



Coburg Parks | Tree Committee Meeting

September 21st, 2021 – 6:00 P.M.

Virtual Meeting – Coburg City Hall

91136 North Willamette St.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: Chair Mary Mosier, Coleen Marshall, Joe Morneau, Claire Smith, Karen Coury, Tom Beatty.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT: Lonna Meston.

STAFF PRESENT: Burke Hansen, Public Works Supervisor; Anne Heath, City Administrator.

RECORDED BY: Jayson Hayden, Lane Council of Governments(LCOG).

1. Call Meeting to Order

Ms. Mosier called the Park and Tree Committee to order at 6:00 p.m.

2. Roll Call

Mr. Hansen took roll and a quorum was present.

3. Agenda Review

Chair Mosier wished to clarify on the buffer subject, she wished to scratch the I-5 part out and just look at buffers.

4. Approve Minutes from August 17th 2021

Ms. Marshall noted a misspelling at the end of page 5, that Jacob Spores Park was spelled incorrectly.

MOTION: Mr. Morneau moved, Ms. Coury seconded a motion to accept the minutes as corrected. Motion passed unanimously.

5. City Updates – City Administrator Monthly Report

There were no questions on the City Administrator report.

Chair Mosier asked Ms. Heath for a brief synopsis on what was happening with the property on the other side of the interstate. Ms. Heath shared that they were in the final stages of the annexation agreement which includes the buffer zone requirements and were just waiting on transportation to comment on the plan. She said it would go to the joint Council and Planning Commission work session on October 12th which would take them through the basics of the annexation agreement, then in November it would go to the Planning Commission which would make a recommendation, afterwards it would go to City Council in December. She added that the zone change was an ordinance that would be wrapped up in January.

Ms. Heath noted that they wanted to maintain the tree line and said that part of the annexation agreement stipulated that each development have some open space for their employees. She said there was some discussion regarding pathways along the tree line but this was not popular with the police, public works, the residents, or the developer due to security concerns.

Ms. Coury said a resident there was concerned about cutting down trees in front of the buffer and Ms. Heath explained they were trying to leave as much buffer as possible but there may be some trees that need to be cut down. She added that in one area the property owner had gone into the developer's property and logged the timber without asking which would affect the look of the buffer there.

COMMITTEE BUSINESS

6. Possible Grants for Plaza

Ms. Heath shared that they had been working on a design to redo McKenzie Street but they did not get the grant they applied for. She noted that there were other grant opportunities coming. Ms. Heath said she looked at plaza ideas that had a road along side it to create a space where people could stop and rest including picnic tables, benches, and greens. She said this was important as people wanted to continue with outside eating spaces during the pandemic.

Ms. Heath said she was working on getting the other piece of property at the end of Pavilion Park and had pitched a proposal for a land swap so they owned that property which would expand the park. She shared that there was an Oregon Park and Recreation grant for up to \$75,000 and another up to \$750,000 which was due in April and noted that these things were being funded as there was a focus on rebuilding economies and the development of communities while creating outdoor and downtown public spaces.

Ms. Heath shared the possibilities of connecting the park to other places in town using things such as pavement paint and crosswalks to connect the whole downtown and parks together.

Mr. Beatty recalled three scenarios put forward in the Coburg buildout and asked if they would go back and visit those proposals. Ms. Heath said that was possible but said that the buildout showed what could happen not on the park but on the lot beside it.

Ms. Smith liked the idea of making Pavilion more useful and suggested having work sessions so that they were ready once the grants came around. She wanted to look at some of the photos Ms. Heath had to get started as it would be a big planning process.

Ms. Heath suggested coming up with a design and letting the public give comment on it, and thought that they should go for the larger grant which was due in April. She added that there was an Oregon Main Streets grant which could be another funding source. Ms. Smith suggesting having a large scale map to plan the scope of the design.

Chair Mosier asked when the land swap would occur and Ms. Heath said it was on their time and thought that it would occur but was not sure of the time scale.

Ms. Coury explained the need to invest in trees and open spaces now to take advantage of the cooling effect it would provide.

Chair Mosier suggested meeting outside to look at the map and plan. She asked if the land swap was giving up any space within the City and Ms. Heath answered no, that they were trading some of the parking behind the Umbrella Properties building for the park land.

7. Buffer Ideas for East of I-5 Property

Ms. Coury explained that she read an article on how urban areas dealt with heat and said that investment in tree canopy was important. She said that air conditioners for example just increased the outside heat and consumed a lot of electricity. Ms. Coury said that tree density could be considered infrastructure but that it took a lot of resources. She explained that older trees were more efficient in evaporating water which cooled the air and that it took a younger tree many years to reach this state.

