



# CITY OF SWEET HOME PARKS AND TREE COMMITTEE MINUTES

September 18, 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.

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## 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 8:38 AM

## Roll Call of Park and Tree Committee Members:

### PRESENT

Matthew Bechtel  
Lena Tucker  
Nancy Patton  
Debra Northern  
Councilor Dave Trask

### ABSENT

Bob Dalton  
Wally Shreves

### STAFF

Greg Springman, Public Works Director  
Blair Larsen, CEDD Director  
Angela Clegg, Planning & Building Manager  
Adam Leisinger, Special Projects Manager

## Time Reports

None

## Public Comment.

None

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*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.*

## Old Business

**Beautification Committee Update:** Director Springman gave an update. Ashley Patton stated that September 24th is the median clean out. Lena asked who the Beautification contact is, it was stated that it is Candice Schneider. Director Springman asked Lena about the type of foliage for next year. There seems to be some plant damage due to thick foliage or overwatering, etc. Lena stated that it could be a matter of reducing the number of flowers planted.

**Committee Shirts:** Manager Clegg informed the committee that the City does not have a budget for Committee shirts. Nancy stated that she is willing to buy shirts for the Committee. Clegg will look at the costs and get back with the committee.

**42nd and Osage Update:** Manager Clegg gave an update, stating that the infrastructure needs to go in before a playground does. Right now the City is looking for the funding to complete the infrastructure portion of the project. Councilor Trask stated that there will be a new Council at the beginning of the year and he feels that they won't allow the project to move forward. Director Larsen stated that the park is listed in the Parks Master Plan, and if the plan is adopted then the park will qualify for future funding.

**Sankey Park Phase III Update:** Director Larsen informed the Committee that staff has met with the engineers. Staff will review a 30% plan in early October and hope to put out an RFP by the end of the year. Larsen described the changes to the original plan. Larsen told the Committee that they will share the plans when they get closer to the RFP stage. There was discussion about the bandstand and making it a future phase. The amendments to the current plan will leave space for a future bandstand. Manager Clegg told the Committee that she will meet with a local wood workers guild in the future to see what they might be able to provide. Nancy asked staff if there was going to be a donation jar at the Harvest Festival. Clegg asked which booth they would like it at.

**Weddle Bridge Update:** Staff met with Kevin Groom of Linn County, who has extensive experience with bridge renovations. Kevin suggested some fundraising ideas to help with the bridge repairs. Clegg informed the Committee that they have some funding to get started on repairs, but it will take much more funding to complete. Director Larsen explained some of the repairs needed and steps that will need to be taken so the repairs are done in the proper order. Nancy asked Clegg how much Mill City raised. Clegg informed her that she has not reached out. Director Larsen informed the Committee that it was a grass roots effort to raise money. There was discussion about the Weddle bridge mugs that were found and using them for a fund raiser. There was discussion about giving the mugs away with a minimum donation and whether they should wait for after the Harvest Festival to start the mug campaign. Staff discussed with the Committee how they could make it work during Harvest Festival. The Committee decided to bring the mugs to their pie booth and advertise them. There was discussion about the minimum donation amount to receive a mug.

**Harvest Festival:** Manager Clegg gave an update on the Harvest Festival planning and the pie booth that the Committee members volunteer for. There was discussion about pie sales and supplies needed. The Committee asked about selling ice cream, and staff informed them that our license does not cover perishable food items.

## New Business

### **Park System Master Plan Public Hearing, September 19, 2024 Planning Commission Meeting at 6:30 PM**

Director Larsen gave an update and summary of the public hearing for the Park System Master Plan. Larsen encouraged Committee members to attend to testify in favor of the plan. He informed the Committee that the public hearing in front of City Council will be October 8, 2024. There was discussion that if Committee members can only attend one meeting they are encouraged to attend the City Council meeting.

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

Debra took pictures of Johnson creek to show that it is backed up. Manager Clegg asked Debra to send the Johnson Creek pictures to her and she will forward them to the public works department.

Director Springman encouraged Debra to call public works when she sees issues instead of waiting for the monthly meetings.

Lena discussed the trees that got scorched during heat wave in July. Lena has been working with the Public Works department to keep an eye on the damaged trees, and to plan selective pruning. Lena recommended that any trees that need to be replaced should be done in December and January.

Lena handed out some education materials and discussed the emerald ash borer beetle that is spreading west. Lena has been inspecting the decorative ash trees in our downtown. She recommends that we don't plant ash in the future, and stated that Hobart may be at risk. She described how to identify an infestation. There is a pesticide treatment, and then let the Department of Agriculture and the Invasive Species hotline know so they can survey the damage. Lena stated that the beetle will also feed on olive trees. Matthew asked if the beetle has been seen locally. Lena stated that it has been seen in Marion County, but not Linn County.

Nancy asked about the vacant property at the end of Foothills drive. She asked if they can maintain the property. Director Larsen stated that it is private property, so the City doesn't have an issue, but they would need to get permission from the owner. Larsen gave an update as to the status of the property and the concerns. He doesn't feel that the owner would be upset if the neighbors took care of it, but its not the City's decision. Larsen gave Nancy the owners contact information from the Linn County Assessors page. Larsen then explained the current process for subdivision approval with storm drainage parcels.

### **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:37 AM