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**CITY OF OREGON CITY  
CITIZEN INVOLVEMENT COMMITTEE  
(CIC)  
MEETING MINUTES**

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City Hall Mt. Hood Room, 625 Center St., Oregon City  
Monday, March 2, 2026 at 7:00 PM

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

Chair Josh Kayser called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

**PRESENT:**

*Linda Baysinger, Donna Renee Larsen, John Kies, Betty Mumm, Duane Hanson, Christopher Nolte, Mark Beatty, Sara Peterson, Josh Kayser, Amy Wilson, Tim Powell, Ryan Richards, Bill Carton, Kathy Robertson, and Commissioner Scott Wilson.*

**STAFF:** *Hannah Schmidt, Community Engagement Specialist*

**EXCUSED:** *Rita Batchley, Dorothy Dahlsrud, Joy Allen,*

**ABSENT:** *None*

**2. PRESENTATIONS**

- a. Alex Cousins, PGE Community Engagement Manager, and Heidi Bell, Local Government Affairs Manager for Clackamas County, presented a comprehensive update on PGE operations and services affecting Oregon City.

Cousins highlighted PGE's expansive service to almost 2 million Oregonians in seven counties, including historic ties to Oregon City via the Willamette Falls hydro project. Bell updated on the Oregon City Operations Building, with a land use hearing set for April 13, 2026, and construction projected to start post-permit, aiming for completion in early 2029. Key presentation areas included:

**Payment Assistance Programs:** Bell detailed income discount programs lowering bills by 15-80%. Customers can seek help with payment plans through PGE's customer service, available from 7 AM to 7 PM, with additional support from the Energy Trust of Oregon.

**Wildfire Prevention:** Due to a warmer, drier winter, Cousins noted an increased wildfire risk. PGE's measures include hardening systems by undergrounding lines, converting poles to ductile iron, and utilizing 40 AI-equipped sensing cameras to detect wildfire smoke, proving useful by identifying fires hours before public reports.

**Outage Preparedness:** Residents were urged to provide PGE with contact details for alert notifications, prepare emergency kits, and join Clackamas County Public Alerts. They should inform PGE about electricity-dependent medical devices, especially for preemptive shutdowns during wildfire threats.

**Street Light Reporting:** Bell guided how to report streetlight problems, engaging community leaders and children to boost neighborhood involvement. Citizens should document the pole tag/address and report issues online or via the PGE app.

**PGE Mobile App:** The app supports account management, electricity usage tracking, outage reporting, interactive maps, money-saving programs, billing alerts, and home energy analysis.

**Community Advisory Councils:** PGE's new councils for counties like Clackamas comprise 20-25 members offering diverse input on projects, options, and community benefits, meeting quarterly in hybrid sessions. Apply at [portlandgeneral.com/power-together](http://portlandgeneral.com/power-together).

Committee members raised questions on medical device support during outages; Bell noted PGE's early notification for registered customers and mentioned a medical battery program. Tim Powell highlighted concerns for seniors needing electricity for medical devices, asking what help PGE offers to those unable to afford backups. Linda Baysinger inquired about the rising cost of her PGE bill and Commissioner Wilson pointed out frequent rate hikes and the CEO's \$7.5 million compensation. Cousins explained the CEO's pay comes from shareholders, not customer rates, while grid and infrastructure updates drive rate increases, with approvals from the Oregon Public Utilities Commission. Bell highlighted PGE's internal cost-saving efforts. Mark Beatty questioned the monopoly in electricity providers, and Betty Mumm praised PGE's support for an employee amid domestic violence. Josh Kayser appreciated PGE's swift streetlight repair but urged for easier reporting via the app. Bill Carton mentioned "Ting," a device from State Farm for detecting electrical fire risks, suggesting PGE negotiate discounts for the device.

### **3. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

No public comments were provided.

### **4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- a. Tim Powell moved to approve the February 2, 2026 Citizen Involvement Committee Meeting Minutes. Betty Mumm seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

## **5. STAFF LIAISON UPDATES**

- a. Staff Liaison Hannah Schmidt reported that the March Trail News should arrive within the next couple of days, with the February issue featuring neighborhood associations prominently on the back page in color. She updated the Trail News calendar with NA meetings extending to the June deadline and emphasized that meeting dates will be close to the third Wednesday or twentieth of each month, with specific deadlines published in CIC agenda packets.