Ms. Coury shared that an effective urban forest could lower air temperatures up to 9 degrees, and could lower surface temperatures under the tree by up to 45 degrees. She noted that urban materials such as pavement absorbed and radiated heat while trees reflected more heat and allowed air flow. She mentioned strategies such as increasing tree cover, installing green or reflective roofs, using cool pavements which were permeable or reflective, and using smart growth practices. Ms. Coury wished to discuss making sure their policies regarding open spaces included these kinds of concepts.

Ms. Smith liked the ideas and thought it would be good to look into hardscape surfaces that were more beneficial than pavement or asphalt and thought that this would be something to eventually be adopted as an ordinance or code by Council.

8. Tree Sub Committee Trails End Trees

Mr. Beatty said he and Ms. Meston had met and had a long discussion and shared that they had decided on developing along the paved portion of the walkway and doing tree groves rather than planting them in a line in addition to planting a mixed variety of trees and native shrubs. He added that he had been gathering lots of milkweed for the monarch butterfly.

Mr. Beatty thought they needed to start with Pavilion Park and said he had met with an arborist and had talked about the big leaf maple. He noted that trees were important for concerts in the pavilion and said they needed to address replacing or planting new trees there.

Mr. Burke added that during the last storm they had two big leaf maples that lost substantial limbs and while trimming dead growth in the one by Coburg Inn they had found a lot of hollow and rotten timber high up in the tree which was concerning.

Ms. Smith said that old growth maples were never meant to be street trees and suggested looking at the tree list that Eugene uses to start planning. She suggested working with Urban Lumber to possibly defray some of the cost by purchasing some of the burls and usable wood.

Chair Mosier said they might have to check to see how the tree fund budget was looking before considering taking trees down. Mr. Burke said he would discuss this with Mr. Harmon when he got back and suggested that the tree sub committee start looking at which trees should go first.

Ms. Coury asked if they could get started on new trees during the transition time and Mr. Beatty thought that was the best way but they just needed to find a location. Ms. Smith suggested not planting anything until they had an overall plan for the park as they would lose the shade anyway if the trees fell over.

Chair Mosier suggested having a work session at Pavilion Park to get a better idea of what the tree situation looked like. Ms. Smith and Mr. Beatty said they would be available in evenings to meet. Ms. Marshall and Ms. Coury said evenings would possibly work for them also.

9. Badminton/Volleyball Net at Johnny Diamond

Mr. Hansen shared that he had gotten a net but wanted to wait to see where the Committee wanted it. He said it would probably be at an angle to give enough space for a proper field.

Chair Mosier thought it sounded good and said keeping it away from the play area was a good idea.

Mr. Hansen said they would probably put it up this week and said they would move it if needed.

10. Toddler Toys and Tables at Norma Pfeiffer Park

Chair Mosier said the toys went in and they looked great and suggested everyone stop by to see them. Mr. Hansen said he had changed the placement slightly to even out the space and shared that there were children waiting to use them the first day they were put in.

Mr. Hansen asked where they wanted the kids' tables to be placed and Ms. Smith suggested looking at that in the work session.

11. Work Party Recap from September

Ms. Marshall shared that she, Ms. Mosier, Mr. Beatty, and Ms. Meston had worked for three hours at Booth Kelly trimming branches and cutting ivy but noted that more equipment work was needed. She thought that it looked a lot better and added that there would be wood chips put down. Mr. Hansen said they planned to put chips down there as well as in the Norma Pfeiffer playground and added that they would clean up the south end of the path and along the fence.

Ms. Smith noted that the swings at Jacob Spores were high off the ground and suggested something more suitable for younger kids.

Mr. Hansen said they would also look at clearing the blackberry bushes covering one of the benches before they put chips down.

12. Work Party Plan for October

Ms. Marshall thought it was time to spruce up Pavilion and Mr. Hansen agreed, adding that they also needed to re-bark mulch. Mr. Hansen asked when the best time was to trim the crab apple trees and Mr. Beatty answered now, before the limbs broke off.

Chair Mosier agreed to shoot for Pavilion and asked Ms. Marshall to send out reminders for the 18th at 9 A.M.

13. Committee Work Plan Review

Ms. Smith commended Public Works for their work on the bench placement and toddler toys.

Mr. Hansen shared that he had already seen an elderly couple enjoying the new bench.

ADJOURNMENT

Hearing no further discussion, Chair Mosier adjourned the meeting at 7:04 P.M.

DATES TO REMEMBER

October 12th – City Council Meeting

October 19th – Parks and Tree Committee Meeting

APPROVED by Park | Tree Committee on this 19th day of October 2021.



ATTEST:



Sammy L. Egbert, City Recorder



Mary Mosier, Chair