

MINUTES

BEAUTIFICATION AND TREE COMMITTEE MEETING

May 19, 2025

VIA ZOOM/IN PERSON

PRESIDING: John Nelson
MEMBERS PRESENT: Debi Ferrer, John Nelson
ABSENT: Chuck Gomez, Jann Oldenburg
Staff Liaison: Abby Jara, Staff Liaison

Also in attendance:

CALL TO ORDER

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

ROLL CALL

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

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Agenda was not approved due to a lack of quorum.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes were not approved due to a lack of quorum.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

Connie Krummrich—Trees

Krummrich thanked the committee for their work on Trevitt Street Island, noting its beauty and how much she enjoys seeing it in bloom. She raised concerns about ivy encroachment on trees

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near the north side of the library and both the north and south edges of City Park. As a regular visitor to the park, she conducted a personal survey and identified ivy affecting approximately 11 trees on the south side (six large, five small), seven trees on the north side, and around seven trees near the library.

Krummrich contacted Parks and Rec board members, who were supportive. She also spoke with Scott Baker, Parks and Recreation Executive Director, who indicated the south side of the City Park may be a mix of City and private property. He plans to confirm with the City and may coordinate ivy removal. She emphasized the importance of managing ivy growth to protect trees, she proposed cutting ivy at the base and pulling it back to prevent damage. Krummrich expressed interest in organizing a volunteer work party for ivy removal, potentially involving Parks and Rec and City staff, and stated she would be willing to contribute by hiring help. She noted the effort would require a crew and regular maintenance, particularly at the City Park and library, pending property ownership clarification.

Jara clarified if the trees are on city property, volunteers cannot assist. This is due to insurance limitations, as only committee volunteers are covered under the City's insurance policy. She also will be talking with the Planning Department who cause the GIS map to help confirm where the ivy-affected areas fall on private, Parks and Rec., or City property.

Krummrich noted it would be helpful if a waiver could allow volunteer participation, as she believes community members are willing to help address the ivy issue.

Mainstreet, Cynthia Kortge

Cynthia Kortge, Executive Director of Mainstreet, provided an update on current Main Street initiatives. She expressed interest in reestablishing regular coordination between Main Street and the Beautification & Tree Committee. She emphasized the shared goals of beautifying The Dalles, with Main Street focusing primarily on the downtown core, and encouraged open communication about potential project collaboration. She offered to both attend future committee meetings and extend an invitation for committee members to attend Main Street board meetings. Current updates:

- Mainstreet is reinitiating the Parklet Program this year. Several parklets have been located in good condition. One has been installed in the parking lot of 15 Mile Winery, with assistance from Julie and Steve Light, owners of Freedbridge Brewing. Efforts are underway to improve their appearance; new lights have been added, and over-shades are being considered, though wind remains a challenge. Main Street is updating the right-of-way agreements and application process. Due to staffing changes, Kortge and the City Manager have been in contact to ensure everyone is on the same page. Jacob Anderson, Economic Development Officer, is working with Steve to relaunch the program. Two or three parklets are expected to be installed this

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year, depending on interest and neighborhood feedback. This remains a learning process for those setting them up for the first time.

- There have been discussions with the County, which is now centrally located downtown, about increasing involvement in volunteer opportunities and community cleanups. Coordination is underway with efforts like those led by Rachel at Columbia Gorge Toyota, with a focus on downtown spaces.
- Main Street is organizing a Wine Walk Fundraiser for the Saturday night of the Cruise the Gorge weekend in August. Additional events, such as music performances, are being considered for later in the fall.
- Significant changes have occurred within Main Street's Board of Directors, including a new president and executive team.
- Main Street has applied for a \$400,000 Oregon Revitalization Grant for the development of a Fermentation Hub at the Federal Street Plaza. If awarded, the space would host Freebridge Brewing and other associated businesses and educational partners, including collaborations with the local college. The Oaks Hotel was the last recipient of this grant and is currently renovating its upper floors.

Nelson asked about plans for the upstairs for the Oaks Hotel. Kortge responded apartments are being added. The project also included facade reconstruction, painting, and some structural repairs. Approximately four apartments are planned.

Nelson asked when and where Main Street meets. Kortge responded meetings are held the first Tuesday of each month at 8:30 a.m. at the Foley on Fourth Street. She offered to send an invitation to the next meeting.

Kortge added the Mural Committee, under Main Street, is restoring the Umatilla House mural on the Rayland Hotel. The project received a \$25,000 grant from Google and is expected to begin in early September, led by committee chair Chris Zukin.

Nelson noted that City Manager Matthew, who initiated the parklet program, has had a great experience with it. Kortge added she was part of the fundraising committee that purchased the first parklets. She noted they have received recognition, with the City of Canby using a photo of The Dalles parklets on its website. She acknowledged parking concerns but stated there is no parking problem, aside from limited mobility situations.

Ferrer asked where the parklets will be placed. Kortge responded that locations will depend on business interest and securing proper permits and right-of-way agreements. Interested businesses include Café Enza, Wines on Second, and Petite Provence. Final locations are still being determined. She stated parklets benefit both restaurants and community gathering, helping to

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change the pace of downtown, noting the Federal Street Plaza project will be a major improvement.

Ferrer recalled previous discussions about bike racks and noted Main Street was in the process of ordering some. Kortge confirmed this but said the effort was delayed to coordinate with the planned bike hub at the Federal Street Plaza. She emphasized the importance of coordinating projects to avoid duplication and stay informed about each group's initiatives.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Consideration of Little Grabbers for Second Saturday Clean-Ups

Ferrer noted recent Second Saturday cleanups there are a shortage of grabbers. She proposed purchasing 15–20 additional grabbers, estimating a cost of approximately \$35 each. She suggested using any remaining budget funds for this purchase.

Nelson asked whether the shortage of grabbers was due to loss or another reason for not having many available. Ferrer responded several grabbers are broken and haven't been replaced in years. She noted that Toyota provided them previously and felt it would be a good gesture for the committee to contribute by purchasing new ones.

Jara reported \$327 remains in the beautification budget. Mulch for the Trevitt Triangle is estimated at \$312. She will check if it can be covered by the \$1,000 left in the tree grant, which could potentially free up funds for Second Saturday cleanups, but will check for approval.

Staff Liaison

Jara reported:

- Residential tree grant application has been sent to the city attorney for review
- A June 2nd Special Council meeting conflicts with the Beautification & Tree Committee meeting and will require a time adjustment.
- Keever, who was absent, requested that members check on the watering during their walks and report any issues or missed areas to her. Discussion about purchasing mulch for the site will be addressed at the next meeting.

Ferrer reported she is finalizing tree photos for the tree grant application. Due to nursery availability, some tree substitutions may be necessary. Based on last year's feedback, there is a focus on offering smaller trees suitable for hot, dry conditions. She selected the Eastern Redbud and a thornless Cockspur Hawthorn. She noted challenges with the City's prohibited tree list,

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which currently includes trees like Hawthorn and crabapple due to past issues, though newer cultivars may be more suitable. Ferrer recommended updating the list and confirmed that vine maple will be removed due to lack of interest, while dogwood will remain due to its popularity and adaptability.

DISCUSSION

Next Meeting: June 2, 2025

Items for Next Meeting:

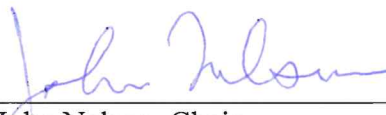
ADJOURNMENT

Being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:55 pm.

Submitted by/

Abigail Jara, Executive Assistant

SIGNED:


John Nelson, Chair

ATTEST:


Abigail Jara, Executive Assistant

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