

MINUTES

BEAUTIFICATION AND TREE COMMITTEE MEETING

October 2, 2023

VIA ZOOM/IN PERSON

PRESIDING: Janet Kavanagh

MEMBERS PRESENT: Debi Ferrer, Janet Kavanagh, John Nelson, Angel Drinkwine,  
Adam Rahmlow

ABSENT: Whitney Walker

Staff Liaison: Amie Ell, City Clerk

Also in attendance: Dan Spatz, Economic Development Officer

CALL TO ORDER

Kavanagh called the meeting to order at 4:01P.M.

ROLL CALL

City Clerk Amie Ell conducted roll call; Ferrer, Kavanagh, Nelson, Rahmlow present; Walker, Drinkwine absent

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

It was moved by Rahmlow and seconded by Nelson to approve the agenda as amended/presented. The motion carried 4 to 0; Rahmlow, Nelson, Ferrer, Kavanagh voting in favor; none opposed; Walker, Drinkwine absent

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

It was moved by Ferrer and seconded by Nelson to approve September 18, 2023 Beautification & Tree Committee minutes as presented. The motion carried 4 to 0; Ferrer, Nelson, Kavanagh, Rahmlow voting in favor; none opposed; Walker, Drinkwine absent

**BEAUTIFICATION & TREE COMMITTEE**

“To promote and honor our rich cultural history, share and enhance the beauty of our community, and strengthen communal pride in our public spaces through citizen engagement, advocacy, recognition, and partnerships.”

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**Drinkwine joined the meeting via Zoom at 4:03 P.M.**

### AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

#### Connie Krummrich litter campaign

Krummrich shared the report that she had presented at the July 24<sup>th</sup> City Council meeting. (see attached)

Krummrich said that a strong foundation had been set for community clean-up with Stop-the-Drop and the 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday clean-ups and that she suggests the City look into to creating an adopt-a-street program to help make it more sustainable.

Krummrich said that she suggests the City look into what other cities are doing to get a program started. She said some things to consider would be to have an organized clean-up event 4 times per year, have a website for people to sign-up, have advertising campaigns, and create formal ways to recognize volunteers, such as signs that say this street is kept clean by the ... family.

Krummrich said the in the past the Beautification Committee had partnered with Blue Zones and SOLV Oregon for organizing community clean-ups. She said this may be something the City could look into doing again.

Economic Development Officer Dan Spatz was introduced to the Committee.

Spatz said he would share these ideas with the City Manager.

The committee agreed to continue discussion of preparing a proposal for an Adopt-A-Street program at a future meeting.

### COMMITTEE REPORTS

#### October Beautification Award

Nelson said the October Beautification Award had been presented to the Sandoval family at 973 Honey Do Street. He said that the garden had beautiful topiary work and the entire family was involved in the manicuring of it.

Ferrer commended the sub-committee for choosing a variety of garden types this year to receive the award.

Ell reminded the Committee that photos could be found on the City Hall Facebook page of the award winners.

Nelson said that he would send photos to all committee members in the future.

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Residential Tree Grant Update

Ell reported that the trees had been ordered and the nursery would be delivering them on October 13<sup>th</sup> to be ready for the pick-up the following day.

Ell said the order for watering supplies and root barriers was given to the Facilities Supervisor.

Ferrer will confirm with Master Gardeners that they will be in attendance to help give planting and care instructions at pick-up.

Ell will send out a press release to alert media of the pick-up event.

Update on CGCC sculpture Trevitt/6<sup>th</sup> St Bridge/3<sup>rd</sup> Place

Rahmlow said he had contacted Robert at Columbia Gorge Community College (CGCC) about partnering to build another sculpture for the Trevitt/6<sup>th</sup> St Bridge area.

Rahmlow said CGCC would like to build another sculpture and said they could work from a similar timeline to the last process or they could also move it up to be ready in the spring.

Ell said she would check to see if there was function irrigation at the location.

