

**CITY OF CORVALLIS
MINUTES OF THE CIVIC BEAUTIFICATION & URBAN FORESTRY
ADVISORY COMMITTEE
FEBRUARY 12, 2015**

Attendance

Matt Sanchez, Chair
Owen Dell, Vice Chair
Tim Brewer
Jennifer Killian
Jennifer Moreland
Larry Passmore
Angelica Rehkugler
Norm Brown, OSU Liaison

Staff

Jude Geist, Parks Supervisor
Jonathan Pywell, Urban Forester
Mark Lindgren, Recorder

Guests

Absent/Excused

Ruby Moon

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION

	Agenda Item	Summary of Recommendations
III.	Vegetation Presentation	
IV.	Approval of January 8, 2014 Meeting Minutes	January 8, 2015 minutes approved as corrected.
V.	Visitors' Propositions	
VI.	Action Items – Discussion and Update	
VII.	2015 Goal Review and Approval and Calendar Review	
VIII.	Education / Outreach Update	
IX.	Staff Reports- If Questions	
X.	OSU Liaison Reports	
XI.	Adjourn and break out into subcommittees.	The next meeting will be held March 12, 2015 at 8:30 a.m., at the Avery Park Admin building conference room.

CONTENT OF DISCUSSION

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Matt Sanchez called the meeting of the Civic Beautification and Urban Forestry Advisory Committee to order at 8:39 a.m.

II. INTRODUCTIONS.

III. VEGETATION PRESENTATION.

Larry Passmore displayed low-growing evergreen ground covers. He noted that *Erica* (heather) had a wide variation in size, flower color and varieties. He also displayed a sample of Candytuft (*Iberis sempervirens*), another ground cover. Neither plant requires much maintenance.

IV. APPROVAL OF JANUARY 8, 2015 MEETING MINUTES

It was noted that the sixth sentence in the fifth paragraph on page 3 should be modified to read "Every year the interest is split 50:50 into the non-expendable and expendable accounts". Owen Dell moved and Angelica Rehkugler seconded to approve the January 8, 2015 minutes as corrected; motion passed.

V. VISITORS' PROPOSITIONS. None.

VI. ACTION ITEMS – BRIEF DISCUSSION AND UPDATE.

Jennifer Killian related that Friends of Trees submitted a 2014-2015 Corvallis pilot neighborhood tree planting program proposal, but it was rejected due to lack of funding. She related that she'd received a call for proposal for green space planting (in parks and open spaces) and intends to submit a proposal for that.

VII. 2015 GOAL REVIEW AND APPROVAL AND CALENDAR REVIEW

Parks Supervisor Jude Geist distributed a handout on 2015 Goals and Objectives, with Recommended 2014-2015 Projects. Geist said the Footwise display window was reserved from April 27 to May 8, at the time of the Sunday, May 3 Spring Garden Festival.

Sanchez stated that CBUF should not do the Farmers Market the same day as the Hidden Treasures Garden Tour on Saturday, May 30. Rehkugler suggested that CBUF staff a Farmers Market booth on Earth Day, April 25, but not in May. Geist said CBUF last year staffed booths in April and September. Pywell suggested the second booth be scheduled for late August or September, encouraging people to water plants more. Dell suggested a third booth be staffed in July; several members volunteered. Geist noted that the Earth Fair should be kept on the list for consideration in 2016.

Rehkugler asked about tree tours. Geist replied that a tree tour was usually associated with the Spring Garden Festival.

Rehkugler asked about Riverfront cleanups; Geist said the Downtown Corvallis Association (DCA) did a couple cleanups last year, which focused on tree wells; the department focuses on street bulbs on Madison Avenue. The department works with the Doxology Church quarterly on cleanup projects in various locations.

Dell said the *Insights into Gardening* was a great event (held last week) that would connect the department with serious gardeners, and suggested putting it on the calendar for next year. Norm Brown said the date was loose but typically is held in February; Rehkugler said CBUF had often had a booth, but had encountered difficulty in getting people to the booth. CBUF needs something compelling to present to that group and a

clear goal why to be there. Dell suggested getting on the email list well before the event next year; Geist will do so, and suggested the Education/Outreach sub-committee tackle it. Dell added that the event is always looking for speakers for this group of sophisticated gardeners.

Geist highlighted the date for September 26 Fall Festival Bulb Sales. Geist suggested having a window display in early September before the Fall Festival to advertise bulb sales. Rehkugler cautioned that often CBUF members are busy then, and suggested an August 29 Farmers Market booth; Sanchez cautioned that it was too hot then. Pywell suggested the second weekend, on September 12; members agreed.

Rehkugler said there needs to be a committee meeting to discuss the bulb project; Geist suggested a March meeting. Geist summarized the main effort was getting some help bagging bulbs a week before the Fall Festival and then staffing sales. Geist said the Youth Volunteer Corps helped last year, but adult supervision was needed; also, their participation couldn't be guaranteed. Rehkugler said that we need to line up volunteers for the bulb project well ahead of time. Geist said there were a lot of pre-sales, as well as many purchases at the Fall Festival. Sanchez we could get a lot of pre-sales at the Spring Garden Festival. Geist said a sum of money was now remaining from the 2014 sales to fund bulb purchases up-front for the 2015 sales.

