

City of Hood River Tree Committee

Minutes December 18, 2019 12:00PM

Meeting held at Ty Taylor Fire Station/ Leonard Hay Community Room

Committee present: Dan Ball/Chair, Jacquie Barone, Kathy Jubitz, Tim Counihan, Tyler Roth, Rick Peargin

Absent: Tina Lassen **Guest:** Carol Rodrick

1. **Call to Order:** Dan demonstrates on screen the City of Hood River web site where the Agenda is shown online. It was noted that all info to be on the website must be also translated to Spanish.
2. **Introductions:** Everyone introduces themselves, including guest, Carol Rodrick representing self. Dan discusses what the tree committee is to board and guest.
3. **Public Comments:** None
4. **Approval of minutes:** Nov. 16. 2019 meeting minutes were discussed. Kathy moved to approve, Tim second it., all approved minutes. Dan handed out contact list.
5. **Review and Approve 2020 Plan of Work:** Ann Frodel submitted application for Tree City USA. Dan handed out the 2020 yearly schedule that Ann submitted as part of the application. There was a quick review of the plan and everyone agreed it was what we wanted to focus on. Jacquie motioned to approve plan, Tyler second it, all approved plan.
6. **Tree Inventory:** There was discussion of a tree inventory as mentioned in the 2020 work plan, using the city GIS system. Tyler says there is a solid template and the city is interested in moving forward. Tyler expanded on this. He also said that mass data collected by volunteers was not successful in the other communities. In Portland they used mobile arborists on bike that did prelim data work. And then volunteers assisted in adding to this data. Tyler disused the benefits to the City of having a tree inventory in regards to FEMA responses, etc. Tim asked if this would assist in seeing areas within city that were lacking trees. The tree inventory would do just that as well as see where diversity was needed. There was discussion on how the system worked and what the costs would be as well as comments from the Nov. 26, 2018 meeting when Jonathan from the city talked to the committee about the system. It was discussed that a test run be done in a specific area in the city to see what the costs would roughly be. Tim says we should put together a budget. The City just passed a Climate Resolution and this could be part of that strategy as part as a way to assist in climate change. White Salmon just did a tree inventory. Someone needs to see what the costs were to do study. Supposedly Karen Jenkins was involved with it.
7. **Municipal Codes:** As part of the 2020 plan, discussion was over making changes to the municipal codes in protection of street trees. Tyler and Rick have worked on the codes over the last several years. Rick wanted to add some changes including a section that discusses the responsibility of homeowners who have trees in front of their homes in the right of way. Beyond the codes, much education must be done to educate homeowners on their responsibilities and how to maintain these trees. Tyler submitted to Tim the draft code changes made by Rick and Tyler.
8. **Review of City of HR Tree Committee Website:** Content that needs to be added is:
 - 1) *Approved Street Tree List (which needs to be designed to be interactive enough to narrow down according to location and environmental needs for those looking for specific trees)*
 - 2) *Tree Protection (Tyler produced a page for this a couple of years ago and needs to be resurrected for the website.*
 - 3) *How to Plant and Maintain Trees*
 - 4) *Revamp cover page (needs to explain why trees are important beyond their beauty)*
 - 5) *Heritage Tree List and Nomination Forms (Resurrect the current trees on heritage list and put on website as well as the criteria and nomination form. Maybe Jonathon with the GIS could put these trees on to the interactive city map.)*

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- 6) *Discussion continued on how the tree list will work on the site. An example of the Portland online tree list was suggested. We discussed that marketing is needed to get people to find the information on the website that is beneficial to the community. Tyler wants to make sure that the educational information shows actual scientific benefits. Tim says to make sure the tree list gets on the web sited that info for each tree is cohesive. Tyler mentioned that Portland's tree list sends you to specific web sites that explains the characteristics of each tree chosen. Oregon State University, and USDA have websites.*
- 9. Arbor Day 2020:** Discussion of planting a tree in remembrance of Steve Gates this year during Arbor Day. Jacquie was going to check with the family to see what Steve may have wanted in regards to location and tree. Rick wanted to make sure that it be a tree from the new approved tree list. There was discussion that the city be involved in the payment of the cost of the event as in the past the tree committee and volunteers have donated money and time for an event the city is obligated to do as part of City Tree USA. Also, a discussion whether the tree needs to be planted within the city limits.
- 10. Tree List:** Discussion on what list was approved. Need to see what is still on the list. Others asked why there were no large trees on the list for parks. It was mentioned that the large trees including natives were on the list but were taken off to fit within the 'street' tree requirement of locations being smaller the park size and too big for the larger natives. An email from Dustin (city planning) says that he would like to see the street tree list promoted and to educate people over the winter.
- 11. Update on Oregon Community of Trees (OCT) Event:** As a board member of OCT, Tyler will be heading up the planting of two 'Ginkgo' Peace Trees from Hiroshima at the Idlewilde Cemetery around Arbor Day. 2020 is 75th Anniversary of Hiroshima. Jacquie suggested he coordinate with the Tsuruta Sister City group that visits Hood River in the spring.
- 12. Business for Next Meeting:**
- 1) *Continue conversation on tree inventory/GIS. Tyler will do some collection as an example.*
 - 2) *Arbor Day update. Need to do a Feb or March proclamation at City council meeting.*
 - 3) *Should have website updates*
 - 4) *Implement an online document location (like google docs) to retrieve notices etc versus email so that all info it recorded as city documents. Discussion with Rachel what is best.*
- 13. Other business:**
City of HR is hiring a consultant for low impact developments. Possibly see how tree committee can be involved. Friends of Trees: Portland has a citizen run volunteer group that plants trees and Kathy thought it would be good for Hood River to have such group. Tyler says he has friends in Eugene that are involved in such a group and he would ask them for info. <https://friendsoftrees.org/>

Next Meetings: Jan 8, 2020 and Feb 19, 2020.

Kathy motions to adjourn, Dan seconds, all in favor.