Ferrer said she would like to see a design from CGCC by December then the Committee could develop a plan in January or February to be ready for a spring planting.

The Committee discussed the budget for this project and agreed that it should be the same as the last sculpture project.

Ferrer moved and seconded by Rahmlow to approve up to \$2000 be spent for a sculpture to be planned and created with CGCC. The motion carried 5 to 0; Ferrer, Rahmlow Nelson, Kavanagh, Drinkwine voting in favor; none opposed; Walker absent

Ell said the City Manager had talked with Waste Connections about adding garbage cans to the downtown area. He said that Waste Connections would donate containers and free pickup service for up to 50 cans if the City purchased the requested type of metal enclosures.

Ell will send the committee a link to view the type of enclosures Waste Connections requested.

Rahmlow suggested that main-street be notified of this project.

The Committee agreed to add creating a proposal for downtown trash cans to a future agenda.

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## DISCUSSION

### Landscaping of hill near cruise ship dock

Kavanagh said that the hillside near the cruise ship dock is now confirmed as being irrigated.

The Committee agreed that they would walk the area before the next meeting to help prepare for proposing a plan for the area.

### Beautification award nominations form letter

Kavanagh read the form letter she had created. (see attached)

Ell will change Beautification Committee to Beautification & Tree Committee and add city letterhead.

Drinkwine said the process would be first a nomination is sent or brought in, Ell will share with the sub-committee, a member of the committee will visit the garden, the member will write a short personal response and forward it to Ell, Ell will email the form letter with personal response added.

### Timeline for tree plotting project

Rahmlow said he had spoken with a forester contact in Eugene about tree plotting. He said the contact estimated it would cost \$30,000 to hire a professional for tree inventory and another \$30,000 to develop a tree plan for the city.

Ferrer said she would like to a clear description of what volunteers will do for tree plotting and where they can sign up.

Rahmlow asked what amount of money the City will be spending on trees. He said hiring a professional to do inventory and planning would demonstrate the City is investing in trees.

Kavanagh said a tree inventory was an essential first step for seeking grants.

Ferrer said green infrastructure grants may be able to help pay for the creation of a management plan.

The Committee agreed they would like to invite Community Development Director Joshua Chandler to a future meeting to discuss planning a tree inventory project.

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Next Meeting: October 16, 2023

Items for Next Meeting:

Cruise ship dock area landscaping

City Adopt-A-Street program

Downtown trash cans proposal

Tree inventory discussion

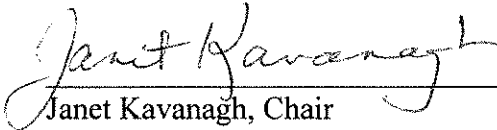
ADJOURNMENT

Being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:50 pm.

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Submitted by/  
Amie Ell, City Clerk

SIGNED:

  
Janet Kavanagh, Chair

ATTEST:

  
Amie Ell, City Clerk

**BEAUTIFICATION & TREE COMMITTEE**

“To promote and honor our rich cultural history, share and enhance the beauty of our community, and strengthen communal pride in our public spaces through citizen engagement, advocacy, recognition, and partnerships.”

TO: Mayor Mays, City Manager Klebes, and The Dalles City Council Members  
FROM: Connie Krummrich  
RE: LITTER—Overview of Second Saturday Clean Ups and A “Next-Step” Recommendation

July 12<sup>th</sup>, 2023

On June 30<sup>th</sup> I stepped down from the Beautification Committee, having completed my 4-year commitment.

A primary area of interest from the start and through the duration of my membership on the Committee was –LITTER !!

When Blue Zones terminated their programming in February 2019, that also brought an end to organized litter clean ups in our community. I approached the City Manager about taking over sponsorship of Clean Ups, but the City declined, citing legal and staffing concerns.

