

MINUTES

BEAUTIFICATION AND TREE COMMITTEE MEETING

November 18, 2024

VIA ZOOM/IN PERSON

PRESIDING: Janet Kavanagh  
MEMBERS PRESENT: Debi Ferrer, Janet Kavanagh, Angel Drinkwine  
ABSENT: John Nelson, Chuck Gomez, Jon Chavers  
Staff Liaison: Abby Jara, Staff Liaison  
Ex Officio: Cindy Kever, ex officio member

CALL TO ORDER

Kavanagh called the meeting to order at 4:02 PM

ROLL CALL

Executive Assistant Abigail Jara conducted roll call; Ferrer, Kavanagh, Drinkwine, present  
John Nelson, Chuck Gomez, Jon Chavers, absent

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

No quorum.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

No quorum.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

Chris Dodson, Columbia Gorge Community College Instructor

Dodson stated that he had been under the impression that the meeting was intended to discuss the tree walking tour plaques.

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Kavanagh stated that she does not believe the committee has reached that point yet.

Jara explained that when they met with Chris and others regarding the Trevitt Triangle, one of the suggestions made during the discussion about the tree plaques and walking tour was that Chris was simply there to share his thoughts and ideas. She noted that the committee had previously discussed wanting to get plaques for the walking tour and had agreed to pursue it.

Ferrer apologized for the confusion and clarified that she had thought she had spoken to Chris at the Trevitt Triangle ribbon cutting about getting a plaque there, as well as one for the Four Seasons cherry tree. She mentioned that she was confused by the agenda regarding plaques for the trees, noting that many of the trees are on private property, and questioned how plaques would be visible since some trees are set far back from the street. Ferrer expressed that she didn't feel prepared to discuss tree plaques but would like to discuss plaques for the art installations already completed. She suggested having further discussions about the tree walking tour before moving forward with plaques for the trees.

Dodson said the plaques for the sculptures already completed, he has some design ideas that he will gather and email to the group, including screenshots for easier visualization. He also mentioned having a couple of ideas for the heritage tree walking tours and will also send those.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

### Staff Liaison

Jara updated the committee:

- December 16<sup>th</sup>, 2024 City Council is scheduled to have a Special meeting which the Beautification & Tree Committee (BTC) is also scheduled to meet. The committee can shorten their meeting or move it to start at 3:30pm to ensure the BTC meeting finishes by 5pm.
- Asked the committee if they would like a plaque for the 12<sup>th</sup> and Kelly sculpture.

### Trevitt Triangle Spring Update

Kavanagh stated she had further discussions with Patricia after the last meeting and confirmed the city could handle all the preparation with Patricia's guidance. Patricia has now submitted a revised bid of \$5,500, which is half of the previous estimate, covering all plantings, the plants, and the irrigation system, with the city taking care of the preparation and dirt.

Ferrer asked if they have something in writing that outlines what the City and Patricia are going to do.

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Kavanagh said they have in writing what Patricia is going to do. She mentioned the committee had discussed with the city and seen the list of tasks they could handle, but it would be worth going back to confirm those details in writing.

Kavanagh mentioned that Patricia provided a new bid for \$5,500 for landscaping the Trevitt triangle. This bid includes her crew handling all the planting, purchasing the plants, and installing the irrigation system, with the preparation work removed. Kavanagh suggested discussing this further when a quorum is present. She inquired about having a copy of the previous invoice showing the details of the initial bid and noted that the committee had previously discussed it with Public Works. She also suggested discussing it with David Mills, Transportation Manager at Public Works.

Keever responded Mills could do the manual labor.

The committee discussed the details and roles of both Public Works and Patricia Gates.

The project will potentially start in Mid-March.

### Brief Update on Bulbs

A brief update on the bulbs was given. Two bags of tulips and three to four bags of daffodils were purchased at 50% off, totaling under \$100. Receipts were kept, but it was unclear if the expense could be claimed, otherwise, it would be a donation. The original plan to plant the bulbs in the planter was changed after Abby informed the group that Matthew preferred leaving the planter as it was, since it had been zero landscaped years ago.

Jara clarified Matthew suggested there would not be a need to focus on the planter as it was intended to be a Zero Escape Plan and had only been completed about a year and a half ago.

Drinkwine asked zero scape means having nothing there and being blank because that was not to her knowledge of zero scape.

Ferrer recalled a discussion from several months ago regarding zero escaping, and clarified that zero escaping refers to landscaping with plants that require minimal water. Xeriscaping typically native plants that use the same amount of water. She also expressed frustration, noting that the recent planting, which included two rough-looking rose bushes, was not in line with the concept of xeriscaping, as rose bushes are not native.

Jara said when she was coming on last year, she remembers the committee discussing plantings on the hillside but wasn't sure if this was something the committee was still interested in doing.

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Kavanagh recalled spending a significant amount of time discussing the project with ODOT and City staff. After inspecting the area, they discovered that irrigation had been installed on the hillside, which has since been looking much better. The hillside now features some nice native plants, and one side has wildflowers and lupines in the spring. While the planter is the first thing one sees, the final decision is the City Manager's call.

Ferrer emphasized there may have been a miscommunication regarding the term "xeriscaping," spelled with an X (X-E-R-I-scaping), which involves using plants that require minimal water. It was clarified at the time that this differs from "zero scaping" (Z-E-R-O-scaping), is landscaping with rocks. This distinction may have caused some confusion.

Kavanagh stated she does not believe he is confused, but thinks he may be confused about the term. She added that he appears to believe the area looks fine as it is and noted that it was completed about a year and a half ago.

Jara emphasized it was more of a suggestion the City Manager was making and suggested that there are other areas where plantings could be focused, as discussed in previous meetings. One idea shared with Janet was the planter near the intersection in front of Montira's Thai restaurant, at the triangle as you enter the city.

Kavanagh stated that the committee would be happy to plant in that area.

Ferrer asked about planting bulbs at the Kelly Avenue triangle.

Kavanagh expressed interest in planting at both triangles, noting that the entrance to the City has several dead plants and looks bare. She asked if permission from the City Manager would be required.

Jara responded that Kavanagh should inform herself and Cindy about the planting plans so she can coordinate with Public Works to ensure they are aware and provide any necessary support.

Kavanagh said while the committee is small today, she would like to get the bulbs planted soon, ideally within the next 10 days. The committee agreed to bring their own tools, gloves, shovels, and trowels, and stated they would not require tools from the City.

Ferrer suggested asking if there are any irrigation lines to watch out for. She noted that they would likely only be using hand trowels.

The committee discussed potential dates that would work best for planting bulbs at both triangles.

The committee updated Keever on the discussion regarding planting bulbs at both triangles.

Kavanagh asked if there's anything important, they could damage with their trowels.

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Keever suggested to do a call to do a locate before digging.

Overview of “How to Make an Attractive City”

The committee briefly discussed the video, but committee member who brought it up was absent.

Other Updates

Ferrer said she will be working on the Green Infrastructure Grant; deadline is December 2<sup>nd</sup>. She asked who does she need to share the grant for approval at the City.

Jara responded to send to her.

Next Meeting: December 2, 2024

Items for Next Meeting:

ADJOURNMENT

Being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:52 pm.

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Submitted by/  
Abigail Jara, Executive Assistant

SIGNED:

  
Janet Kavanagh, Chair

ATTEST:

  
Abigail Jara, Executive Assistant

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