



CITY OF SWEET HOME PARKS AND TREE COMMITTEE MINUTES

August 21, 2024, 8:30 AM
Santiam Conference Room
3225 Main Street, Sweet Home, OR 97386

WiFi Passcode: guestwifi

PLEASE silence all cell phones – Anyone who wishes to speak, please sign in.

Mission Statement

The City of Sweet Home will work to build an economically strong community with an efficient and effective local government that will provide infrastructure and essential services to the citizens we serve. As efficient stewards of the valuable assets available, we will be responsive to the community while planning and preparing for the future.

Meeting Information

The City of Sweet Home is streaming the meeting via the Microsoft Teams platform and asks the public to consider this option. There will be opportunity for public input via the live stream. To view the meeting live, online visit <http://live.sweethomeor.gov>. If you don't have access to the internet you can call in to 971-203-2871, choose option #1 and enter the meeting ID to be logged in to the call. Meeting ID: #278 852 022 483

Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

The meeting was called to order at 8:31 AM

Roll Call of Park and Tree Committee Members:

PRESENT

Matthew Bechtel
Lena Tucker
Wally Shreves
Bob Dalton
Nancy Patton
Debra Northern

STAFF

Blair Larsen, Community and Economic Development Director
Greg Springman, Public Works Director
Angela Clegg, Planning & Building Manager
Adam Leisinger, Special Projects Manager

Time Reports

None

Meeting Minutes

- a) 2024-07-17 Park and Tree Committee Meeting Minutes

A motion to approve the July 17, 2024 meeting minutes was made by Lena Tucker, seconded by Debra Northern.

Voting Yea: 6

Voting Nay: 0

The location of the meeting is accessible to the disabled. If you have a disability that requires accommodation, advanced notice is requested by notifying the City Manager's Office at 541-367-8969.

Public Comment

None

Old Business

Beautification Committee: Nancy and Bob informed the Committee that Patty Holk has had some medical issues and will no longer be able to coordinate the Beautification Committee. Nancy asked the Parks Board to send a card to Patty. Bob agreed to follow up with a card. Manager Clegg asked who the new point of contact is. Nancy stated that Candy Schneider will be the new contact.

Health Fair Wrap Up: Bob gave report to the Committee. Bob mentioned that the Park and Tree Committee could do a wellness walk in the future to incorporate the wellness with the parks. Lena stated that the Park & Tree booth chose a back to school theme. Matthew showed samples of car coasters and handed out samples for the committee and staff to look at. Any type of logo could go on the coasters to hand out to citizens. Staff stated that they will look at the budget and logo amendments. Director Larsen talked about a modification to our logo for future Park & Tree Committee supplies. Wally summarized the materials at the Park & Tree Committee booth.

Park System Master Plan Update: Director Larsen gave an update on the public hearing in front of the Planning Commission and Park & Tree Committee. The public hearings will be held on September 19th and October 8th. Wally asked if a splash pad was mentioned in the Master Plan. Director Larsen stated that a splash pad is mentioned in the Master Plan as an option. Manager Leisinger gave an update on potential costs of a splash pad. There was further discussion about the splash pad options and examples in neighboring cities.

42nd & Osage update: Manager Clegg gave an update. She stated that infrastructure needs to be completed before playground equipment can go in. With the volume of projects that the City is tackling, 42nd and Osage will not get completed within this fiscal year, but is still on the list of projects to complete. Director Springman gave an update on the tree clean up. Wally asked who will construct the paths. Director Springman stated that staff plans to do the majority of the work internally. There was discussion about the conversations that Committee members had been having with the neighborhood. Bob asked what the biggest complaint was about the project. Manager Leisinger stated that the transitional housing was the biggest concern. Manager Clegg stated that the transitional housing is separate from the park project, but was approved at the same time. There were also complaints about the road width and the removal of the trees. Bob asked what staff thought they could have done or can do differently moving forward. Director Larsen stated that he thought more contact with the neighborhood before plans were solidified. Larsen explained some of the lessons he learned from speaking to the neighbors and how he would approach outreach in the future. Larsen stated that he feels that the City should utilize the Committees more when it comes to Community engagement. There was further discussion on future community engagement. Wally expressed his idea for naming the park. He thought the Park & Tree Committee could come up with recommendations and then go out to the community and present the ideas and allow the neighborhood to have input. There was further discussion about outreach ideas. Manager Clegg thanked the Committee for the work they do in the parks and in the community.

New Business

Weddle Bridge Update: Director Spingman stated that staff met with a Linn County expert at the bridge. Springman informed the Committee that the Bridge does not qualify for certain funding because it was removed from its original location and moved into the City. He described steps that need to be taken and the lack of funding for the work needing being done. Manager Clegg Stated that she will be reaching out to Mill City to see how they were able to raise funding for their Bridge. The goal is to reach out after the first of the year. Wally asked about being involved in the meeting with Mill City. There was further discussion about communication with Mill City. Clegg also described the engineering report recommendations and the Linn County recommended steps. Clegg will initiate communication closer to the end of the year and will report back to the Committee. Director Larsen reminded the Committee that we need to look at the mechanism for fundraising, but not what's needed to fix the bridge. The bridges and locations are different, so focusing on fundraising efforts is what the campaign and meeting should focus on. Clegg cautioned

about pushing the bridge fundraising campaign until the Sankey Park Phase III project is complete. The city needs to complete the current, active projects. Bob asked if the bridge was historically listed. Clegg stated that it wasn't. There was further discussion about the criteria for rebuilding the bridge. Wally then volunteered to reach out to Mill City and find out who the contact persons are to initiate communication. Larsen stated that asking them what didn't work will also be a good thing to know.

Round Table Discussions (Committee comments about topics not listed on the agenda)

Dahlenberg Bridge: Wally stated that he was impressed with the location of the bridge and was surprised with how many people stop and look at the bridge.

Harvest Festival: Wally discussed the pie competition and asked Manager Clegg if there was anything else needed. Clegg stated that there will be ads coming out in the New Era and Democrat Public. There is also an event listed on the City's Facebook page, and asked the Committee members to share. Clegg gave an update on vendor sign ups. Lena volunteered to pick up extra pies to sell for the fundraiser. There was discussion about an ice cream vendor and the hurdles for getting a vendor. There was discussion about other duties that Committee members could volunteer for. There was discussion about providing informational materials at the booth.

Debra asked about the status of the memorial tree and stone. She stated that the tree look dry and she was hand watering it.

Lena reported on the various scorched trees throughout the parks. There was discussion about irrigation and repair of the trees. Lena stated that the change in weather in July may have caused the scorch. Director Springman talked about watching and possibly replacing the trees. Lena stated that any trees that are to be replaced should be done in the dead of winter.

Lena gave an update on the emerald ash borer. She stated that it has been seen in Marion County, but none have been reported in Linn County yet. She recommended that no more ash trees be planted. Lena stated that Hobart is at the biggest risk. Lena described how to identify it.

Nancy asked if the Committee could buy their own shirts, and then asked if the City could add the logos. Manager Clegg stated that she will look into costs and will send an email out to the Committee. The Committee described the type of shirt they are looking for.

Director Larsen informed the Committee that the deadline for applying for City Council positions is the 29th. There are 4 seats open.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:54 AM