



CITY OF OREGON CITY CITIZEN INVOLVEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

City Hall Mt. Hood Room, 625 Center St., Oregon City
Monday, April 6, 2026 at 7:00 PM

1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

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

PRESENT:

Linda Baysinger, Rita Batchley, Donna Renee Larsen, John Kies, Betty Mumm, Duane Hanson, Christopher Nolte, Mark Beatty, Sara Peterson, Josh Kayser, Amy Wilson, Tim Powell, Ryan Richards, Kathy Robertson, and Commissioner Adam Marl

STAFF: *Hannah Schmidt, Community Engagement Specialist*

EXCUSED: *Dorothy Dahlsrud, Joy Allen, and Bill Carton*

ABSENT: *None.*

2. PRESENTATIONS

- a. Superintendent Dayle Spitzer and Capital Bond Director David Hobbs presented an update on the Oregon City School District's bond program. The community passed a \$163 million bond in November 2024, which was sold in February-March 2025 for an additional \$13.6 million above face value. Combined with \$6 million from the Oregon School Capital Improvement Matching Program and \$2.25 million in interest revenue, the total program now has \$184 million available.

The district has spent approximately \$11.4 million to date, primarily on design work for elementary schools and field projects at Oregon City High School. Three new artificial turf fields have been installed at the high school - girls softball, boys baseball, and a multipurpose field - representing nearly a \$6 million investment. New scoreboards and lighting controllers have also been installed, allowing coaches to control field lighting without contacting the athletic director.

Future work includes improvements to Pioneer Stadium scheduled for summer 2027, focusing on concrete repairs, new railings, safer access stairs from Jackson to avoid Van Buren Street, and potential team rooms for student athletes. Phase 2 projects at Candy Lane, Holcomb, and John McLoughlin Elementary Schools will begin in June 2026 with 15-month construction schedules. Candy Lane will close completely with students moving to King Elementary, while Holcomb and John McLoughlin will use temporary modular buildings.

Committee members asked about academic performance, with Linda Baysinger inquiring why Oregon schools rank 47th nationally. Superintendent Spitzer explained they've seen growth in reading despite COVID impacts, noting the third-grade reading test requires not just reading but also writing essays and comprehension. The district has invested in K-2 early literacy programs and new curriculum, while working to partner with families to encourage home reading.

Betty Mumm asked about Pioneer Stadium field improvements, but Hobbs clarified they're focusing on stadium infrastructure rather than the playing field itself, which is still in reasonably good shape.

- b. Melissa Sebastian, Aquatic and Recreation Manager, presented information about Water Safety Month in May and summer swimming programs. She emphasized critical drowning statistics: drowning is among the top three causes of unintentional injury death worldwide, the number one cause of death for children ages 1-4, and the second leading cause for children 1-14. Minority communities face three times higher risks than non-minority communities.

Oregon City's pool, celebrating its 60th anniversary, provides supervised swimming with trained lifeguards. Formal swim lessons can prevent drowning up to 88 percent of cases. Last year, the pool awarded \$1,704.25 in lesson scholarships to reduce financial barriers. Sebastian's lifeguards provided rapid response to seven non-fatal drowning incidents this year, demonstrating the importance of professional supervision.

Sebastian distributed materials from the "Respect the Water" campaign and offered to present water safety information to neighborhood associations. The pool has added a full-time program coordinator this year, allowing expansion of programs including junior lifeguarding for ages 11-14, teen-specific swim lessons, adult lessons during summer, and family group lessons.

Committee members asked about minority community drowning risks, which Sebastian attributed to potential financial barriers and pool accessibility issues. Betty Mumm inquired about school district swim programs, which Sebastian said had dwindled before the pandemic due to transportation challenges, though the pool has capacity and staff available. Duane Hanson asked about pool infrastructure concerns, and Sebastian confirmed the city is in early stages of planning a new aquatic and recreation facility, with public engagement expected to begin this summer.

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS

No public comments were provided

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- a. The March 2, 2026, minutes were reviewed. Two corrections were identified: Linda's last name should be corrected to Baysinger instead of Batsinger, and "Caulfield" should be corrected above that entry under the roundtable section.

Tim Powell moved to approve the minutes as amended. Sara Peterson seconded. Motion was approved unanimously.

5. STAFF LIAISON UPDATES

- a. Hannah Schmidt provided updates on several items. The monthly Trail News was delivered to most residents by mid-to-late last week, with format improvements including white backgrounds for better readability based on feedback. Amy Wilson's article about the value of neighborhood association meetings was highlighted in the back of the publication.

The occupant lists for neighborhood associations were updated on March 26. Schmidt reminded associations using the Community Development Community Room to submit proper reservation forms and ensure the building is properly secured upon exit, as there have been reports of the building not being locked.

Gail Chastain was introduced as the new administrative assistant in the Community Development Department, replacing Kay Nuemann for reservation forms and room coordination.

The basement door access has been repaired - water had leaked into the motherboard causing communication issues between the locking and code mechanisms, but it now works with the original access code.

Progress was reported on Rivercrest Neighborhood Association reactivation efforts. Three contacts were made at the Spring Forward Community Resource Fair, with two responding positively. Schmidt met with an interested resident and expressed optimism about potential progress.

