

**CITY OF CORVALLIS  
MINUTES OF THE CIVIC BEAUTIFICATION & URBAN FORESTRY  
ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
SEPTEMBER 10, 2015**

Attendance

Matt Sanchez, Chair  
Owen Dell, Vice Chair  
Jennifer Killian  
Ruby Moon  
Larry Passmore  
Angelica Rehkugler

Staff

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

Guests

Absent/Excused

Tim Brewer

**SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION**

	Agenda Item	Summary of Recommendations
I.	Subcommittees Meet	
II.	Call to Order- 9:00 a.m.	
III.	Vegetation Presentation	
IV.	Approval of August 13, 2015 Meeting Minutes	August 13, 2015 minutes approved as corrected.
V.	Visitors' Propositions	
VI.	Beautification Award Grant Discussion	
VII.	Bulb Sales Updates & Discussion	
VIII.	Staff Reports- If Questions	
IX.	OSU Liaison Reports	
X.	Adjourn.	The next meeting will be held October 8, 2015 at 8:30 a.m., at the Avery Park Admin building conference room.

**CONTENT OF DISCUSSION**

**I. SUBCOMMITTEES MEET.** 8:30 to 9:00 a.m.

**II. CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Matt Sanchez opened the meeting at 9:01 a.m. Rehkugler asked that elections be held at the October meeting; Sanchez said he cannot continue serving as Chair.

**III. VEGETATION PRESENTATION.**

Larry Passmore contrasted English Walnut (*Juglans regia*) with the smaller-leaved Black Walnut (*Juglans nigra*). The husks of each look similar, but those of the English Walnut come away readily, while Black Walnut husks are difficult to remove. He said Black Walnut yielded an especially fine carving wood. Forester Jon Pywell said walnuts are indigenous to North America, but those in Oregon were brought in via horse. He said the City doesn't issue permits to plant walnuts in park strips, since they tend to damage sidewalks. Passmore added that Black Walnuts cause staining. He said a minus 15-degree freeze in the 1950s largely eliminated the English Walnut industry in Oregon.

**IV. APPROVAL OF AUGUST 13, 2015 MEETING MINUTES**

Ruby Moon said that on page 4, second paragraph, the second sentence should read "Moon said *the project* involved at least four trips,..". Ruby Moon moved and Jennifer Moreland seconded to approve the August 13, 2015 minutes as corrected; motion passed.

**V. VISITORS' PROPOSITIONS.** None.

**VI. BEAUTIFICATION AWARD GRANT DISCUSSION.**

Parks Supervisor Jude Geist said \$4,000 was available to award for requests totaling over \$6,000. Ruby Moon noted that CBUF may award less than the amount requested. Geist noted that in 2002, only eight of seventeen grant applicants were given Beautification awards.

Geist stated that the **Grand Oaks \$1,200 xeriscaping project** is an existing project, which is seeking additional funds. However, it is on private property owned by the homeowners association, though it is public area (along a pathway); Geist said he needed to do additional research to determine whether the project is eligible for funding. Moon noted that this is a Civic Beautification grant, but few members of the public would ever see it; Geist replied that that can be weighed as a factor.

Geist highlighted the distributed Council resolution on the CBUF Endowment Fund, and the review criteria in a project spreadsheet. He agreed it would have been helpful to assign numbers to the projects. He highlighted varying amounts of proposed matching funds, often representing volunteer hours. He said it was up to CBUF to determine the relative benefit of a project to the community, as well as potential for success. All the projects proposed perennial plants. He said CBUF did not have to award all the available \$4,000 in funds.

Passmore said he wouldn't reject a project simply because it cannot be readily seen. In voting, Moreland said the siting on private property did not meet the criteria; there was consensus to deny the grant.

Regarding the **Washington Park bench**, Geist said there has usually been a planting component to requests. The request is for \$1,000 but an additional \$500 to \$1,000 would be needed for installation costs.

Sanchez asked if CBUF could put its name on it; Geist said it would have to go through a memorial application, and the plaque cost would also have to be raised. Sanchez suggested awarding part of the requested amount. Geist related that the proposal stated that future amounts may be requested for other future projects. Rehkugler said the park really could use a bench and would be a community benefit but the lack of associated planting makes it seem less appealing, but she wanted to support the neighbors' effort. Geist said benches now come with recycled plastic wood with powder-coated steel. Recorder Mark Lindgren asked if there was a Master Plan for the park; Geist felt that there was. Lindgren related that neighbors have repeatedly appealed to PNARAB for park amenities for a park that has few. Moon felt that trees, shrubs and perennials would be a real benefit. CBUF members assigned it as a high priority.

