Park the weekend before Thanksgiving.

South End NA: Bill Carton reported their next meeting is scheduled for January.

Commissioner Adam Marl reported on upcoming City Commission discussions regarding the John Storm dock assessment, the exclusion zone ordinance, and changes to the Planning Commission and Historic Review Board appointment process. Commissioner Scott Wilson noted significant public input at the last City Commission meeting regarding ICE activity in Oregon City. He expressed appreciation for residents who spoke up to share their concerns for themselves and their neighbors.

8. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Linda Baysinger announced that the January meeting would include elections for Chair, Vice Chair, and Secretary. The meeting was then adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Hannah Schmidt, Community Engagement Specialist

Date Approved: 01/05/2026