

**CITY OF CORVALLIS  
MINUTES OF THE CIVIC BEAUTIFICATION & URBAN FORESTRY  
ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
MARCH 10, 2016**

Attendance

Owen Dell, Chair  
Jennifer Killian, Vice Chair  
Tom Cook  
Jeff Cope  
Ruby Moon  
Jennifer Moreland  
Angelica Rehkugler  
Bill Coslow, OSU Liaison

Staff

Jude Geist, Parks Supervisor  
Jon Pywell, Forester  
Mark Lindgren, Recorder

Guests

Absent/Excused

Larry Passmore

**SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION**

	Agenda Item	Summary of Recommendations
I.	Subcommittee meetings	
II.	Call to Order	
III.	Vegetation Presentation	
IV.	Approval of February 11, 2015	February 11, 2016 minutes approved as corrected.
V.	Visitors' Propositions	
VI.	Sub-Committee Reports	
VII.	Discussion of Spring Garden Festival Tabling	
VIII.	Posting Post Discussion	
IX.	OSU Liaison Reports	
X.	Staff Reports- If Questions	
XI.	Adjourn.	The next meeting will be held April 14, 2016 at 8:30 a.m., at the Avery Park Admin building conference room.

**CONTENT OF DISCUSSION**

- I. SUB-COMMITTEE MEETINGS.**
- II. CALL TO ORDER.**  
Chair Owen Dell opened the meeting at 9:07 a.m.
- III. VEGETATION PRESENTATION.** None.

**IV. REVIEW OF MINUTES- February 11, 2016**

Moon noted that in the Posting Post section VIII, page 3, the last paragraph should clarify that the project got grant funding via the Corvallis Sustainability Coalition's Food Action Team, which got the grant from the *Evening Gardening Club*. Coslow noted that in the OSU Liaison Report, the second paragraph should refer to the [OSU] Student Sustainability Initiative, not the Corvallis Sustainability Coalition. Jeff Cope moved and Jennifer Killian seconded to approve the February 11, 2016 minutes as corrected; motion passed.

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

**VI. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS.**

Jennifer Killian reported that in the Friends of Trees March 5 riparian planting, 23 volunteers planted 11 large canopy trees and about 75 assorted shrubs, marked by small yellow flags, on Conifer Boulevard between Newcastle and Lancaster Streets.

**Urban Forestry Subcommittee.** Forester Pywell reported that two weeks ago he and several CBUF members met with Bill Brewster, who is likely to volunteer as tree steward for a new block planting off Canterbury and Dorchester, with potential for up to 35 new tree plantings. Pywell must first verify utilities locations at the site, determine 3-4 appropriate species and then ask adjacent landowners to choose among them for planting in the tree strip.

Pywell reported that he got the go-ahead to plant street trees in the public parking strip at Cheldelin Middle School; however, he must first find people to water them. Rehkugler stated that the committee seeks to continue to line up more block planting areas and their stewards, so that future street tree planting is as continuous as possible. Tom Cook said an area on 27<sup>th</sup> Street is another promising planting area with supportive neighbors.

Pywell added that there was committee discussion about creating a program to promote tree planting on private property. He noted the most sites to plant trees in any city are on private property, which the city can't plant on, nor allocate any resources. However, CBUF can identify planting opportunities (especially in areas with medians too narrow to plant street trees, or with good front yard planting opportunities) and find donors to donate free or cheap trees, offer them to the landowners, and educate them on tree care (mostly watering). Dell added that there's also been discussion on educating the public on selecting proper tree planting locations, get trees established, and other aspects of caring for trees.

Pywell said the subcommittee must first hammer out details, but the program has potential to make a real impact in neighborhoods that the City cannot otherwise do much for. Rehkugler said identifying areas is easy, and she and Killian will write draft letters to promising neighborhoods, starting with Cheldelin and this project; we need to determine a timeline. She related that Bill Coslow had ideas and contacts for obtaining free trees. Moon related that she could share a map of Corvallis neighborhoods and a list of neighborhood association representatives. She said the Corvallis Sustainability Coalition Fair is tonight, and we can try to find contacts there as well as at the Spring Garden Festival.

Pywell said there was subcommittee discussion that it may be beneficial for CBUF to get involved in the Corvallis 2040 Visioning process currently underway. If CBUF desires, Councilor Penny York may be willing to give a presentation, or find someone to do so. Rehkugler said it may be an easy way for CBUF to get more visibility for its tree strip and private tree planting programs. Moon noted that several more public events will be held that members may attend as individuals.

