

BEAUTIFICATION AND TREE COMMITTEE AGENDA

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**AGENDA**

**BEAUTIFICATION AND TREE COMMITTEE MEETING**

April 7, 2024

4:00 p.m.

City Hall Council Chamber

VIA ZOOM

<https://zoom.us/j/95147361566?pwd=S2N6bnRSbHVqZkdwaFJEVkhVNFBZQT09>

Meeting ID: 951 4736 1566

Passcode: 197873

Dial 1(346) 248-7799 or 1(669) 900-6833

1. CALL TO ORDER

2. ROLL CALL

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. Approval of March 17, 2025 Beautification & Tree Minutes

5. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION/PRESENTATIONS

6. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Staff Liaison

B. Residential Tree Update

7. ACTION ITEMS

8. DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Selection of Location for Next Wind Sculpture

9. ADJOURNMENT

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This meeting conducted Via ZOOM

Prepared by/  
Abigail Jara, Executive Assistant

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**CITY OF THE DALLES 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.

MINUTES

BEAUTIFICATION AND TREE COMMITTEE MEETING

March 17, 2025

VIA ZOOM/IN PERSON

PRESIDING:

MEMBERS PRESENT: Debi Ferrer, John Nelson, Chuck Gomez

ABSENT: Jann Oldenburg

Staff Liaison: Abby Jara, Staff Liaison

Also in attendance: Cynthia Keever, Ex Officio Member

CALL TO ORDER

Nelson called the meeting to order at 4:02 pm.

ROLL CALL

Executive Assistant Abigail Jara conducted roll call; Ferrer, Gomez, Nelson, present  
Oldenburg absent

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

It was moved by Gomez and seconded by Ferrer to approve the agenda as presented. The motion carried 3 to 0; Gomez, Ferrer, Nelson voting in favor; none opposed; Oldenburg absent

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

It was moved by Gomez and seconded by Ferrer to approve the March 3, 2025 minutes as presented. The motion carried 3 to 0; Gomez, Ferrer, Nelson voting in favor; none opposed; Oldenburg absent

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## COMMITTEE REPORTS

### Staff Liaison

Jara updated the committee:

- A down payment was made to Patricia Gates to begin the Trevitt Triangle planting project. David Mills, Transportation Manager, stated he Public Works Department would complete the Triangle's preparation by Wednesday, ensuring it is ready for Gates to begin planting.
- Confirmation that the Beautification & Tree Committee (BTC) has a stack of cards available for recognizing residents with nice gardens.
- In response to the committee's previous request for a designated spot on the City Council agenda each month to provide updates on their work and future plans, Jara informed the committee instead of a designated spot, the City Manager is happy to share any updates on their behalf or the committee can provide updates during the audience participation segment of the City Council meeting.

### Beautification Garden Awards

Nelson stated Oldenburg had sent a list of homes to consider for the Garden Awards. Since Oldenburg is out of town, Nelson asked for a committee member to join him this month in selecting a home. Ferrer volunteered.

## DISCUSSION

### Second Saturday Sign Ups

Nelson asked the committee for their preferences regarding their involvement in the Second Saturday cleanups.

Ferrer shared that, in her experience, it has been challenging to have even one committee member attend, let alone two, due to other commitments. She suggested at least one member sign up for at least two Saturdays to assist with setup, acknowledge volunteers, express gratitude for their participation, and represent the Beautification Committee.

The committee discussed and assigned cleanup dates as follows:

- April: Ferrer
- May: Gomez
- June: Nelson

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### Lead Project Assignments

Nelson stated the committee needs to review the strategic plan to determine which projects they can take on and which ones they can't. (See attached).

Ferrer noted there's no indication of funding the committee would receive for next fiscal year but suggested first identifying priorities for the remainder of the year and determining which projects should be prioritized for the following year.

Nelson stated the Residential Tree Grant remains a priority.

The committee reviewed other goals outlined in the strategic plan.

Ferrer volunteered to develop a tree plan, research grant opportunities, and explore whether the Department of Forestry could assist with a tree inventory and canopy mapping.

Nelson asked whether this includes a tree inventory.

Ferrer clarified it would, explaining a tree inventory, canopy mapping, along with projects that involve plantings are typically part of a tree plan.

Nelson understood and noted the importance of a tree plan, stating that it supports the committee's role in addressing climate change by creating green space and providing shade which lowers temperatures for residents living in the community.

The discussion moved on to goal number 2.

Ferrer mentioned now the trash cans are completely installed, the committee can remove the item from their strategic plan.