Regarding the historic **Gaylord House** proposal, Moon said the PreservationWorks application was well-documented. Gest related that the proposal is for \$875 for an interpretive sign and a couple of appropriate trees for a very wide planting strip. Roughly \$375 is earmarked for purchase and planting of trees, along with \$500 for matching for other grants. He said it is Corvallis' oldest house, and has been moved twice to preserve it from demolition. Passmore added that he helped work to restore it, saying that there is underground electric power, but no water. Geist said it would be helpful for the house to have a use. Moon and Rehkugler felt there was a high probability for success; it was felt the budget was appropriate. Moon said this project was one of the few proposals involving trees. Geist highlighted Moreland's concern regarding the sign.

Regarding the **Central Park Neighborhood Association** proposal for planting eleven replacement trees in various locations, Geist related there was a request to place them on the City's tree watering run; Pywell said that watering was acceptable from staff's perspective. There was consensus for a "yes" on the project.

Regarding the **954 NW Sequoia** proposal, Pywell expressed concern for planting shrubs within 25' of an intersection. Moreland said it didn't meet City Code requirements.

Regarding the **Jackson Avenue First United Methodist Church** proposal to plant various berries in the right-of-way, Pywell said it was not an appropriate plant material. Geist said there are already raised beds on the site. One member related that Public Works said some types of edibles were acceptable in right-of-ways.

Regarding the **814 NW 35<sup>th</sup> Street parking strip makeover** proposal, Rehkugler said the proposal was not specific to height of a mix of proposed perennials and herbs. Geist said we could state that plants must be lower than 24" and be approved by staff. Rehkugler said there must be the ability for a passenger car door to swing open. Members felt the community benefit was low to medium; Moon said it could interfere with the sidewalk. Rehkugler felt there was a high potential for success; Geist felt maintenance could be intensive. Rehkugler felt that lawn could be appropriate for that type of park strip. There was consensus of "no".

The **1225 NW Garfield** proposal was for planting trees in a four-foot wide planting strip, including two *Carpinus japonica*; two *Lagerstroemia indica* (Crepe myrtle); and one *Styrax japonicus* “Pink Chimes”. Members felt there was appropriate plant selection. Pywell would prefer a single-stemmed Crepe myrtle (you can train them as single-stemmed). He said they were great trees that should be planted more frequently. The consensus was “yes”.

The **1320 NW 13<sup>th</sup> Street** proposal was for \$940 for removing existing sod, and adding trees, grasses and shrubs. Geist said the award could be approved for tree planting, conditional on staff approval. Rehkugler said there wasn’t enough information in the application. She added that we should request photos in the future applications. The consensus was for “no”. Pywell will speak to the homeowner.

The **1100 NW 19<sup>th</sup> Street** proposal was to remove remaining concrete and plant it, with wood borders to contain soil from spilling out. Moon said the site gets a lot of foot traffic, so it’s an asset to the community. Pywell felt it was an appropriate plant selection. It was felt there was a high potential for success, with a good maintenance plan, and with appropriate budget. Consensus for “yes”.

**Rehkugler moved to approve funding projects #2, 4, 5, 9, and 10; Moon seconded; motion passed.**

**VII. BULB SALES UPDATES AND DISCUSSION.**

Ruby Moon asked for volunteers to prepare displays of each variety of bulbs, as soon as possible, for fliers and packaging; Pywell and Rehkugler volunteered. The electronic files are large enough that Moon sought to pick them up on thumb drives. Pywell asked files be labeled appropriately with genus and species and variety.

Moon will seek to get use of the community room of the Walnut Fire Station on Tuesday September 22 afternoon, along with the Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday, and leaving the bulbs there; Geist said the space was reserved. Volunteers are needed for bagging bulbs on Wednesday and Thursday. Moreland said the Corvallis Arts Center basement is available; Moon replied that it would be difficult to get the heavy bags up and down the stairs there.

**VIII. STAFF REPORTS – IF QUESTIONS.** None.

**IX. OSU LIAISON REPORTS.** None.

**X. ADJOURNMENT.** The meeting was adjourned at 10:50 a.m.