Schmidt announced that Hillandale, Canemah, Two Rivers, and South End have meetings scheduled in April, with the March 18 deadline for April Trail News submissions. She highlighted Gaffney Lane's successful adopt-a-street cleanup event as an example of community events suitable for E-Trail News publication.

Upcoming city events include the "If I Were Mayor" contest with a March 15 deadline and the Oregon City Parks Foundation's Pi Day fundraiser on March 14 at Buena Vista Clubhouse, plus a promenade cleanup on April 4.

Schmidt also mentioned that each NA Chair was provided a comprehensive resource document outlining city-provided resources and funding guidelines.

- b. Schmidt reported that Elyville Neighborhood Association ordered stake signs after the budget compilation deadline. The \$400 refund from Eagle Mailing Service was placed in the overhead column rather than distributed among neighborhoods.

She highlighted the significant cost savings achieved through bulk postcard mailings, with neighborhood associations saving the city over \$4,000 total during that program's operation. This represents a substantial achievement for the committee's fiscal responsibility.

## **6. GENERAL BUSINESS**

- a. Amy Wilson expressed concerns about neighborhood associations' limited ability to publish in Trail News outside scheduled meeting notices. Schmidt explained that publishing neighborhood articles would depend on space, and that space within the publication was prioritized for City Department information. If space is available, neighborhood news may be featured; otherwise, the NA webpages and E-Trail News can be utilized.

Amy Wilson suggested quarterly success stories to attract participants and showcase community achievements. Schmidt emphasized limited space due to City Department needs and proposed that members interested in running articles collaborate with Jarrod Lyman. Chair, Josh Kayser encouraged Amy Wilson to submit success stories, noting that Jarrod Lyman could fit them in or use social media if feasible. Schmidt remarked neighborhood associations get notable

placement in Trail News, with colored backgrounds and large fonts. QR code data indicates strong engagement, especially for McLoughlin Neighborhood with a significant website traffic boost. Linda Baysinger favored more community stories for better readability and engagement, also recommending downtown news. Donna Larsen proposed "person on the street" interviews. Schmidt indicated any new formats or page inserts added to Trail News would need managerial and budget approval, suggesting current resources are fully utilized first.

- b. Schmidt reported that the City designated the Community Development Room as the most adequate space to display all 12 neighborhood association resolutions, but implementation requires group effort and consensus from all associations. Some associations like Rivercrest and Tower Vista are inactive, while Two Rivers lacks CIC representation.

Betty Mumm argued for proceeding regardless of individual neighborhood preferences, noting that Gaffney Lane lacks a resolution while McLoughlin and Park Place have duplicates. Tim found various resolutions in storage, including some from defunct neighborhood associations.

The group discussed whether all resolutions should be displayed together versus individual association discretion. John Kies emphasized that CIC representatives should make the decision without excessive deliberation.

Tim Powell moved to retrieve all neighborhood association resolutions from the CIC room and install them in the Community Development Room, volunteering to coordinate the effort. Donna Larsen seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Schmidt agreed to work with Tim and coordinate with the City Recorder and Facilities Team to complete the installation.

- c. The committee reviewed sign-ups for the Spring Forward Community Resource Fair, noting only four people had registered. Linda Baysinger emphasized the need for more volunteers and suggested purchasing candy for children to attract families.

Betty Mumm mentioned a scheduling conflict with another event (Be 2 Weeks Ready) occurring the same Saturday, potentially affecting volunteer availability.

Schmidt clarified that both the Citizen Involvement Committee and McLoughlin Neighborhood Association would receive separate tables rather than sharing one 6-foot table.

Linda Baysinger agreed to coordinate purchasing candy with reimbursement from committee funds. Schmidt offered to print 50 flyers in-house rather than using professional printing to minimize costs.

- d. Chair Josh Kayser noted that the committee's goals haven't been updated since the 2017-2019 sessions, despite the charter requirement for current goals. He presented the existing goals alongside current commission goals and asked whether the committee preferred a subcommittee approach or full work session for updates.

Linda Baysinger supported a work session for full participation, noting that the existing goals appeared comprehensive and might only need restructuring rather than complete revision. Tim Powell agreed that many existing goals remained relevant and effective.

