



**Minutes**

**Coburg Parks | Tree Committee  
Regular Meeting  
City Hall, 91136 N. Willamette  
April 18, 2017**

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:** Claire Smith, Chair; Lonna Meston, Vice Chair; Mary Mosier, Karen Coury.

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT:** Joe Morneau, Rhett Sunia, Coleen Marshall.

**GUESTS PRESENT:** Ray Smith, Mayor.

**STAFF PRESENT:** Brian Harmon, Public Works Director.

**RECORDED BY:** Hannah Parks, LCOG.

**CALL TO ORDER:**

Ms. Meston called the meeting of the Coburg Park | Tree Committee to order at 7:02 p.m.

**Roll Call:**

Mr. Harmon called roll and announced a quorum.

**Agenda Review:**

Ms. Smith noted she would ask a question on park swings under Arbor Day updates.

**CITY UPDATES:**

**City Administrator Monthly Report**

Mr. Harmon said mowing season had begun and they would go as far as the off-ramp on Pearl St. He noted it fell on the city to maintain that area.

In response to Ms. Meston's question, Mr. Harmon replied that they mowed around the trees in a circular shape due to the zero-turn of the mower.

Ms. Meston suggested that due to the wide branches of pines, digging out and mulching around the trees.

Mr. Harmon suggested that it could be a good project for the committee to do. In response to Ms. Smith's question, he said he avoided grass clipping around the base of the tree. He asked Ms. Meston if she would be willing to help teach the crew on how to care for trees.

Mayor Smith arrived at 7:18 p.m.

**Arbor Day Shrubs (edible garden)**

Mr. Harmon presented hand-outs of potential shrubs and trees that could be planted. He said he

thought Jacob Spores Park was a good location for the edible park because it was right off the Coburg Loop Path. He said they could also consider doing something similar in the open space in the Hayden Homes subdivision.

Ms. Smith voiced concern that apple and pear trees could cause bee issues if not cared for. She asked if espalier could be an option to prevent children climbing on the trees.

Ms. Mosier noted that although espaliers were beautiful, they were a lot of work. She agreed that pear trees were probably not a good idea, but that she was in favor of apple trees.

Ms. Meston asked if they were still considering growing laurel shrubs along the board fence in Jacob Spores Park.

Mr. Harmon said Jacob Spores Park was a logical place for an edible park, so instead of laurel they could opt for an edible shrub. He said they could consider privacy slats in the cyclone fence if they chose to grow blueberries.

Ms. Smith noted that blueberry shrubs were an attractive shrub.

Ms. Mosier recommended a semi-dwarf apple tree that was disease resistant.

Ms. Meston asked if there were pollinator trees in the park.

Ms. Coury suggested having two apple trees.

Ms. Meston asked if there were any liability concerns on the city planting an edible park.

Mr. Harmon said he asked Anne Heath and Petra Schuetz, and no concerns had been raised so far.

There was consensus on planting two semi-dwarf disease resistant apple trees, white seedless table grapes (with an arbor put in later), and four blueberry hedges along the cyclone fence. Also, two hydrangeas planted by the Jacob Spores sign.

Mr. Harmon gave an overview of the Arbor Day agenda.

Ms. Smith asked what happened to the large swing set.

Mr. Harmon said the crew noticed that the triangle rings holding the swings were worn thin so they took them down as a safety precaution. He said they would be replaced.

#### **Hayden Homes Update**

Mr. Harmon shared the designated space was now larger and was fenced in and would not be visible from the street. He said it would no longer be connected to a walk path.

Ms. Smith shared that Ms. Schuetz said the Park and Tree Committee could have some input on the design of the open space before it was approved. She suggested some landscaping along the fence for aesthetic appeal.

Ms. Mosier asked how high the fence would be including the space between the fence and the ground.

Ms. Mosier and Ms. Meston had drawn up draft design plans for the open space. They noted they did

not have exact specifications of the park, but that the designs could be used for brainstorming purposes. They shared both of their designs.

Ms. Mosier recommended a walking trail around the park and some more greenery be grown.

Mr. Harmon noted that their design plans were great frameworks for future open spaces. He recommended compiling a binder of design plans.

Ms. Meston suggested a wooden bridge and mound with a tunnel going through the mound in the open space. She said they had in mind to separate a quiet area and a play area for the space.

Ms. Smith noted a Star Magnolia would look appealing by the sign.

Mayor Smith spoke to how important it was for there to be an open line of site of the space for residents.

Mr. Harmon noted that the path could be cheap since they already had chips. He noted that putting in a picnic table, barbeque and a developing a mound and putting in a culvert would be inexpensive as well.

Ms. Mosier said having an adult exercise station could be a good idea.

#### **Coburg Loop Update**

Mr. Harmon shared that the trees along Austin were gone and there were more trees to be removed.

#### **Parks Restroom Lighting**

Mr. Harmon encouraged the committee to check out the women's restroom sensor lights that had been installed. He hoped that the dynamic motion sensor would decrease chances of vandalism. He noted the restroom still needed to be painted.

#### **Tree Removal Update**

Mr. Harmon said three trees were removed on Diamond St., Van Dyne St., and N Coleman St. He noted that fire wood and a large piece of trunk would be removed from N Coleman that week. He said a community member volunteered to remove a trunk on Van Dyne. He noted that there was barbed wire grown in a corner of a tree trunk.

Ms. Smith asked if a slab from one of the trees could be used as a trail marker on Mill Pond Trail or as calendar tree.

#### **COMMITTEE BUSINESS:**

##### **Annual Report for Council Review**

This item was moved for discussion at the next work session and a vote in the regular meeting.

##### **Wetlands Information**

Ms. Meston shared that she spoke to Jeff Kernen who was looking for project or internship ideas for University of Oregon students. He could add Wetlands Park to a talk he was giving.

Mr. Harmon said he would invite Jeff to the May meeting.

##### **Work Party**

Ms. Smith encouraged committee members attend Coburg Conversation on April 29 to represent Parks and Tree. She said she was thinking of putting up an "adopt a flower bed/planter" sign-up sheet.

Mr. Harmon noted he had not had a good experience in the past, with people sometimes not following through with their commitment.

Ms. Mosier suggested putting up a work party sign-up sheet instead.

Mr. Harmon suggested scheduling the work party at the next committee meeting.

Ms. Smith gave an overview of the agenda for the next meeting. She asked that committee members come prepared with ideas for the work party including flower bed ideas.

**Planting Around Flag Pole**

Ms. Smith said that Nancy McKibbin's office offered to clean, purchase plants, and landscape the flagpole area before Memorial Day.

**Approval of March 21, 2017 Minutes**

Mr. Harmon noted hanging baskets on page 2 should specify they would be in the park.

*Ms. Mosier moved, seconded by Ms. Coury, to approve the March 21, 2017 minutes as amended. The motion carried unanimously.*

**ADJOURNMENT**

*Ms. Meston moved, seconded by Ms. Coury, to adjourn the Coburg Park |Tree Committee meeting. The motion moved unanimously.*

The meeting was adjourned at 8:18 p.m.

APPROVED by the Park | Tree Committee on this 23rd day of May, 2017.



ATTEST:   
Sammy L. Egbert, City Recorder

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Claire Smith, Chair