Sanchez said we need an annual tree planting, and asked to determine an optimum date, perhaps with the Education/Outreach sub-committee further discussing it; Geist suggested listing it as To Be Determined. Pywell said CBUF could plant a few trees for Arbor Day. He cautioned that few trees were available until at least November, with best planting during the winter. Geist said beautification containerized shrubs were available in October. Rehkugler suggested working with Dave Eckert on plantings; Geist said Eckert was submitting a grant for planting along the creek at MLK, Jr. Park. Rehkugler said plantings should be in a civic area. Pywell said he could suggest locations for downtown plantings.

Pywell said Daniels and Eckert were advocating for tree plantings in a specific areas with neighbor involvement. He agreed that residents needed to be involved with tree planting. Rehkugler liked the idea of plantings resemble street festivals, focusing on different several-block areas each year; Pywell added that that makes caring for similar-age trees easier.

Rehkugler asked about the Fall Garden Tour; Geist explained that Deb Curtis alternates spring and fall tour dates.

Geist related that Hinkle was evaluating whether brochures needed to be updated; Pywell will review them, as well. The branding needs to be updated with the recent CBUF "Committee" (rather than Commission) designation.

Rehkugler said the CBUF event suitcase needed to have a checklist and make sure it is properly stocked with materials. Passmore said the inside cover of the case should have the checklist; Rehkugler will take that on.

Geist said the CBUF PowerPoint presentation needed to be updated; it is currently placed on the website, but there is out of date information on it. Currently there are nine slides. Rehkugler said it describes who CBUF is and what it does. Geist said the lists of activities needed to be updated; Killian and Dell volunteered to work on it; Geist will send out a copy of the file to them, and the URL link to other members.

Regarding the item of Building a Strong, Interactive Website, Pywell said there were few photos on file for him to use at the CBUF website; he'd like to update it before Earth Day with more photos of people planting or pruning trees.

Regarding the item Organize Long-term, Big-Picture Projects, Geist highlighted Tree for a Fee and Restitution programs which place a dollar value on trees as a piece of city infrastructure and allow for a more flexible policy with regard to tree planting required under the land development code. He highlighted policies and proposed adding a fifth item, the Integrated Pest Management Plan; a couple CBUF members will represent the group in meetings. In discussion on getting a representative to the Heritage Tree Committee, Pywell advocated having one for a year; Sanchez is the current representative. Dell summarized that staff will bring draft ordinances for CBUF to review; Geist concurred.

Geist said there will be a kick off for the Beautification Award program in April; Becki Goslow had formerly spearheaded it. He encouraged members to suggest a replacement for Goslow, noting that under CBUF's new Committee status, the Director, and not the Mayor, will now make CBUF member appointments, and there is now more flexibility in representation. Rehkugler said there hasn't been a landscaping professional representation lately, but Scott Keeney had attended several meetings recently and expressed interest in serving. Passmore suggested prioritizing finding a landscaping rep, but if none wasn't available, to appointing an at-large member; there was consensus.

Dell suggested additional future discussion on major CBUF tasks, though cautioned the group was on the edge of attempting too much. Rehkugler concurred, and highlighted the item Cultivating Partnerships. She highlighted the need to list Accomplished Tasks; Geist will do so.

VIII. EDUCATION / OUTREACH UPDATE.

Dell said many issues had already been discussed, including Spring Gardening Festival and Tree Tagging. He asked about Grants; Geist replied that \$4,000 was in the budget, and the Friends of Corvallis Parks and Recreation will send the amount needed to make up a small additional differential. He summarized that grant funds must be spent by June 30, 2016. Dell related Ruby Moon agreed to take the lead on the Footwise Window.

Pywell said 53 trees were evaluated and pruned at the Small Tree Arboretum. He said the neighborhood HOA has a contract with Shonnards to do minimal maintenance on the shrubs; while it could use more bulbs, it generally looked good. However, a dozen trees or so which looked bad or were inappropriate to be planted under power lines needed to be removed, which is a planting opportunity. Pywell said removals can be done this spring; Tim Brewer agreed to handle removals.

Dell said re-numbering trees still needed to be done and brochures re-stocked. Geist said inappropriate trees can be whited out on the brochure. Geist said the other arboretum at Cloverland Park has labels planted in the ground. Pywell said there were several cheaper options for tree labeling.

IX. STAFF REPORTS – IF QUESTIONS.

Pywell related that the Director was reviewing his Tree for a Fee memo; following that, a couple City Department heads must then review it. He reported that he and Matt Sanchez recently attended a Defensible Tree Appraisal workshop in Seattle. Owen Dell suggested doing public outreach on the tree appraisals; Pywell cautioned that it was a very complicated issue. Dell said it was worth exploring how various people put different values about tree values. Pywell said he is adding more information to tree removal tags, to explain the reason for a tree's removal. Passmore noted that during a recent hazard tree removal, the adjacent tree owner was adamantly opposed to its removal until she saw how little sound trunk remained. Pywell related how a recent plum knocked over by a car turned out to have extensive root rot, which lowered its appraisal despite its contribution to the aesthetic value of the area.

Geist suggested scheduling a thirty-minute segment earlier in the agenda to ensure that committee meetings can occur. Dell signed up to serve on the Beautification Committee.

X. OSU LIAISON REPORTS.

OSU Liaison Norm Brown had no report.

XI. ADJOURNMENT & BREAKOUT INTO SUBCOMMITTEES. The meeting was adjourned at 10:27 a.m.