Nelson stated he would like to keep it in the strategic plan because he wants to add trash cans along Sixth Street.

Gomez noted the fast-food chains and strip mall already have trash cans. However, he thinks this does not rule out the possibility of placing additional trash cans along Sixth Street.

Ferrer agreed to keep the item on the plan, but noted it wouldn't be a priority.

The discussion then moved on to Goal Number 3.

Nelson asked if the committee would still like to add sculptures within the community.

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## MINUTES

Beautification and Tree Committee Meeting

March 17, 2025

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Ferrer mentioned sculptures have been added every year, she expressed a desire to continue this effort in collaboration with Columbia Gorge Community College and hopes to add another sculpture next year.

Nelson asked how much effort the committee would like to dedicate to creating an award for businesses.

Gomez noted that the committee needs more members and suggested revisiting the discussion later in the year.

Ferrer stated that she would prioritize downtown planters over business awards.

Jara mentioned under goal 3 she removed 'Historical building recognition downtown—sidewalk stars' because the Planning Department recently completed a similar project. Each historic building downtown now has a plaque with a QR code linked to the Ottocast application.

The committee agreed to keep benches and bump outs on the strategic plan, as both may be expanded in the future.

Jara asked if bike racks should remain on the plan, recalling that the previous chair intended to coordinate with Main Street on the project. No decision was made.

Nelson brought up the "Fencing art projects to hide empty lots, treatment plant," noting it has been on the plan for two years with no progress made. The committee discussed various ideas in detail.

Jara clarified the fencing projects involve private property, and the committee would need to contact property owners and recruit additional volunteers to take on such a project. The committee agreed not to take action unless a property owner initiates interest but decided to keep it on the strategic plan.

Goal Number 5 was discussed by the committee, focusing on how they would like it to be implemented.

Nelson asked whether prospective committee members would need to reside within the city.

Jara clarified that committee members are required to live within city limits.

### Downtown Planters Grant Application

Jara asked the committee if they can look over the application, with the corrections, and send it back to be able to send it to the City Attorney for final review.

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### **BEAUTIFICATION & TREE COMMITTEE**

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The committee reviewed and discussed the suggested changes.

Other Updates:

Keever updated the committee on the Annual Community Clean Up. For more information, please visit the city website.

Next Meeting: April 7, 2025  
Items for Next Meeting:

ADJOURNMENT

Being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:28 pm.

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Submitted by/  
Abigail Jara, Executive Assistant

SIGNED:

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John Nelson, Chair

ATTEST:

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Abigail Jara, Executive Assistant

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## The City of The Dalles Beautification and Tree Committee | Strategic Plan – 2025-2026 FY

Vision: A community that has involved citizens of all ages, strong local collaboration, green spaces, a revitalized downtown, efficient government, is a commercial hub, honors our cultural diversity, has a proactive education system, has compatible neighborhoods, a far-ranging transportation system, and a comprehensive medical system. (Compiled summary of VAP)	
Mission: 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.	
Goal #1 Create a robust and extensive tree canopy and other green infrastructure to improve community health, wellbeing, and increase climate resiliency.	Residential tree grants
	Develop a community tree plan to include potential sources of additional funding
	Become a part of Tree City USA
	Conduct a tree inventory
	Advisory role to downtown streets trees
Goal #2 Encourage citizen engagement to preserve the beauty of our community	Stop the Drop
	Community Cleanups
	Increase visibility, i.e. marketing, articles, social media, etc. to increase awareness in BTC activities
	Adopt-a- _____ (block, public space, street etc.)
Goal #3 Enhance the beauty of our community and increase recognition of its cultural history	Wind sculptures, art
	Beautification awards (residential & businesses) and postcards to recognize other nominations
	Historical building recognition downtown – “sidewalk stars”
	Update and improve existing notable trees walking tour
	Heritage tree inventory + QR codes for information
	Cruise ship hillside, Trevitt Triangle landscaping projects
Goal #4 Enhance the usability, enjoyment, and human aspects of public spaces, to make our city more pedestrian friendly	Benches
	Trashcans
	Planters
	Research downtown bump outs, pedestrian spaces
	Increase bike rack availability
	Fencing art projects to hide empty lots, treatment plant
	Public fountains and water features
Goal #5 Improving communication between City Council, City staff and other relevant city committees with ongoing projects	Attend City Council meetings monthly
	Invite City Council members and city staff attend a Beautification & Tree Committee meeting regularly
	Attend other relevant community meetings for awareness and coordination of activities

