

BEAUTIFICATION AND TREE COMMITTEE AGENDA

AGENDA

BEAUTIFICATION AND TREE COMMITTEE MEETING

October 20, 2025

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 October 6, 2025 Beautification & Tree Minutes
5. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION/PRESENTATIONS
6. COMMITTEE REPORTS
 - A. Tree Grant Event Debrief
 - B. Community Green Infrastructure Grant Submittal
 - C. Tree Grant List Status
7. ACTION ITEMS
8. DISCUSSION ITEMS
 - A. Roundabout Near Getchell Building Update
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

October 6, 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, Mike Kasinger, Maintenance Supervisor

CALL TO ORDER

Nelson called the meeting to order at 4:00 pm.

ROLL CALL

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

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Nelson noted an additional agenda item, 6D 'Informational on Roundabout with The Dalles Art Center'

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

It was moved by Ferrer and seconded by Gomez to approve the September 15, 2025 minutes as presented. The motion carried 4 to 0; Ferrer, Gomez, Oldenburg, Nelson voting in favor; none opposed; none absent

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COMMITTEE REPORTS

Tree Grant Program Update

Ferrer reported the supply list had been submitted to Jara, who confirmed additional Gator bags were found by the maintenance crew. Sprinklers and root barriers were ordered, and Ferrer would pick up the new items when they arrived to prepare for Saturday's event. She also reported preparations for the tree distribution event were underway. An email to recipients would include pickup details, planting instructions, and contact information. Coordination with Scott Baker, Parks and Recreational Director, was completed for the Tree Grant distribution event, and Kasinger, Maintenance Supervisor, was confirmed to receive the trees on Friday and deliver them to Thompson Park by 9:00 a.m. Saturday. Ferrer would set up a check-in table and distribute materials to participants. Any uncollected trees would be temporarily stored at Ferrer's residence for later pickup. The committee confirmed availability to assist on Saturday. Jara confirmed delivery of the trees would occur before 3:30 p.m. Friday at Public Works.

Additional Updates: Ferrer reported that work continued on the Green Infrastructure Grant, which was due the following week. A draft would be shared with the Committee by the end of the week for review before final submission. She was finalizing cost estimates for tree planting services and preparing the project budget.

She also shared two potential candidates, Stacy Holman and Carolyn Wright, expressed interest in joining the Beautification Committee. Both live just outside city limits, and the Mayor planned to bring a proposal to City Council to allow participation from nearby residents. Oldenburg and Nelson expressed appreciation and support for Ferrer's work and updates.

Roundabout Near Getchell Building

Oldenburg presented photos and plant ideas for redesigning the roundabout near the Getchell Building at Lewis and Clark Park. She proposed using low-growing, drought-tolerant plants and ornamental grasses to maintain year-round visual interest while preserving visibility. She recommended improving soil depth, installing a more effective irrigation system, and adding weed barriers and decorative rocks to reduce maintenance. Kasinger advised avoiding overcrowding to ensure proper watering and ease of maintenance. Keever emphasized the importance of designing a durable, low-maintenance irrigation system suited for public spaces, noting past issues with vandalism and limited staff availability for upkeep.

Jara requested Oldenburg submit a preliminary design and plant list, which she would review with Kasinger and the City Manager to determine next steps. Oldenburg estimated three to five hardy plant varieties would be used. The committee discussed sourcing plants through a wholesaler to reduce costs. Oldenburg and Nelson volunteered to collaborate on the design and cost estimates, with plans to reconvene once materials were identified.

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Staff Liaison

Jara proposed scheduling a work session to review and update the approved tree list. The committee agreed to wait until after completion of the Green Infrastructure Grant before scheduling. Ferrer offered to contact the Oregon Department of Forestry and reach out to Katie Young for potential participation and historical context.

Jara provided an update on the ODOT hillside project, noting ODOT's approval to move forward with design development. Keever reported City Engineer Mike Bosse might be able to complete the design but it would take six months or more, depending on other project priorities, while the second City Engineer was not qualified for the structural component. Oldenburg emphasized timing considerations related to cruise line operations near the dock and suggested gathering cost estimates for comparison. Keever noted design plans would be required before obtaining accurate bids. The committee agreed to proceed with internal engineering support if feasible, acknowledging the potential delay.

Informational on Roundabout with The Dalles Art Center

Nelson reported on the meeting with Ellen Woods, Executive Director at The Dalles Art Center regarding the redesign of the roundabout artwork. The Art Center received a \$30,000 grant for the project and planned to request an additional \$26,000 from the City to complete the redesign. He explained the redesign would feature ceramic tiles in varying shades of blue to represent the river. The tiles would be colored throughout, ensuring durability and preventing fading. The updated design was being digitally developed to refine layout and visual flow. The installation would also include metal fish sculptures created by Columbia Gorge Community College students. The fish would be constructed primarily from iron to deter theft and mounted on tubes at varying heights, allowing them to move with the wind and reflect light, simulating the shimmer of fish scales. Nelson noted tribal input would be incorporated into the project. The committee expressed support for the design direction and emphasized the importance of continued collaboration with tribal partners.

Next Meeting: October 20, 2025

Items for Next Meeting:

ADJOURNMENT

Being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:57 pm.

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Submitted by/

Abigail Jara, Executive Assistant

SIGNED:

John Nelson, Chair

ATTEST:

Abigail Jara, Executive Assistant

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