

BEAUTIFICATION AND TREE COMMITTEE AGENDA

AGENDA

BEAUTIFICATION AND TREE COMMITTEE MEETING

September 15, 2025

4:00 p.m.

City Hall Council Chamber

VIA ZOOM

<https://zoom.us/j/95147361566?pwd=S2N6bnRSbHVqZkdwaFJlVkhVNFBZQT09>

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 August 18, 2025 Beautification & Tree Minutes
5. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION/PRESENTATIONS
6. COMMITTEE REPORTS
 - A. Residential Tree Grant
 - B. Green Infrastructure Grant Application
 - C. Staff Liaison
7. ACTION ITEMS
8. DISCUSSION ITEMS
 - A. Roundabout Near Getchell Building
 - B. Union Street Hillside
 - C. Triangle on 16th & Dry Hollow
9. ADJOURNMENT

This meeting conducted Via ZOOM

Prepared by/
Abigail Jara, Executive Assistant

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

August 18, 2025

VIA ZOOM/IN PERSON

PRESIDING: John Nelson

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 4:05 pm.

ROLL CALL

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

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Nelson noted the addition of two discussion items to the agenda, Item 8B Roundabout Near Getchell Building and Item 8C Use of Foxglove

It was moved by Gomez and seconded by Ferrer to approve the agenda as amended. 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 August 4, 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

Residential Tree Grant Applications

Ferrer reported the committee had a productive work session and reviewed most tree applications. In several cases, applicants selected trees not suitable for their proposed locations, such as linden trees under power lines. Beautification members counseled applicants on alternative options, and applicants responded positively to the suggested changes. A few applications remained unresolved, with four to five still pending and one applicant not yet contacted. She stated the goal was to finalize all applications within the week. She also noted the need to place the tree order before the next scheduled meeting in September. She recommended approving up to \$8,000 for tree purchases, leaving approximately \$2,000 in the \$10,000 budget for root barriers, sprinklers, or Gator bags.

Nelson made a motion to add 7A under action items to approve funds for the Residential Tree Grant.

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

Ferrer reported that nearly all residential tree grant applicants were able to receive a tree, with two exceptions. One applicant was deemed ineligible due to existing trees needing removal, and another was outside city limits and therefore not eligible.

The committee discussed the possibility of awarding leftover trees but noted that two applicants were already on the wait list. It was agreed that any additional late applicants would also be placed on the wait list.

Ferrer stated she would compile all applications into a spreadsheet with applicant details and requested supplies, which would provide a clearer estimate of expenses. She confirmed extra Gator bags, root barriers, and sprinklers would be ordered if needed.

Green Infrastructure Grant

Ferrer reported on attending a recent information session regarding a tree grant program. She explained that grant amounts ranged from \$10,000 to \$200,000 and could support projects similar to the current tree planting program. However, the grant emphasized projects that included paid work opportunities for community members. She noted only the west side of The Dalles qualified for funding due to low tree canopy and income levels. She suggested options such as dedicating a portion of the existing tree grant funds to that area or developing a larger project that would involve hiring residents to assist with planting and maintenance. She also stated she would meet with City Manager to discuss project options and ensure city support for the application. She confirmed she was willing to draft the grant application but requested staff

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review and feedback and emphasized the importance of starting early, with the grant deadline set for October 14, and expressed a goal to have a draft ready by mid-September.

ACTION ITEMS

Ferrer moved and seconded by Gomez to approve up to \$8,000 for tree grant recipients and up to \$2,000 for supporting materials such as sprinklers, root barriers, and Gator bags.

The motion carried 3 to 0, Ferrer, Gomez, Nelson voting in favor, none opposed, Oldenburg absent.

During discussion, Ferrer proposed amending the motion to allow any unspent portion of the \$8,000 to be used to provide trees to North Wasco County School District 21 schools, contingent upon city approval.

It was moved by Ferrer and seconded by Gomez to approve expenditures up to \$8,000 for residential tree grant recipients and, if the full amount was not needed, to offer additional trees to North Wasco County School District 21 schools contingent upon city approval. Expenditures up to \$2,000 were also approved for supporting materials including sprinklers, root barriers, and Gator bags.

The motion carried 3 to 0, Ferrer, Gomez, Nelson voting in favor, none opposed, Oldenburg absent.

DISCUSSION

Union Street Underpass Hillside Update

Committee members reported on follow-up meetings with ODOT staff regarding site improvements near the docks. ODOT provided preliminary guidance, including the need for renderings and a potential contract framework similar to Mosier's Adopt-a-Highway agreement. ODOT indicated support for redesign and replanting provided the City guaranteed ongoing maintenance.

The committee reviewed a new concept plan prepared by the City Manager, which introduced terracing of the hillside. Members agreed the concept offered a more sustainable and aesthetically pleasing solution compared to earlier ideas involving gravel and rocks, which were considered less durable on steep slopes. The terraced design was recognized as more costly but offered better long-term maintenance options and visual appeal.

The committee reached general consensus to move forward with the terraced concept as the basis for developing proposals, while noting the importance of obtaining cost estimates and ODOT

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approval. Members also agreed to ensure Oldenburg’s input and recent email correspondence would be considered before finalizing decisions.

Roundabout Near Getchell Building

The Committee reviewed the roundabout near the Getchell building and confirmed it had an irrigation system and existing plant—primarily sedges-- and decorative rocks set in soil with no pavement beneath. Members noted the small paved ring around the planting and discussed placing a tree, a sculptural element, or additional plantings to provide shade and cool adjacent pavement.

Nelson mentioned that the City Manager suggested lavender to complement the rocks. He recommended an on-site visit to observe the surrounding grasses and plantings before deciding and stated no immediate action was required.

Next Meeting: September 15, 2025
Items for Next Meeting:

ADJOURNMENT

Being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:00 pm.

Submitted by/
Abigail Jara, Executive Assistant

SIGNED: _____
John Nelson, Chair

ATTEST: _____
Abigail Jara, Executive Assistant

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