

MINUTES

BEAUTIFICATION AND TREE COMMITTEE MEETING

September 16, 2024

VIA ZOOM/IN PERSON

PRESIDING: Janet Kavanagh
MEMBERS PRESENT: Debi Ferrer, Janet Kavanagh, John Nelson, Chuck Gomez, Jon Chavers
ABSENT: Angel Drinkwine
Staff Liaison: Abby Jara, Staff Liaison

CALL TO ORDER

Kavanagh called the meeting to order at 4:01pm.

ROLL CALL

Executive Assistant Abigail Jara conducted roll call; Ferrer, Kavanagh, Nelson, present; Drinkwine absent.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

Ferrer added 'Donation of Tree to Parks & Rec.' under action items.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

It was moved by Ferrer and seconded by Gomez to approve the August 05, 2024 minutes as presented. The motion carried 4 to 0; Ferrer, Gomez, Kavanagh, Nelson voting in favor; none opposed; Drinkwine, Chavers absent

It was moved by Ferrer and seconded by Gomez to approve the August 26, 2024 minutes as amended. The motion carried 4 to 0; Ferrer, Gomez, Nelson, Kavanagh voting in favor; none opposed; Drinkwine, Chavers absent

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AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

Alan Root, Iron Sculpture Artist, introduced himself and provided some background on his work in The Dalles and Mosier. He explained that he was attending the Beautification & Tree Committee meeting to offer a piece of art he created, currently displayed in front of The Dalles Art Center (TDAC), as a gift to the City of The Dalles—Beautification & Tree Committee. Root described the rose sculpture (Persian copper) which was emulated from an heirloom rose. His interest in roses began while volunteering with the Master Gardeners in the rose garden.

Ferrer suggested the committee should take some time to review Root's past work.

Root distributed his business card, encouraging members to visit his website to view his portfolio.

Root said he was a featured artist in the Gorge Magazine in 2014, full page article in the Hood River News in 1978; he has an extensive body of work and history.

Kavanagh noted that the committee would need to consider potential locations for Root's artwork.

Root also shared his art scrapbook, explaining the inspiration behind each piece.

Nelson asked if he had any ideas for where to place the sculpture.

Root said he thought of Sorosis Park but knows it isn't city owned.

Kavanagh said city park, which is owned by The City of The Dalles, noting that it ties into both the history of the Oregon Trail and Root's family heritage.

Root agreed that City Park would be a good location.

Nelson said because of their rose garden.

Ferrer asked if the art is ready for installation.

Gomez asked whether footings or a base would be needed for the sculpture.

Root said yes, the City is good about getting those things.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Staff Liaison

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Jara asked if the committee members had received the invitation for the Trevitt Triangle Sculpture Ribbon Cutting event.

Nelson asked what day it is on.

Jara said Thursday, September 26th at 3:15pm. The details are in the invite, that was forward to the committee, Chris Dodson (CGCC Instructor) and Shanay (student who designed the sculpture), City Council members, and Mayor Mays will be attending.

Jara mentioned a constituent reached out asking if they could still apply for the Tree Grant program. She explained she informed the constituent she would bring the request to the committee, noting sometimes applicants do not collect their trees, which could provide an opportunity to give a tree to the constituent.

Kavanagh said to Jara to send resident's information to the committee because they look for areas with few trees, near schools, and other parameters related to grants.

Ferrer said to have the resident fill out an application with the understanding that it would be pending availability.

Jara informed the committee a constituent called to nominate her neighbor, Adelle Barnett, for the Beautification Award.

Jara also asked Nelson to send the information about September's Beautification Award so the City Clerk can post it on social media.

Jara provided an update on the status of the trash can covers and benches. She reported that the covers have been ordered and are expected to arrive by the end of October. Five benches will be ready by winter, with the remaining benches completed by spring.

Ferrer asked if the benches would include armrests in the middle.

Jara responded they would not.

Ferrer was concerned not having arm rests noting that local businesses were worried about homeless individuals potentially sleeping on the benches.

Jara explained that the benches are designed to be shorter, which should help address those concerns.

Kavanagh said the committee had done research on the benches testing them for comfort as well as appearance, to ensure they would serve the best interests of everyone.

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Jara informed the committee the Employee & Volunteer Appreciation BBQ has been rescheduled for the following week.