Rehkugler added that CBUF should expand its social media presence, including creating its own web page. Pywell cautioned that someone must administer them. Geist will research City requirements on public outreach, consulting with Patrick Rollens of the City's Public Information Office. Moreland volunteered to administer a CBUF Facebook page, along with a separate bulb sales site; she sought a co-administrator.

**Civic Beautification Subcommittee.** Tom Cook reported his survey found that Riverfront Park and downtown planting bulbs lacked plants in some areas, and so were an opportunity for planting bulbs, interplanted with other shrubs to fill in the holes when bulbs go dormant later in the summer. He added that some riverfront areas need to have plantings updated; he's willing to take the lead in working out a multi-year plan. We need a strategy for selecting appropriate, easy-to-maintain, tough plants that help create an attractive corridor. He advocated creating planting maps to help support the multi-year planting effort.

Rehkugler advocated removal of some unsightly ornamental grasses. Geist noted that every inch of the Riverfront Park's planting was painstakingly designed out. However, the department can't let that now hinder its maintenance, and some plants that haven't worked should be replaced or moved. Some benches also need to be altered. He related that Dave Livingstone has developed a new bench wood attachment design that doesn't require drilling holes; Geist said that redwood or cedar would be used. Deteriorating Howland Plaza benches will be rebuilt this Spring. Geist suggested starting with bare spots in plantings, and he'll draw simple block-by-block maps of the Landscape areas. Pywell said OSU interns may be able to help with drawing out current plantings; Cook will investigate.

Geist highlighted the need for a maintenance plan for plantings, and arranging volunteer groups to care for specific areas. Moon said Kathy Tucker has been taking the lead on Master Gardeners maintaining a section of Central Park. Rehkugler highlighted the Pesticide Free areas of the riverfront, adding that some irrigation is helpful to get plantings established, and then turning it off in later years. Geist summarized that minimal pesticides, water, and maintenance were the three focus points that Tom Cook will be looking at in plant choices.

Dell said the riverfront is one of the first things visitors see; focus areas like this require good design. This is a major urban infrastructure impact, so plant selection, placement, irrigation, and other issues must be chosen carefully. Tom Cook noted that despite best efforts, sometimes you need to just start over with a planting. Dell said if plantings fail within a few years, it's a design failure. Geist said the plantings are now fifteen years old; and the design choices reflected that at the time of the planting design, there was a fulltime staffer and a seasonal staffer assigned to maintain the Riverfront Park. However, budgetary reductions have greatly reduced staffing since then.

Jeff Cope suggested highlighting comparing department acreage fifteen years ago and today, to show impacts of losing fulltime and casual staff. Geist added that we can also show the importance of volunteers due to that. Dell said the history of decline is a history of a drying up of department funds, and asked if CBUF could lobby for more funding for the department. Geist said CBUF's work is already a good ambassador for the department.

Rehkugler noted that budgetary reductions were happening everywhere around the country. Geist can make a presentation this summer. Pywell said showing where funding comes from could help. Geist said the Parks, Natural Areas and Recreation Advisory Board (PNARAB) is looking at advocating for departmental funding. Rehkugler suggested distributing an annual report that

shows results from what the public funds. Dell said CBUF could address civic funding at its tabling; we need to tell the story of the hard work done by staff and how getting more funds could help. Moon said we're all ambassadors. Dell said we need a coordinated message.

Cope said knowing what the resources are could help, suggesting a group tour of the parks system to help get a big picture. Recorder Mark Lindgren noted the PNARAB just had extended discussions about advocating for the department and the challenges of passing two levies around 2018, and suggested CBUF might consider meeting with PNARAB representatives formally or informally. Also, the 501c3 group Friends of Corvallis Parks and Recreation was designed to help fundraise and advocate for the department.

#### **Education and Outreach Subcommittee.**

Forester Pywell will update the CBUF website. Killian highlighted Farmers Market tabling dates of June 4, 18, and September 10; she'll bring a sign-up sheet to the next meeting.

### **VII. SPRING GARDEN FESTIVAL TABLING.**

Moon said she's looking for plants we could sell to attract people to the booth. Geist said the department is working on creation of a new logo and branding for the department, and the CBUF logo can work with that. It should be ready for the Spring Garden Festival and can be used for a new CBUF banner. Rehkugler said we need to look at how to erect the banner in different tabling situations; Geist said we could have a banner specifically for the booth. During discussion on banner dimensions and setup options, Rehkugler advocated for a freestanding sign. Moon, Dell, Rehkugler, Killian wanted to be kept in Geist's email loop on banner designs.