Amy Wilson concurred that the current goals appeared well-crafted, with several committee members noting their participation in the original goal-setting process. The committee agreed to schedule a work session for 6 p.m. on April 6, 2026, one hour before the regular scheduled CIC meeting, to review and update the goals in alignment with current commission priorities.

## **7. ROUNDTABLE**

**Canemah NA:** Reported 16 attendees at their February 19 meeting, their first without postcards, maintaining typical attendance levels. Guest speaker Mark Sugar, running for Oregon State Representative, attended along with city staff discussing water control issues on their bluff location. Discussed their Let's Talk Canemah Facebook page and scheduled a May 23 cemetery cleanup at the Historic Pioneer Cemetery. The association anticipates difficulty spending their full budget allocation by fiscal year end.

**Caufield NA:** Expressed excitement about their March 18 candidate forum, originally planning five candidates but one withdrew. Due to expected high attendance, they're borrowing an OWL device from Dave Hunt (Gaffney Lane) to provide Zoom access. She inquired about using committee funds to purchase equipment for virtual meetings, noting these videoconferencing devices cost \$1,500-1,800.

Schmidt explained previous discussions about shared equipment among associations. She raised concerns about transportation risks and maintenance when using city funds to purchase the equipment. Schmidt noted the City has been utilizing innex cubes as opposed to OWLS since they are about half the price. Tim Powell suggested a checkout system similar to library equipment, proposing City Hall as the storage location with IT department oversight.

Linda Baysinger referenced allowable cost guidelines permitting "supplies, materials, or services that directly support public neighborhood-wide engagement activities." The committee agreed to have this conversation brought back at the April meeting with further direction from staff.

**Elyville NA:** Schmidt relayed Dorothy Dahlsrud's commentary from the chat in their representative's absence: Oregon City Parks Foundation has a promenade clean-up

scheduled for April 4. The NA has been attempting to communicate with the Parks Department on pollinator projects. Had taken a hiatus for the winter after losing their chair and would resume meetings at their upcoming March 10 meeting.

**Gaffney Lane NA:** Announced their meeting set to include updates from Seth Henderson on the courthouse, Scott Archer discussing Parks and Recreation, and Commissioner Mike Mitchell. Local Greek Mediterranean restaurant speaking and possibly bringing snacks. Last month, Olive and Shea offered 10% discounts. Betty Mumm highlighted their recent access to the NA Basement with Duane Hanson, finding some members unaware of available resources and noting both a missing Gaffney Lane resolution and duplicate resolutions for others. Duane Hanson highlighted the "Be 2 Weeks Ready" event on March 8 and 15, focusing on emergency readiness, stressing its importance due to low snowpack and potential wildfire risks.

**Hazel Grove/Westling Farm NA:** Reported an upcoming March 12 meeting following a successful steering committee meeting. The neighborhood accomplished 76% door-to-door coverage over the past year, conducting Saturday walks to engage residents about neighborhood activities, though many aren't home during weekend visits.

**Hillendale/Tower Vista NA:** Reported a steering committee meeting updating members on the new Trail News and planning their April meeting. Due to their first Tuesday meeting schedule conflicting with Trail News deadlines, they must plan the month ahead. Scheduled Seth Henderson to discuss courthouse plans.

**McLoughlin NA:** Reported successful steering committee planning for 2026 projects. Bylaw revisions and financial policy is now available on their website for member review prior to March 5 meeting. Upcoming meeting will feature a State Representative District 40 candidate forum, followed by bylaw approval discussions.

**Park Place NA:** Reported about a dozen attendees at their general meeting, with light attendance due to a concurrent Planning Commission public hearing for a 219-lot addition requiring sewer line installation over a bridge. This development raised neighbor concerns about access and infrastructure improvements. Parks Deputy Director, Tom Kissinger attended to discuss canopy construction for their park using available funds.

**South End NA:** Next meeting is scheduled for April. Noted the successful correction of "Chapin Meadows" signage, removing an extra "p" from the name, though the association couldn't determine who deserved credit for the change.

Commissioner Scott Wilson emphasized he has been catching up after returning from vacation. He highlighted the courthouse project as the most pressing community issue. The chain link fence removal signals project progression, with commission updates scheduled for Wednesday's meeting to address community questions.

## **8. ADJOURNMENT**

Chair Josh Kayser adjourned the meeting at 9:27 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Hannah Schmidt, Community Engagement Specialist

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