

MINUTES

BEAUTIFICATION AND TREE COMMITTEE MEETING

April 21, 2025

VIA ZOOM/IN PERSON

PRESIDING: John Nelson

MEMBERS PRESENT: Debi Ferrer, John Nelson, Chuck Gomez, Jann Oldenburg

ABSENT:

Staff Liaison: Abby Jara, Staff Liaison

Also in attendance: Cynthia Keever, Ex Officio Member

CALL TO ORDER

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

ROLL CALL

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

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

It was moved by Gomez and seconded by Ferrer to approve the April 7, 2025 minutes as presented. The motion carried 4 to 0; Gomez, Ferrer, Nelson, Oldenburg voting in favor; none opposed; none 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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AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

Robert's Rules

Ell delivered a presentation on Robert's Rules of Order. (See attached). The goal of the presentation was to help understand why Robert's Rules are being implemented and how it applies to the committee.

Nelson stated he's never heard the phrasing, 'if the no's have it, the motion is lost.'

Ell responded she believes the phrasing is from the third edition of the summary of Robert's Rules.

Nelson also mentioned one challenge for a chair is having to return to the beginning of a motion in order to make an amendment.

Ell said she keeps a binder with highlighted notes detailing the process for making amendments.

Nelson further emphasized the committee practicing raising their hand before speaking.

Ell said part of Robert's Rules is ensuring fairness by giving everyone an equal opportunity to speak.

Observations

Councilor Tim McGlothlin thanked the Beautification & Tree Committee for their improvements around town.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Staff Liaison Updates

Jara informed the committee updates on:

- Received 5 applications for the Beautification Downtown Grant. And reminding that it's close to the end of the fiscal year and the committee would need to ensure reimbursements go out by June 30th.
- Having a work session as their next meeting to review applications for the Beatification Downtown Grant.
- Status on the Trevitt Triangle project. Should be done by Cherry Festival.

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- The Community Development Director, Joshua Chandler, asked the committee if they would be willing to put together a recommended tree list. To refine and hopefully adopt within City of The Dalles code.

Nelson asked for clarification whether Beautification Downtown funds could be used to purchase pots, with the intention of buying flowers separately. Jara confirmed the application does state planters, pots, and hanging baskets were also included for fund usage.

Gomez shared a personal story regarding plants and decorative plant pots stolen from outside the theater. As businesses participate in the grant program, he recommends opting for larger, heavier pots that are more difficult to steal.

Oldenburg shared she had an issue with a dogwood tree at home and got helpful guidance from Hood River Master Gardeners, including a native plant guide from OSU Extension. She suggested they could support the recommended tree list effort.

Ferrer said most cities have an approved tree list on their website, and she's happy to help develop one, as she's already done significant research. She emphasized that the current list is from 1994 and recommended the committee work on an updated list but noted it will be a big job and may take time. The committee proceeded to discuss further a plan and more resources regarding the recommended tree list project.

Keever gave the committee an update to questions they had from previous meeting regarding housing complex across from Ace Hardware store, plans for bump out crosswalks, and property down by the docks. The committee discussed further.

Residential Tree Grant Application

Ferrer gave the committee an update on the changes:

- Application deadline moved from September 1 to August 1.
- Tree pickup set for the second Saturday in October at Thompson Park.
- The required in-person tree planting demonstration has been removed. Instead, a video demonstration will be shared.
- An additional prioritization criterion was added: areas with less shade cover. Other priorities remain the same—trees near schools, affordable or senior housing, and public rights-of-way.
- Efforts will be made to obtain canopy cover data through the Oregon Department of Forestry.

The committee discussed in detail the different species available for the upcoming grant season.

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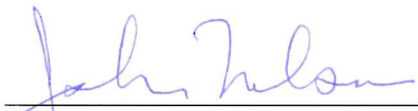
Oldenburg praised Keever for the rock placed at the triangle near Second and Third, calling it a perfect, authentic-looking addition done with Historic The Dalles.

Next Meeting: May 19, 2025
Items for Next Meeting:

ADJOURNMENT

Being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:11 pm.

Submitted by/
Abigail Jara, Executive Assistant

SIGNED: 
John Nelson, Chair

ATTEST: 
Abigail Jara, Executive Assistant

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