



CITY OF SWEET HOME PARK & TREE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

July 21, 2026, 4:00 PM
3225 Main Street, Sweet Home, OR 97386

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.

Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

The meeting was called to order at 4:00 PM.

Roll Call of Park & Tree Committee Members

PRESENT

Chair Matthew Bechtel
Vice Chair Lena Tucker
Committee Member Deena Bechtel
Committee Member Melanie Jones
Committee Member Debra Northern
Committee Member Scott Swanson

STAFF

Cecily Hope Pretty, Deputy City Manager
Sean Hegge, Public Works Operations Lead
Adam Leisinger, Special Projects Manager
Dominic Valloni, Interim Public Works Director

Time Reports

Chair Bechtel provided time reports to staff.

No action was required for this item.

Meeting Minutes

- a) 2026-06-16 Park & Tree Committee Meeting Minutes

Committee Member Jones noted a misspelling and moved to approve the minutes of the June 16, 2026 Park & Tree Committee meeting with corrections. Committee Member Bechtel seconded the motion. The motion carried by the following vote:

AYE: M. Bechtel, Tucker, D. Bechtel, Jones, Northern, Swanson

NAY: None

Public Comment

There was no Public Comment to be heard.

Beautification Committee Update:

- a) 2026-07-09 Beautification Committee Meeting Minutes

Committee Member Jones stated that she visited Bauman's Farm with Beautification Committee Chair Candy Snyder to look at new plants and consider color combinations for the following year's plantings. She reviewed the recent and upcoming weeding schedule for the medians.

Vice Chair Tucker highlighted the success of the red, white, and blue theme of the current year's plantings. No action was required for this item.

Old Business

Sankey Park Phase III

Deputy City Manager Pretty stated that all project components except the bandstand were in the closeout phase. She noted that the bandstand was still under engineering review. She stated that one round of hydroseeding on the hillside was completed with at least one more planned to assist with erosion control.

No action was required for this item.

Monthly Park Clean Up Report

Chair Bechtel stated that some of the Committee recently surveyed Ashbrook Park and it was in generally good condition. Vice Chair Tucker added that the trees were in good health and highlighted the availability of the exercise station. Committee Member Northern stated that she would like to see fitness equipment in more parks. Deputy City Manager Pretty stated that a larger fitness park would be completed next to City Hall in the next couple of months.

Chair Bechtel stated that the tree inventory had recently been updated.

Vice Chair Tucker suggested looking for grant opportunities to update playground equipment. Deputy City Manager Pretty stated that playground equipment was not currently in the budget but staff was reviewing potential funding options to take advantage of a current playground grant.

No action was required for this item.

Misc. Park Updates

Deputy City Manager Pretty stated that Operations Lead Hegge suggested to management that Quarry Park might be a good site for a disc golf park. She highlighted the current development of a disc golf park at that location under the design and guidance of Avery Jenkins, an international disc golf champion and course designer. She stated that concrete for the City Hall fitness park would be poured soon with a ribbon-cutting tentatively planned for September.

Chair Bechtel asked of the status of the desired crossing at 24th Avenue to connect to Quarry Park. Deputy City Manager Pretty replied that ODOT did not renew their agreement with the City for the public crossing due to lack of funding but would be supportive of a new agreement once funding was secured. She added that one of the other challenges to building the corridor was the necessity of securing right-of-way north through private property, which was not likely to be successful if the crossing project was not funded. Committee Member Swanson asked of the cost of the crossing upgrade. Deputy City Manager Pretty replied that inflation had not been calculated but estimated it at close to \$3 million.

No action was required for this item.

EAB Traps

Operations Lead Hegge stated that no emerald ash borers were found in the traps set by Public Works. He noted that staff would deploy fresh bait and continue monitoring. Deputy City Manager Pretty stated that staff created a webpage with additional information for the public about the EAB.

No action was required for this item.

New Business

There was no new business to be heard.

Round Table Discussions

Vice Chair Tucker asked if there was interest in hosting a table at the annual Community Health Fair. There was consensus for same.

Chair Bechtel stated that a cleanup at Strawberry Park was scheduled for August 14th at 9:00 AM.

Vice Chair Tucker stated that she was contacted by the South Santiam Watershed Council about providing a letter of support for an engagement grant regarding development of a 20-year restoration plan at Quarry Park. There was consensus for same.

Adjournment

There being no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 4:24 PM.

DRAFT