- b. The budget update sheet was provided showing current allocations and expenditures for neighborhood associations and CIC overhead funds.

6. GENERAL BUSINESS

- a. Hannah Schmidt reported that resolutions from all neighborhood associations have been collected except for Two Rivers, which she believes may not have a framed resolution since it was established more recently than other associations in the late 1990s/early 2000s. She will contact Two Rivers and work with the city recorder team to create a similar resolution if needed, with costs coming from the CIC overhead budget.

- b. The Chair raised the question of standardizing committee nameplates to match other City committees. Hannah Schmidt investigated options and found that permanent nameplates like those used by City Commission cannot be reproduced or reused, making them cost-prohibitive given the CIC's high turnover rate (seven turnovers in the 2024-2026 term) not including reactivated neighborhood associations.

Two options were presented: standard reusable nameplates with inserts (\$170 for 17 plates, or \$240 for 24 plates to have spares) or maintaining current paper nameplates. Committee members supported the upgrade, noting the durability benefits and easier handling for speaking recognition.

Sara Peterson moved to approve the purchase of 24 standard reusable nameplates. Tim Powell seconded. The motion passed with unanimous consent.

- c. Hannah Schmidt clarified the City's policy on video conference equipment use by neighborhood associations. A city-owned Innex Cube will be available in the Community Development Community Room for associations that meet there. A policy detailing usage guidelines will be distributed to relevant neighborhood associations once the policy is finalized. The equipment must remain in that room, so associations meeting elsewhere would need to reserve the Community Development Community Room to access video conferencing capabilities. This does not affect existing arrangements like McLoughlin's setup at the Library. Amy Wilson asked for clarification about whether associations could purchase their own equipment with their \$1,000 allocations, but Hannah indicated this would not be necessary since the City is providing the service and space at no cost to associations.

7. ROUNDTABLE

Canemah NA: Meeting scheduled for April 23 to discuss cemetery matters and their ice cream social. Linda Baysinger requested clarification on reimbursement procedures, and Hannah Schmidt confirmed itemized receipts and event documentation would be sufficient.

Rita Batchley shared information from the Oregon City Plan for Resilient Oregon focus group, emphasizing family emergency preparedness with two-week supplies and the importance of knowing neighbors for disaster response. She offered to present this information at their upcoming neighborhood meeting.

Caufield NA: Reported on their recent meeting featuring a college presentation about Clackamas Community College's natural resource building along Beavercreek that will replace an older structure. The meeting also included a candidate forum for four

district house candidates, providing residents opportunity to hear their positions on various issues.

Elyville NA: Not present for report.

Gaffney Lane NA: Had 21 attendees at their March meeting, lower than typical. Featured presentations from Seth Henderson about the old courthouse on Main Street and Commissioner Mike Mitchell on City activities including the exclusion zone. They're trying a new approach of inviting local businesses to present, with The Great Greek restaurant participating. Duane announced their cleanup scheduled for Saturday 9 a.m. - 11 a.m. on Myers Road.

Hazel Grove/Westling Farm NA: March meeting featured OSU Extension Service discussing pollinators and Seth Henderson's courthouse presentation, which generated significant positive community interest. They're planning summer gatherings and projects for their May meeting.

Hillendale/Tower Vista NA: Meeting tomorrow night featuring Seth Henderson and Chick-fil-A presenting their proposed development at the old Walmart property location, including the restaurant, another drive-through restaurant, and apartment complex. Chick-fil-A have offered to provide food for attendees.

McLoughlin NA: March meeting featured state representatives with good attendance. They completed bylaw updates and financial planning, now posted on their website. Planning to invite Xerxes for their next meeting. They'll sponsor concerts in the park again and hold their neighborhood sale August 7-9.

Park Place NA: Working with the City to distribute a park survey to residents to gauge allocating funds for play structures or fencing the existing off-leash dog area. Parks department will present survey results at their May 18th meeting, followed by a park party on June 7th to celebrate recent improvements including trail development and plantings.

South End NA: Meeting scheduled for April 23rd with parks department presenting about new playground equipment installation at Chapin park. Kathy Robertson had helped select and install the original equipment. Their cleanup will cover South End Road from Barker to the neighborhood boundary toward Canby and will take place on May 2.

Commissioner Adam Marl announced the City Commission Work Session on April 7 will address System Development Charges (SDCs) reform, balancing infrastructure needs with housing affordability by potentially incentivizing smaller single-family homes and middle-income homeownership opportunities. Commissioner Marl also provided an update on ODOT's request for a five-year extension to use John Storm Park for Abernathy Bridge construction. The project, originally approved by voters in 2018 as a four-year commitment, has increased from \$250 million to over \$800 million. Commissioner Marl's motion requires ODOT to commit to supporting affected

businesses and partnering on delayed City infrastructure projects before approving any extension agreement. He emphasized using available leverage to ensure ODOT acts as a good partner with the City.

8. Adjournment

Chair Josh Kayser adjourned the meeting at 8:21 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Hannah Schmidt, Community Engagement Specialist
Date Approved: 5/4/2026