

MINUTES

BEAUTIFICATION COMMITTEE MEETING  
July 3, 2023

VIA ZOOM/IN PERSON

PRESIDING: Adam Rahmlow  
MEMBERS PRESENT: Debi Ferrer, Janet Kavanagh, John Nelson  
ABSENT: Whitney Walker  
Staff Liaison: Amie Ell, Executive Assistant  
Also in attendance: Matt Caldwell, Facilities Supervisor

CALL TO ORDER

President Adam Rahmlow called the meeting to order at 4:02 pm.

ROLL CALL

Executive Assistant Amie Ell conducted roll call; Ferrer, Kavanagh, Rahmlow, Nelson present. 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; Rahmlow, Nelson, Kavanagh, Ferrer in favor, none opposed, Walker absent

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

It was moved by Rahmlow and seconded by Nelson to approve the minutes of the June 19, 2023 Regular Beautification Committee Meeting as presented. The motion carried 4 to 0; Rahmlow, Nelson, Kavanagh, Ferrer in favor, none opposed, Walker absent

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

Matt Caldwell, Facilities Supervisor introduced himself to the committee for members who had been absent at the previous meeting.

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## COMMITTEE REPORTS

### Trees for Elementary Schools

Tree planting started at Chenoweth Elementary, then moved onto Colonel Wright, followed by Dry Hollow. There was a total of 18 trees of 3 different species planted at the schools.

The schools have been watering using 5 gallon buckets with holes to allow for slow release of water for the trees.

Members reported that they would keep watch on trees to ensure they continue to be watered and cared for until they are established.

Kavanagh reports that that Alanna Lackner of Columbia Gorge News contacted her to learn more about the trees in schools project and shared that Lackner will be writing an article on this.

### July Beautification Award Update

Nelson reported that after some challenges coordinating with the owner of the property, the July 2023 Beautification Award was presented at 623 W 10<sup>th</sup> St. Mayor Mays, Nelson, and Kavanagh were all in attendance.

Kavanagh mentioned that the Beautification Award sub-committee was in need of another member after the vacancy left by Krummrich. The committee agreed to discuss this at the next meeting.

Nelson said that collecting the information about which gardens may be best for certain months would be a useful tool for future determinations.

### Residential Tree Grant Applications Update

Ell reported that there had been 8 tree grant submission in the first week and 6 submitted in the 2<sup>nd</sup> week.

Ferrer suggested that the sub-committee plan to begin looking through the applications in late August. She reminded the group that the application stated grants would be given on a first come, first served basis.

Ferrer updated the Committee on the status of the green infrastructure bill, House Bill 3016. She shared that it had passed creating an opportunity for the city to attain funding for tree projects. She noted that there is phrasing in the bill that gives preference to cities with an existing plan which includes equity. She listed projects that may be a part of this plan; trees for schools,

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residential tree grants, downtown tree project, heritage tree, tree city USA, tree inventory, tree canopy assessment.

Kavanagh asked when the funds from this bill would be available.

Ferrer said that it has been declared an emergency and effective on passage. She said it was safe to anticipate quick movement.

Items brought up for future discussion:

- Amiton Springs at the high school
- Trevitt triangle

## ACTION ITEMS

### Finalize the Beautification Committee's Strategic Plan

The committee discussed ideas for changes to the strategic plan draft. The changes agreed upon by the committee were the following:

- Addition of the phrase “green infrastructure” to Goal #1. From the strategies of Goal #1 the removal of “increase tree canopy” from and addition of “residential tree grants, trees for schools, and development of a community tree to include sources of additional funding.”
- Addition to Beautification Award strategy in Goal #3 to include recognition of nominations not chosen with postcards.
- Addition of the phrase “making our city more pedestrian friendly” to Goal #4. To the strategies the addition of public restrooms, increased bike rack availability, public fountains and water features, and to research downtown bump outs, pedestrian spaces, and parklets.

Ell said that she would make these changes to the Strategic Plan Document.

She also shared the Resolution establishing the standing Beautification and Tree Committee would be voted on at the July 10<sup>th</sup> City Council meeting and this resolution can be found in the agenda packet posted on the City's website. She said that the old Ad-Hoc committee would be disbanded and all current member names were being moved into the new standing committee. The new committee will need to elect a chair and vice chair at their first meeting on July 17<sup>th</sup>.

Next Meeting: July 17, 2023

Items for next meeting:

Elect new Chair and Vice Chair

Review and adopt the Strategic Plan

Determine meeting schedule for August

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ADJOURNMENT

Being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:38 pm.

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Submitted by/  
Amie Ell, Executive Assistant

SIGNED:



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~~Adam Rahmlow, President~~  
John Nelson

ATTEST:



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Amie Ell, Executive Assistant

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