Tree Grant Application Update

Kavanagh said Nelson, Ferrer and herself have been working on the application process for the Tree Grant program.

Ferrer said when they received the applications the members divided them: East, central, and west side. Each member then visited the locations to assess where the trees would be planted, based on the descriptions provided in the applications, and to determine if the selected tree species were appropriate for the sites. If any questions arose, the committee contacted the property owners for clarification.

Ferrer also noted that the committee prioritized new recipients over those who received trees last year. Additionally, some applicants requested two trees, and in cases where the location was suitable, two trees were awarded.

Ferrer shared 49 trees have been requested this year, double the number from last year. Total estimated cost is \$7, 272.00, but after accounting for additional trees, root barriers, Gator bags, sprinklers, and delivery fees, the total comes to approximately \$8,600.

Ferrer further stated that applicants will be notified whether they were awarded a tree or not, with encouragement for those not selected to apply again next year. She reminded the committee that the tree pick-up is scheduled for October 12th, potentially at Thompson Park.

ACTION ITEMS

Donation of Tree to Farmstand Grocery Store

A suggestion was made to donate a tree to the Farmstand Grocery Store, where their previous one was removed.

The committee will be meeting with the owner to discuss tree options and location for planting.

The committee approved the donation of a tree to Farmstand Grocery Store.

DISCUSSION

Trevitt Triangle Landscape Design

Kavanagh met with Patricia Gates, Owner of Garden Gates, at the Trevitt triangle to review the

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details of the flower planting and measure the entire area.

Kavanagh asked to show the committee a video of the different Heather flower varieties for planting at the Trevitt Triangle. The committee then discussed the design and care of the triangle in detail.

Ferrer inquired whether an RFP (Request for Proposal) would be necessary.

Jara said she does not believe an RFP is required but will confirm.

Kavanagh said she would like the plantings done this fall and mentioned she will follow up with Garden Gates on irrigation, design, and pricing.

It was moved by Ferrer and seconded by Nelson to approve \$1,500 for landscape design. The motion carried 5 to 0, Ferrer, Nelson, Kavanagh, Chavers, Gomez voting in favor; none opposed; Drinkwine absent.

Tree Plaques for GPS Tour & Travel Routes Program

Gomez said the Beautification & Tree Committee (BTC) has been making more of an impression on the community through the tree grant program, emphasizing awareness is crucial. He suggested utilizing Facebook as a broad-reaching platform for all. Gomez proposed creating a tree recognition poster publicized on Facebook, from the BTC indicating an old or historical tree to recommend to the committee and a consideration of a small bronze plaque that'll eventually be incorporated to a pre walking tour.

Ferrer asked Gomez if he's familiar with their Heritage Tree Walking Tour.

Gomez said yes.

Ferrer said she would like to see it be taken a step further by encouraging participants to use their cell phones to navigate to the next location. Information & Application are available on the city website.

Kavanagh said the committee is all on the same page but unfortunately have not received many applications from residents.

Gomez suggested the committee should resend the information about the Heritage Tree Walking Tour on Facebook to increase community awareness. The committee discussed various strategies to better promote the tour.

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Gomez raised concerns regarding the Downtown Trees, specifically addressing issues related to soil type, water bags, and the tree company's approach to bare root planting. He expressed skepticism about their methods, noting time has already been wasted.

Kavanagh said it's a sore topic for the committee, stating that although a business card was provided, the members were not fully satisfied with the arborist's responses.

Gomez said this needs to be brought up to city council and will be happy to do so.

Ferrer expressed the arborist heard the committee's concerns because it seemed it was important for the arborist to get it right.

Gomez then responded the arborist couldn't have been more wrong and almost every tree is dead.

Next Meeting: October 7, 2024

Items for Next Meeting:

- Post cards Photo
- Poster Tree Recognition
- Beautification Grant for Downtown businesses
- Ending of Beautification Award

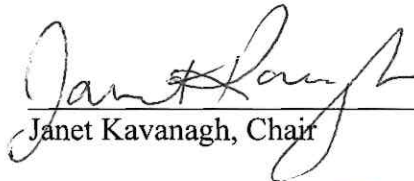
ADJOURNMENT

Being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:33 pm.

Submitted by/

Abigail Jara, Executive Assistant

SIGNED:


Janet Kavanagh, Chair

ATTEST:


Abigail Jara, Executive Assistant

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