

MINUTES

BEAUTIFICATION COMMITTEE MEETING

June 19, 2023

VIA ZOOM/IN PERSON

PRESIDING: Adam Rahmlow

MEMBERS PRESENT: Connie Krummrich, Debi Ferrer, John Nelson, Whitney Walker

ABSENT: Janet Kavanaugh

Staff Liaison: Amie Ell, Executive Assistant

Also in attendance: Josh Chandler, Director of Community Development
Matt Caldwell, Facilities Supervisor
Izetta Grossman, City Clerk

CALL TO ORDER

President Adam Rahmlow called the meeting to order at 4:00 pm.

ROLL CALL

Executive Assistant, Amie Ell conducted roll call; Krummrich, Ferrer, Rahmlow, Nelson present. Kavanaugh, Walker absent

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

It was moved by Nelson and seconded by Rahmlow to approve the agenda as amended. The motion carried 4 to 0; Krummrich, Ferrer, Rahmlow, Nelson in favor; none opposed (Kavanaugh & Walker absent)

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

It was moved by Rahmlow and seconded by Ferrer to approve the minutes of the June 5, 2023 Regular Beautification Committee Meeting as presented. 4 to 0; Krummrich, Ferrer, Rahmlow, Nelson in favor; none opposed (Kavanaugh & Walker absent)

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Walker joined the meeting at 4:04pm

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

Josh Chandler, Community Development Director introduced Matt Caldwell as the new Facilities Supervisor.

Ferrer would like to arrange for the committee to talk with Caldwell about downtown trees soon.

Rahmlow asked what the timeline was on the downtown tree project.

Chandler answered that he and Grossman met with Tyler Roth of the Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) last week and the next step is to complete the RFP. He hopes that the trees will be in place within the next 6-8 months.

Grossman shared that Caldwell will become a member of the Tree Committee when it is established.

Audience Member Paul Kuiper shared ideas for types of trees he thinks would be drought resistant in our area. He recommends incense cedar, locust, and maple trees. He also suggests looking at trees on Vey Way which he says are thriving.

Ferrer responded that the locust trees commonly seen in this area are considered to be a highly invasive species and more research is being done along with professional arborists on what trees would be best for the locations.

Nelson reiterated that the locust is invasive and susceptible to tree borer beetle so may not be a good option.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Update on Trees for Schools

Grossman reports that planting of the trees donated to schools is to begin within the next couple of days. 18 trees were purchased for schools. Tyler Roth from ODF would like to be present when the planting occurs.

Rahmlow asked about updating the media on the Beautification Committee's progress with tree projects.

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Grossman then reminded the committee that there are 2 weeks left in the 22/23 fiscal year for the Annex to invoice for funding for a greenspace. She will email to remind them.

Ferrer stated that she had spoken with those working on the Annex green space and volunteered to help with the plan and choosing of plants but did not hear back from them.

Grossman reports that the residential Tree Grant application is live on the City website as well as on Facebook. The press release will go out this evening. She asked for a spokesperson from the committee to be listed as a contact for media who have additional questions. Ferrer volunteers to be this person.

Krummrich asked if there could be a press release prepared to share about the Trees for Schools.

Ferrer suggests that an article about all of the work the Beautification Committee has done with trees this year would be good PR.

Ferrer also notified the committee that there is a house bill being voted on tomorrow that with a tree grant included along with other climate legislation.

Nelson then reported that he and Kavanaugh had talked with Dan Ezelle, Director of Maintenance and Operations for North Wasco County School District about the plans for the trees that were donated to schools. The trees will go to all three elementary schools. Colonel Wright will plant on the north side of the school in front of the original building, Chenoweth will plant in areas surrounding the playground, and Dry Hollow will plant all along the slope in front of the school on 19th street as well as in the back playground area.

DISCUSSION

Review of the Beautification Award process and requirements / Ball Caps

Krummrich shared her suggestions for things to consider as the committee reviews the process and requirements for Beautification Awards. Her suggestions were:

- Talk about perhaps removing “December” as one of the months, the committee as of yet, has not awarded in December.
- Do you want to continue with the requirement of not receiving more than once within a 5 year period?
- Radio stations are listed as someone who receives info about recipients, but believes this has never been done.
- The original plan was to have members rotating in and out of this sub-committee, this has not been happening.
- The location of the sign storage has not been City Hall as listed, Krummrich has been storing it at her home.

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- The sign is in very good shape because of the yearly teak oil treatments, this should continue to help make it last for the expected 10 year lifespan
- It may be good to consider looking at some home with zero-scaping or discussion of making decisions based around considerations for water conservation.
- An inventory of ball caps should be done to determine when and how many should be purchased in the future.
 - Ell will do this inventory and find the name and contact info for the company used in the past for the cap embroidery to be included in the committee's records.

Strategic Planning

Rahmlow read the goals and vision aloud, then commented that it sounded like were borrowing the City's vision.

Nelson clarified that this was intentional as the mission and goals of the committee should support and tie in with the City's vision.

Grossman shared the hope that this strategic plan would be a tool to use for working with the City Manager to get his approval on projects all at once instead of case by case.

Ferrer shared that during the strategic planning process the committee had a robust and had put a lot of thought into this draft plan. She also pointed out that the mission statement had been modified. She suggested that the committee take the next two weeks to look over the plan and bring revisions to the next committee meeting on July 3, 2023 with the intention of making a motion to adopt it as the committee's official strategic plan moving forward in July 2023.

Krummrich said she feels this strategic plan will help to keep the committee on track. By creating timelines along with the strategies, it will help to make sure that projects get completed and funded on time.

Rahmlow asked the committee about their thoughts on prioritizing the goals of the strategic plan to ensure important projects get the focus needed.

Ferrer expressed that prioritizing may be too limiting.

Nelson shared that he thinks it is a good framework that should be reviewed periodically to determine priorities.

The committee thanked Krummrich for her 4 years of service on the Beautification Committee and ask her to sing the Stop the Drop Rap for the group one last time. She obliged.

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Next Meeting: July 3, 2023

Items for next meeting:

Revise and adopt the Strategic Plan

Review and make changes to the Beautification Award criteria & processes

Update on Tree Grant applicants

ADJOURNMENT

Being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:24pm.

Submitted by/
Amie Ell
Executive Assistant

SIGNED:

Adam Rahmlow, President

ATTEST:

Amie Ell, Executive Assistant

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