

MINUTES

BEAUTIFICATION AND TREE COMMITTEE MEETING

July 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

CALL TO ORDER

Nelson called the meeting to order at 4:04 pm.

ROLL CALL

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

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Nelson noted 'Exhibit A—Photos' had been added under 6A Committee Reports and Sculpture Placement under Discussion Items on the agenda.

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

It was moved by Ferrer and seconded by Gomez to approve the June 16, 2025 minutes as presented. The motion carried 4 to 0; Ferrer, Gomez, Oldenburg, Nelson voting in favor; none opposed; none absent

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

BEAUTIFICATION & TREE COMMITTEE

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AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

Bill Lennox—Saving the Trees on Washington

Bill Lennox, previous Beautification & Tree Committee (BTC) member, shared his longstanding interest in trees led him to observe a sidewalk design in Portland that accommodated tree roots by curving the path around them. He contrasted this with Washington Street in The Dalles, where past sidewalk damage had led to the removal of large sycamores, and where newly planted trees were now beginning to cause similar issues. He noted bids had already been sought for tree removal near the Bill Dick Law Office and expressed concern about the cost and loss of mature trees. He suggested the City explore solutions that preserve mature shade trees, such as designing sidewalks around root systems. He referenced a previous example on Fourth Street, where the sidewalk was modified to preserve a large elm tree after community feedback and recommended the matter be brought to the Beautification and Tree Committee to explore preservation-focused solutions. Lennox shared photos from the City of Portland showing examples of sidewalks constructed to wrap around tree roots, allowing for the preservation of larger shade trees. (Please see attached images). The committee discussed further in detail about

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Nelson—Update with ODOT

Nelson reported he had contacted an ODOT representative, who indicated he would return with ODOT's permit officer, as any work at the location would require permits. He noted the only permit issued so far was for weed spraying and stated the next step would be to address the necessary permitting. The committee discussed beautification plans for the hillside acknowledging challenges with unhoused individuals frequenting the site and leaving debris. Photos were shown and the committee discussed further in detail. (See attached photos)

Staff Liaison—Curb & Sidewalk Update

Jara reported Public Works had been working with property owner Bill Dick for the past couple of years regarding tree removal in front of his law office, per the Deputy Public Works Director. The trees were causing significant infrastructure damage, including impacts to sidewalks, curbs, power lines, and street surfaces. Although Dick initially sought to preserve the trees and consulted with an arborist, it was determined that removal was necessary. Dick had not yet applied for the City's 50/50 Sidewalk Rehabilitation Program this year, although the city agreed to fund the ADA ramp at the corner, with remaining costs shared equally. Coordination delays with the arborist had postponed removal. Public Works staff planned to follow up with Dick to encourage progress. The trees would be replaced by the property owner following removal, consistent with prior practice. Lennox clarified the importance of the City developing a program and approach that evaluates each tree situation individually. He encouraged consideration of alternative solutions to tree-related infrastructure issues and recognition that not all trees in a

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given area may be causing the same level of damage. He also clarified that his comments were not limited to the specific case involving Bill Dick's property but were intended to promote a broader, more sensitive approach to tree management. He expressed hope that the Tree Committee would adopt this perspective in its work.

Ferrer clarified that Lennox appeared to be requesting the City develop a plan offering multiple alternatives for addressing trees that disrupt sidewalks or other infrastructure, rather than defaulting to removal. Lennox confirmed this interpretation. Ferrer suggested researching how other cities manage similar issues, noting that The Dalles does not currently have a formal tree management plan.

Jara reported she had received 22 applications for the Tree Grant Program following a recent social media outreach. With the application deadline approaching on the 21st, members were encouraged to share the program on their personal social media accounts and community pages to increase visibility.

Jara also shared that there had been a suggestion to beautify a small roundabout at the Lewis & Clark Park, in a manner similar to the successful Trevitt Triangle project, which had continued to receive positive community feedback. The committee further discussed landscaping ideas.

Sculpture Placement

Nelson reported he and Jan toured various locations in the community to identify potential sites for sculpture placement like the triangle at East 9th and Quentin, which was currently surrounded by construction equipment. He was unsure of the project's scope or future plans for the site. Jara offered to connect Nelson with the City's Transportation Manager, James Sprague, to find out more. The committee discussed further about the different sites for a sculpture.

DISCUSSION

Second Saturday Clean-Ups: Sign Ups

Ferrer reported the recent Second Saturday cleanup, had drawn approximately 28 participants, primarily from the Latter-Day Saints Church. She noted cleanups were scheduled for August, September, and October and requested volunteers to serve as the primary contact for each event. Assignments were confirmed as follows: Chuck for August 9, Debbie for September, and John for October, with others welcome to attend. Ferrer stated she would send reminders and procedural information in advance in case the usual coordinator was unavailable.

Next Meeting: August 4, 2025

Items for Next Meeting:

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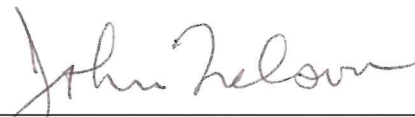
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ADJOURNMENT

Being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:07 pm.

Submitted by/
Abigail Jara, Executive Assistant

SIGNED:



John Nelson, Chair

ATTEST:



Abigail Jara, Executive Assistant

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