

BEAUTIFICATION AND TREE COMMITTEE AGENDA

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**AGENDA**

**BEAUTIFICATION AND TREE COMMITTEE MEETING**

March 2, 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 February 2, 2026 Beautification & Tree Minutes
5. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION/PRESENTATIONS
6. COMMITTEE REPORTS
  - A. Update on Shade Trees to Local Schools
7. ACTION ITEMS
8. DISCUSSION ITEMS
  - A. Beautification Awards Subcommittee – Member Volunteer and Timeline to Resume Program
  - B. Lewis & Clark Park Roundabout
9. ADJOURNMENT

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This meeting conducted Via ZOOM

Prepared by/  
Abigail Jara, Executive Assistant

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**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

February 2, 2026

VIA ZOOM/IN PERSON

PRESIDING: John Nelson

MEMBERS PRESENT: Debi Ferrer, John Nelson, Chuck Gomez, Jann Oldenburg,  
Andreua Knight, Emily Whitfield, Stacey Holeman

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 4:00 pm.

ROLL CALL

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

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

It was moved by Oldenburg and seconded by Gomez to approve the agenda as presented. The motion carried 6 to 0; Oldenburg, Gomez, Ferrer, Knight, Whitfield, Holeman, Nelson voting in favor; none opposed; none absent

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

It was moved by Holeman and seconded by Whitfield to approve the December 1, 2025 minutes as presented. The motion carried 6 to 0; Holeman, Whitfield, Oldenburg, Gomez, Ferrer, Knight, Nelson voting in favor; none opposed; none absent

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## MINUTES

Beautification and Tree Committee Meeting

February 2, 2026

Page 2 of 4

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### AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

Viviana Hernandez from Uplift Local; she commented on her role with Uplift Local, a nonprofit newsroom serving Skamania, Klickitat, Wasco, and Hood River Counties. She explained that the organization operates a Documenters program that trains community members to take notes at public meetings to support civic engagement. She stated she had reviewed the most recently posted minutes and appreciated the clarity of the committee's work.

### COMMITTEE REPORTS

#### Update on Work Session with Oregon Department of Forestry

The Board reviewed key outcomes from the work session with the Oregon Department of Forestry regarding updates to the City's existing tree list to improve clarity, usability, and long-term maintenance of the list:

- The Oregon Department of Forestry recommended removing the tree list from City Code and instead referencing it within code to allow for easier updates.
- Forestry representatives advised against blanket prohibitions on certain species and suggested categorizing trees by appropriate planting locations, such as parks or stream corridors.
- They recommended using Latin names to ensure accuracy and consistency, as common names may vary.
- Additional guidance included measuring tree standards using specific single values rather than ranges to avoid confusion.
- Forestry staff shared the Oregon Regional Resilient Tree List (a living document) and encouraged review for potential use; they'll also coordinate with the City Planning Department on possible tree-related code language updates.
- The Committee discussed improving public access to the tree list through the City website. Members supported adding images or external links for easier tree identification.
- Forestry representatives offered assistance with inventorying ash trees to monitor for Emerald Ash Borer, although the pest has not been identified locally, proactive identification of ash trees was discussed.

#### Staff Report

Jara updated the Committee with a financial update indicating \$2,745 remained in the Residential Tree Program budget. The City Manager confirmed the remaining funds could be used to purchase additional trees for Fort Dalles Museum, St. Peter's Landmark, and local schools.

Preference was expressed for native species at Fort Dalles Museum; Irrigation limitations at St. Peter's Landmark were noted, and supplemental watering methods were considered.

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## MINUTES

Beautification and Tree Committee Meeting

February 2, 2026

Page 3 of 4

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Coordination with the Landmark board would continue. Members agreed to explore interest from local schools in receiving additional trees and to identify the appropriate school district contact for coordination.

## ACTION ITEMS

### Approval of Strategic Plan & Budget for FY 26/27

The Committee reviewed the proposed Strategic Plan and Budget for Fiscal Year 2026–2027.

- No changes were made to the Vision and Mission Statement.
- Goals One and Two remained unchanged.
- Under Goal Three, the historical building sidewalk star concept was removed. The Committee supported adding future action items recognizing Native American history, including exploring Native place names on City welcome signage and historical plaques at significant locations.
- Under Goal Four, the action to increase bike rack availability was removed.
- Under Goal Five, the Committee established a consistent process for reporting to the City Council, agreed to rotate presenters, and added an agenda item to assign future reports and recap prior presentations.

The Committee discussed the proposed budget request of \$20,000 for Fiscal Year 2026–2027, consistent with the current biennium allocation of \$10,000 for annual projects and \$10,000 for the Residential Tree Program. Consensus was reached to move forward with the same funding request.

It was moved by Holeman and seconded by Knight to approve the Updated Strategic Plan FY 26-27. The motion carried 7 to 0; Holeman, Knight, Ferrer, Whitfield, Oldenburg, Gomez, Nelson voting in favor; none opposed; none absent

## DISCUSSION

### Remaining Tree Funds and Placement Options

Committee discussed this during the staff report.

Next Meeting: March 2, 2026

Items for Next Meeting:

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## **BEAUTIFICATION & TREE COMMITTEE**

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ADJOURNMENT

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

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Submitted by/  
Abigail Jara, Executive Assistant

SIGNED: \_\_\_\_\_  
John Nelson, Chair

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_  
Abigail Jara, Executive Assistant

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## The City of The Dalles Beautification and Tree Committee | Strategic Plan – 2025-2026 FY

<p>Vision: A community that has involved citizens of all ages, strong local collaboration, green spaces, a revitalized downtown, efficient government, is a commercial hub, honors our cultural diversity, has a proactive education system, has compatible neighborhoods, a far-ranging transportation system, and a comprehensive medical system. (Compiled summary of VAP)</p>	
<p>Mission: 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.</p>	
<p>Goal #1 Create a robust and extensive tree canopy and other green infrastructure to improve community health, wellbeing, and increase climate resiliency.</p>	Residential tree grants
	Develop a community tree plan to include potential sources of additional funding
	Become a part of Tree City USA
	Conduct a tree inventory
	Advisory role to downtown streets trees
<p>Goal #2 Encourage citizen engagement to preserve the beauty of our community</p>	Stop the Drop
	Community Cleanups
	Increase visibility, i.e. marketing, articles, social media, etc. to increase awareness in BTC activities
	Adopt-a- _____ (block, public space, street etc.)
<p>Goal #3 Enhance the beauty of our community and increase recognition of its cultural history</p>	Wind sculptures, art
	Beautification awards (residential & businesses) and postcards to recognize other nominations
	Historical building recognition downtown – “sidewalk stars”
	Update and improve existing notable trees walking tour
	Heritage tree inventory + QR codes for information
	Cruise ship hillside, Trevitt Triangle landscaping projects
<p>Goal #4 Enhance the usability, enjoyment, and human aspects of public spaces, to make our city more pedestrian friendly</p>	Benches
	Trashcans
	Planters
	Research downtown bump outs, pedestrian spaces
	Increase bike rack availability
	Fencing art projects to hide empty lots, treatment plant
	Public fountains and water features
<p>Goal #5 Improving communication between City Council, City staff and other relevant city committees with ongoing projects</p>	Attend City Council meetings monthly
	Invite City Council members and city staff attend a Beautification & Tree Committee meeting regularly
	Attend other relevant community meetings for awareness and coordination of activities