Dell stated he'd be happy to work on tree-tagging for the event; tags for Central Park are already made, we just need to have them attached with a crane. They need to be high enough that vandals can't rip them down but low enough to be read. Dell will work with Pywell.

Geist said existing brochures are somewhat out of date. Coslow reported that Pat Breen is willing to do a tree tour and help update the brochure, but it won't be ready for this Spring Garden Festival. Pywell related that Pat Breen has found low turnout on tree tours the last couple years, so he wants a significant promotion of the tours to assure him that improved attendance will make it worth his while. Moon said it could be advertised with the neighborhood associations. Rehkugler said the City newsletter is not emailed out; it is only at the website; the loss of the City print newsletter has hurt outreach. Coslow suggested gauging interest at the Festival; Rehkugler said better promotion and a set annual tree tour date could help people remember.

### **VIII. POSSIBLE ARTS CENTER LANDSCAPING PROGRAM.**

Geist related that Central Park Neighborhood Association is looking at possible updates to landscaping around the Arts Center. The group maintains it, and wants to beautify it. The neighborhood association asked about meeting with staff and CBUF. Geist solicited members to meet with them- Cope and Moon volunteered; Geist will email them the meeting date, and will cc Dell and Pywell.

Moon said the Posting Posts were now termed Neighborhood Planting Kiosks and highlighted two potential park locations; Geist said he and Director Karen Emery must formally approve park locations. Moon said she had a volunteer to update a kiosk at the Willamette Community Gardens and that Moreland had agreed to update the kiosk at the Arts Center.

### **IX. OSU LIAISON REPORTS.**

Liaison Bill Coslow highlighted an upcoming succession planting of “Yoshino” flowering cherries on Lower campus, along 14/15th Street, which are relatively disease resistant and have good structure. Cook felt magnolias were a better long-term choice. Coslow highlighted a planned removal of a red oak in bad shape in the 30<sup>th</sup> Street median; it will be replaced with two new trees.

A new study is underway on Washington Way; the railroad right-of-way is not very negotiable. The re-design will come back to the City for review and approval; he said the City appears open to alternative standards for this internal campus thoroughfare. He related that the former Azalea House and Avery Lodge will house additional childcare options. He reported that two Dining/Housing ground crew just got arborist certifications, increasing the professionalism of staff. He brought a concept drawing of the new Forestry building for viewing.

**X. STAFF REPORTS – IF QUESTIONS.**

Forester Pywell highlighted structural pruning work underway. Geist highlighted Beautification grant projects; members asked for photos of the projects.

Rehkugler asked who gardeners should contact to sign up for the new Willamette Park Community Garden. Geist said people may sign up for 10’ by 10’ or 10’ by 20’ lots, which should be open for registration via Activenet soon. Some raised beds will be available for ADA access, but not in time for the opening. The garden will be run by the department, which will hire a casual employee, Community Garden Program Assistant II to run it; the garden must meet cost recovery guidelines. There will be a one-time tilling just to get started; following that, individuals will be responsible for their plot’s amendments. The City will supply water. He opposed using street-collected leaves in garden beds there, which potentially contain motor oil and heavy metals. Users may choose to plant some beds with perennial, woody plants- e.g., blueberries. Deb Curtis is the program coordinator. Most plots have their own hose bib. He wasn’t sure about the various annual fees; existing users will have the first opportunity to renew plots.

The meeting was extended to 10:40 a.m. Rehkugler highlighted the recent G-T piece on staff structural pruning of street trees.

Forester Pywell reported that he has been researching urban wood reuse and met with two potential vendors for marketing lumber. Mike’s Corvallis Bargain Center on Highway 34 has offered wall space and to split half of the proceeds. He noted that the City of Albany operates a program for public removed trees to be milled at a discount rate for lumber for public schools; Pywell was interest in broader lumber use. Rehkugler added that many homeowners would be interested in access to lumber from street trees that must be removed. Pywell said there is shortage of high quality hardwood, and local sourcing is a plus. Dell said Peter Kenagy of Albany has milling equipment and storage; Dell will send Pywell his contact information.

Rehkugler is seeking to get the Chamber of Commerce to partner on Beautification Awards. She did not want to lead the Beautification Awards as currently structured, saying that perhaps CBUF should not do the awards this year, until we can do it better and differently. If CBUF decides to continue with the current awards, more people will have to step forward.

**XI. ADJOURNMENT.** The meeting was adjourned at 10:37 a.m.