

MINUTES

BEAUTIFICATION AND TREE COMMITTEE MEETING
OCTOBER 16, 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: Abby Jara, Executive Assistant

CALL TO ORDER

Kavanagh called the meeting to order at 4:00

ROLL CALL

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

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

It was moved by Nelson and seconded by Drinkwine to approve the agenda as presented. The motion carried 5 to 0; Nelson, Drinkwine, Ferrer, Rahmlow, Kavanagh voting in favor; none opposed; Walker absent

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

It was moved by Nelson and seconded by Rahmlow to approve the October 2, 2023 minutes as presented. The motion carried 5 to 0; Nelson, Rahmlow, Drinkwine, Kavanagh, Nelson voting in favor; none opposed; Whitney absent

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COMMITTEE REPORTS

Residential Tree Grant Update

Kavanagh said the sub-committee will meet next week to reflect on the first completion of the residential tree grant program. She said they would report back to the Committee at the next meeting.

Nelson said all but 1 tree was picked up at the event.

Kavanagh said Danny Cosgrove the Education Outreach Coordinator at the Columbia Gorge Discover Center would like to be considered to receive the remaining tree. She said another idea was to have the City plant the tree and include signage to commemorate the first successful tree grant program.

The sub-committee was impressed with the work the temporary Facilities Supervisor, James Maddox had done to have all of the trees and materials on site.

Kavanaugh said an idea for next time is to have all recipients attend a 30-minute instructional session at 10 a.m. before trees are given out. She said a more detailed discussion of ideas for improvements would happen at the next committee meeting.

Ferrer shared images from the event with the Committee. (see attached)

DISCUSSION

Trevitt/6th Street Triangle

Ell said she had contacted David Mills the Transportation Division Manager, and Jerry Anderson the Water Distribution Division Manager about adding a sculpture and updating landscaping at the Trevitt/6th Street triangle.

Ell said Mills agreed it was a good idea. She said Mills offered to participate in a site visit with the Committee. She reported Mills said they should use the same size perimeters as when planning the previous sculpture with Columbia Gorge Community College (CGCC) students.

Ell said Anderson confirmed there is irrigation at the site and it is on from March through October. She said the irrigation may need to be moved, but was told that would be OK.

Rahmlow reminded the group there were two possible timelines for working with CGCC students to create a sculpture and if the earlier timeline was desired, planning would have to begin soon.

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Ferrer said she recommended the timeline working with 1st semester students.

Kavanagh said she also preferred the earlier timeline.

Rahmlow said he will contact the instructor at CGCC to confirm this timeline will work.

Ell will coordinate with GCGG, Public Works, and the Committee to plan a site visit.

Cruise ship dock area landscaping

Kavanagh said she had been corresponding with Oregon Department of Transportation about planting the hillside near the Cruise Ship Dock. She said there is also a city-owned planter in front of the dock that needs care.

Drinkwine said it would be best to plant low maintenance native plants on the hillside.

Kavanagh said the planter should be the Committee's main focus and low-cost wildflower seeds should be considered for the hillside.

The Committee would like to talk with the Facilities and Community Development departments to determine how they can best support these efforts moving forward. Ell will invite representatives from these departments to the November 20th meeting.

City Adopt-A-Street program

Rahmlow said he would like to hear from the City Manager about the City plans for trash pick-up and if he is supportive of a city-run adopt a street program.

Nelson said he had experienced living in a city with a similar program. He said it was mainly designed for along highways. He said that once the program was set-up, it became automatic and ran smoothly.

Rahmlow asked Ell to discuss the idea with the City Manager and bring back to the Committee his suggestions.

Downtown trash cans proposal

Drinkwine said she was not impressed with the aesthetics of the proposed trash cans.

Kavanagh said there was the possibility of working with The Dalles Art Center or the schools to decorate the cans with art.

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Ferrer said in Newport, Oregon public benches each have sponsors responsible for painting the benches.

Ferrer suggested the Committee move forward with creating a proposal to present to Urban Renewal in which they suggest the number of and locations for the trashcans as well as the idea to add art to the trash cans.

Rahmlow said benches and bike racks also need to be added downtown to improve walkability. He said there are connections between this project, the adopt a street project and the community clean-ups.

Drinkwine said the addition of more downtown trash cans will help to eliminate some of the litter problems. She said more benches and bike racks also need to be added.

Ell will invite Community Development Director Josh Chandler and economic Development Officer Dan Spatz to the second meeting in November to discuss both the Cruise Ship hillside/planter planning and downtown trash cans.

Next Meeting: November 6, 2023


Items for Next Meeting:

- Presentation from Sally Johnson, Director of The Dalles Art Center
- Discussion on how to collaborate with the Wasco County Soil & Water Conservation District

ADJOURNMENT

Being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:34 p.m.

Submitted by/
Amie Ell, City Clerk

SIGNED: 
Janet Kavanagh, Chair

ATTEST: 
Amie Ell, City Clerk

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