

DRAFT

**CITY OF CORVALLIS
MINUTES OF THE CIVIC BEAUTIFICATION AND URBAN FORESTRY COMMISSION
SEPTEMBER 13, 2012**

Attendance

Angelica Rehkugler, Chair
Tim Brewer, Vice Chair
Kent Daniels
Tony Livermore
Ross Parkerson
Larry Passmore

Staff

Karen Emery, Director
Becky Merja, Urban Forester
Jackie Rochefort, Park Planner
Mark Lindgren, Recorder

Visitors

Janet Ranzoni

Absent/Excused

Joe Majeski, OSU Liaison
Becki Goslow
Joel Hirsch, City Council Liaison

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION

Agenda Item	Information Only	Held for Further Review	Recommendations
II. Review of Minutes- August 9, 2012	X		
III. Visitor Propositions	X		
IV. Beautification Signs	X		
V. Staff Reports- if questions	X		
VI. City Council/ OSU Liaison Reports	X		
VII. Report on Subcommittees	X		
VIII. Break into Subcommittees	X		
IX. Adjournment	X		The next CBUF meeting will be at 8:30 a.m. October 11, 2012, at the Parks and Rec Conference Room.

CONTENT OF DISCUSSION

- I. CALL TO ORDER:** Chair Angelica Rehkugler called the meeting to order at 8:34 a.m.
- II. REVIEW OF MINUTES.**
Ross Parkerson moved and Tony Livermore seconded to approve the August 9, 2012 minutes as presented; motion passed.

III. VISITOR PROPOSITIONS.

Janet Ranzoni asked about progress on creating a formal agreement on the Corvallis Garden Club's proposed adoption of care for Liberty Square, saying she hadn't gotten an update. Director Emery related she'd conveyed Ranzoni's concerns to Steve McGettigan, who said he'd discuss the matter with the Corvallis Garden Club Chair (Ranzoni). Emery added that she would follow up. Ranzoni speculated McGettigan had contacted another Club leader, instead, explaining that she is president of the Garden Club and Chair of the Liberty Square Committee. Emery said Steve McGettigan is the staff contact for the "Adopt a Park" program.

Ranzoni asked about a Parks policy about handling volunteers; Emery replied that there was no specific City policy; the City considers them the same as employees in terms of rules, such as regarding driving vehicles; and insurance. There is a Volunteer Agreement, which outlines roles and responsibilities, and a Volunteer Sign-In Form.

Ranzoni asked where it is specified that there be a formal agreement for adopting a public park. Emery replied that agreements for volunteer groups for adoption of maintaining areas were designed to define roles and responsibilities for maintaining public property, and clarify how volunteers will use and maintain that public property. The Adopt a Park (or Adopt a Landscape Area) formal agreements are relatively new, developed to respond to reductions in maintenance staff. Ranzoni noted the Corvallis Garden Club started its landscape work in Liberty Square in 2008.

Passmore related he'd visited the park last week and observed tufts of weeds; he said heads of false dandelions can be quickly knocked back. He said two maintenance events a year weren't enough; Ranzoni replied the agreement that the Club *thought* it had was for the City to mow the site. She related that most of her volunteers were too old to either cut grass or use a weed whip. She said that she contacts McGettigan when any changes are made to the site. Rehkugler said this seemed a problem with lack of communication and asked that it be resolved before the next meeting.

Ranzoni asked if the care agreement was binding, and if that would prevent a Parks employee from applying herbicide; Emery replied that it was not binding and that it was not a guarantee preventing spraying. Rehkugler said that that aspect was out of the commission's control, but would work to resolve the matter.

IV. BEAUTIFICATION SIGNS.

Rehkugler pointed out a Gazette-Times article that highlighted Becki Goslow and stated it was time to pick up Beautification signs. Rochefort related that Goslow had been considering a smaller scale Beautification Awards program, with signs of a different design, reflective of fall.

Rehkugler announced that the Hidden Garden Tour is Saturday.

V. STAFF REPORTS- IF QUESTIONS.

Director Emery related that recruitment is underway for an Operations Supervisor. Jackie Rochefort is one of the candidates; the position will be filled by October.

Rochefort reported staff are working with the Rotary Club, which would like to build a new picnic shelter at Willamette Park; the Club is currently fundraising. The Club will present on the project to PNARB next week; the goal is to start construction in spring and complete it by July. It will work for weddings, reunions and other events and be a revenue producer. She said the roughly \$37,000 from insurance from the previously burned down, vandalized shelter will pay for engineering and other costs.

Rochefort noted that CBUF would not have a booth at Fall Festival; Merja added that there is an opportunity to volunteer for the fall cleanup event on Friday, September 21. She expected sixty people in two shifts, cleaning up tree wells and landscape beds; McGettigan is the contact. The focus this year is Madison Avenue and streets connected to it.

Merja highlighted upcoming park strip tree removals, including seven birches. She said birch trees all over town are declining due to the bronze birch borer, noting that trees sprayed for aphids are being somewhat protected. She said the theory was that the pest came to the area in firewood. Neighbors will water the short replacement trees that are best suited for growing under power lines. Livermore said that a systemic insecticide, applied through ground application, had had some success. Merja said the City's policy was not to treat street trees with pesticides, preferring to replace trees with more resistant tree species. She said she directs homeowners with questions on birch trees on private property to an informational website. She noted the City does have the authority to manage diseased elm trees on private property.

She related OSU has proposed removals of two cottonwoods on 8th and Jefferson, perhaps the last remaining on 8th Street. OSU stated that roots are damaging utility lines and large limbs are falling, damaging cars; OSU proposes replacing them. She noted that during previous removals of close-by cottonwoods, there were appeals that ultimately went to the City Council. She said she agreed the southern one definitely needs to come out, and there were strong economic reasons to remove the northern tree at the same time. She noted that cottonwoods decompose even without wounds; the wood is very pithy. The northern tree will continue to drop limbs. She said pruning would not resolve the situation. She clarified the tree on the corner would not be replaced, due to vision issues; two replacement trees would be planted.

Kent Daniels related that a similar cottonwood tree across the street from his house was found to be completely rotted within after it was cut down. Livermore said the trees will keep growing and limbs will continue falling, possibly hurting someone. Merja related that a recently removed large old cottonwood was found to only have a two-inch thick living shell in the outside column supporting the entire mass. Daniels noted that replacement trees for the elms cut down a few years ago in his neighborhood were already having an impact. Merja noted the chip market is down; the city could drop logs off at a commercial chip yard and possibly the limbs at an OSU chipper.

Rehkugler summarized the commission supported the two cottonwood trees' removal. Tim Brewer related that OSU was reviewing the health of all its mature trees, following a recent close call with an oak tree unexpectedly and suddenly failing, falling near kids.

- VI. CITY COUNCIL/OSU LIAISON REPORTS.** None.
- VII. REPORT ON SUBCOMMITTEES.**
Sub-committees have not met.
- VIII. BREAK INTO SUBCOMMITTEES.**
- IX. ADJOURNMENT:** The regular meeting adjourned at 9:39 A.M.