Thankfully, Rachel and Erin Carter of Columbia Gorge Toyota Honda stepped up and offered to be the anchor sponsors. They created a simple legal waiver; purchased safety vests and gloves; created posters and other social media advertising strategies; assumed responsibility for picking up litter bags and delivering them to The Dalles Disposal on Clean Up days. (The Dalles Disposal covers the cost for up to two pick-up loads of litter each event.) The Beautification Committee became a “Co-Host” for the project; has advertised the events; and has had a representative at each Clean Up. We have acquired litter bags from ODOT and Free Bridge Brewery; have purchased radio ads regarding litter concerns (“Stop the Drop”): and purchased 10 grabbers. During the past school year, I presented litter-awareness education in the elementary schools.

Since October, 2020 there have been 25 Second Saturday Clean Ups, which run March through November. 530 people have attended (including repeat participants).

Rachel and I recruited one or more “Guest Hosts” for each Clean Up. The following businesses and organizations have participated:

Boy Scouts    District 21 School Board    Mayor Mays and City Council Members    Columbia Bank  
Main Street Organization    First Interstate Bank    LDS Church    UCC Church    POP Indivisible Group  
Copper West    Wasco County Democrats    Wasco County Republicans    Lions Club  
Herbal Apothecary    TDHS Students and Dean    Columbia Gorge Community College    Girl Scouts  
St. Mary’s School    MCMC Health Foundation    Studio Fit    John L. Scott Realty    Little League  
The Dalles Athletic Club    Watershed Council

Clean Ups have taken place at the following locations:

West 6<sup>th</sup> Street (13 x) West 2<sup>nd</sup> St/Skate Park/Mill Creek/Thompson Park (10 x) Downtown (4x)

Cruise Ship Dock area to Webber St. (3x) Old Dufur Rd/Hwy. 197 (1x) East Roundabout/Big Jim's (1x)

Parks and Rec along Mill Creek by Safeway (3x) Chenoweth Creek/Riverfront Trail (1x)

St. Mary's School/up Cherry Hts. (2x) Walnut St./Center Mkt./Kramer Field (3x)

Cherry Hts./Fred Meyer/Thompson Park (2x)

26 → I have participated in 23 of the Clean Ups and have a keen sense of the state of litter issues in The Dalles. Sincere thanks is extended to every caring organization and individual who has shown up on these Saturday mornings to help make our community a better place to live.

Special recognition and gratitude goes to Rachel and Erin Carter. Countless thousands of pieces of litter are off our streets due to their dedicated leadership.

But more can and must be done if we truly want to keep litter under control in our community.

I highly recommend that the City government establish an Adopt-A-Street program which could facilitate even greater participation of individuals, families, businesses, and organizations in keeping our streets clean and beautiful and building civic pride.

Many cities/public entities in Oregon, including the following, already have such programs and can provide models for institutionalizing systems for citizens to "adopt" portions of streets and commit to keeping them litter free:

Redmond Central Point Gresham Sherwood Deschutes County Beaverton Grants Pass

Florence Multnomah County Milwaukie Wilsonville Jackson County Independence Keizer

Hermiston Polk County McMinnville

I presented the Adopt-A-Street idea to the Beautification Committee and was met with enthusiastic encouragement to advance the proposal to the City leaders. Rachel Carter has approached the Committee and some of you, asking for more City support. It has become clear to me that the most successful litter-abatement programs involve active City-government management.

A good foundation has been laid through the Second Saturday Clean Ups.

Now let's build on that. Let's get our name on the list of cities that have well-developed, City-run programs.

ALL TOGETHER -- MAKE THE DALLES SHINE

# ≡ Insert city Letterhead ≡

↳ Tree

Thank you for contacting The Dalles Beautification Committee. We value your interest in enhancing the beauty and livability of our town.

The monthly Beautification Award program is managed by a subcommittee that goes all around town each month selecting yards with special appeal and then makes the difficult decision to choose a single home as the award recipient.

Criteria is broad and can vary: from colorful plantings to ornamental, fruit bearing and shade trees, vegetables and xeriscaping, interesting use of space and whimsical yard art, to highly manicured or freer in design.

Personal response to resident from us here....

Your recommendations are appreciated and will be considered.