



CITY OF TROUTDALE

"Gateway to the Columbia River Gorge"

AGENDA

CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

City Conference Building, Activity Room
223 Buxton
Troutdale, OR 97060

Wednesday, December 3, 2014
7:00 p.m.

1. Call to Order
2. Approval of Minutes – September 3, 2014
3. Communications from Staff
4. Concerns from Committee Chair
5. Committee Initiatives for 2015
6. Adjourn

*This meeting location is accessible to persons with disabilities.
A request for an interpreter for the hearing impaired or for other accommodations for
persons with disabilities should be made in writing at least 48 hours
prior to the meeting to Elizabeth Walstead at 503-674-7262 or
by email to liz.walstead@troutdaleoregon.gov.*

CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES

City Conference Building

223 S. Buxton

Troutdale, Oregon 97060

September 3, 2014

Members Present: Charlie Foss
Zach Hudson
Jan White
Jon Lowell
David Becker
Victoria Rizzo

Members Absent: Larry Collins-Morgan
Ida Wells
Stayce Blume
Kimberly Meiggs
Cynthia Walston
Nancy Nichols

Staff: John Morgan, Planning Director

Guests: None

1. **Call to Order.** Chair Zach Hudson called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m. and asked the committee members present to reintroduce themselves.
2. **Approval of Minutes – April 2, 2014.** Charlie Foss pointed out that ‘levy’ was misspelled on p. 3 of 4 in the third line of that page; it should say ‘levee’ rather than ‘levy’. There were no other corrections. **Charlie Foss moved, with a second from Jon Lowell, to approve the minutes as amended. The motion passed unanimously.**
3. **Communications from Staff.** John Morgan, Planning Director, also reintroduced himself. He said in the minutes just approved he was listed as the Periodic Review Consultant, but now he is the Planning Director as of July 1, 2014, on a contract with his consulting firm. This gives him the ability to have his team from firm the ability to work with him to augment the Planning office. He spends three days a week in the Planning office but is on call all the time. This allows the City to move forward with things that were left on the shelf for the last year or so, and he told them to expect a lot of great stuff to happen over the upcoming year, of which this committee will be a part.

He also informed the committee that Elizabeth McCallum is retiring at the end of this month and the City has hired a new Planner, Mark McCaffery, who previously worked at Lane County Planning. Mark began working last week and is learning the systems; it's nice that he is overlapping with Elizabeth for four weeks; it's very helpful. We will also

fill the department secretarial position which has been empty for a long time; Rooney has been under contract to transcribe the meeting minutes and may well continue doing that.

So we are getting back to the point of having the capacity to accomplish things, John added, and there is a long, long laundry list of things to do. Two of the big projects right now on the horizon are a couple of Code amendments coming up that this committee will see; one is a McMenamins request to allow urban agriculture north of Halsey. They would like to have a significant farm there to raise produce and other things they will actually use in their restaurants. This will be a text amendment we hope to process within the next 60 days or so. The other, as you may have read, is the urban renewal project which is moving along with an agreement on terms to transfer the old sewage treatment plant property to Eastwind Development. The work to excavate the pit full of sheep carcasses will probably get under way in the next few days; the City just got the trademark for the term "Gateway to the Gorge" and maybe we could expand that to read "Gateway to the Mysteries in the Pit". We will look at the zoning in that area so this will be on the docket probably within the next six months.

Planning applications have been significant in terms of single-family permits and we are getting a lot of applications for industrial-type development. FedEx is doing about a 50 percent increase of their facility, which is huge, so this is a massive expansion. Things are really picking up and starting to move, and we'll have staff up and ready to work on those. As before, John said he will be staff for this committee and he looks forward to that.

John said Junkee Yoshida owns the old rendering plant in the urban renewal area and the City is selling him the old sewage treatment plant, all behind the Outlet Mall. The terms of the sale include an extensive agreement for Yoshida's commitment to build that which has been publicly expressed and looked at in the Urban Renewal Plan, and it focuses on building a world-class hotel and resort facility with a convention center there. It'll kind of fit with the Gateway to the Gorge model. Yoshida is committed to that. A short discussion on this followed regarding the design of this, the use, and citizen access to the river area. Access to the river will be greatly maintained and enhanced, John said, and is very much part of that agreement. Another part of this is a connection with the 40-Mile Loop and that will connect it to the Springwater Trail. It will be a 40-mile complete loop. This was also discussed in more detail regarding links and access.

Charlie asked what the highway construction is for around I-84 and the loops on both sides; that is an ODOT project, John said, and added that he did not know when it will be completed. The last thing this committee looked at, John said he recalled, were the population and employment projections which projected, he believed, a 48% increase in employment and the vast majority of that is in the industrial park north of there, so the interchange improvements are critical to providing needed access to that area. A committee member suggested the possibility of punching a road through straight to 238th over the freeway; John said he believes there is a right-of-way there but no one believes it will ever get built as it's way too expensive and there is some discussion of just taking that out of the plan as it's not terribly realistic. Great idea but not enough money to make it happen. There was more discussion on this project (using a map).

4. **Committee Initiatives for 2014-15.** Zach opened the floor to discussion of ideas. John Morgan said he looked at the portion of the City code which describes the committee's role; in it is the statement that the City Council wants every one of its advisory committees to annually provide it with a work program stating what they're working on and for the Council to approve. This was discussed at the last Council meeting and John threw out some ideas they had asked him to pass along to the CAC about some big things coming up, saying they expressed hope that the committee would include them on their list. Those include:

a) Potential expansion of the **urban growth boundary (UGB)**, a big project that the Council and the Planning Commission are committed to pursuing and that would extend the UGB out all the way past Stark Street or possibly even further. That will be a big issue that will be formally initiated about a year from now, but there is quite a bit of work between now and then to justify it.

b) An **off-leash dog park**. Councilors are very interested in this and in having the group take it on. One committee member said he believes the City has one already on the other side of the freeway; Charlie said that's not a Troutdale park. Another member said there is one Troutdale but he couldn't remember where. John suggested the committee take some kind of advisory role on that. T

c) **Bike rack design and location**. This came about because there is money in the budget to put in some bike racks in the downtown area and Steve Gaschler (Public Works Director) got a design done for them for the Council; the Council did not like that design as it was utilitarian and not nice enough. They said they want to see something with more character and an "arty" design; they were also unsure of a location for the racks, but were thinking of a "bike hub" concept which John explained. Council is on the verge of making decisions about this. They can wait, but it's one of those more urgent items; they didn't like what was on the table and thought this might be a good group to consider that and come forward with some recommendations in a fairly short-term project, i.e., within the next 60 to 90 days. The committee had a brief discussion. The Council, John said, in asking the committee for help with these items, said they are also aware that the committee is looking to come up with their own list, as well.

Other discussion: **i) New City Hall**. Charlie asked if a meeting about a possible new City Hall has been scheduled yet. John said he believes it is scheduled for September 16 at the Police Department. Jan White said she would like to see how many committee members would like to attend this meeting as a committee; everyone agreed.

ii) Jan also said Stayce Blume (another committee member) had e-mailed her a while back with the suggestion that this committee go online with a Facebook page so the citizens can access what the committee is doing, provide feedback, etc., and Jan said she thinks this is a great idea. Even if people want to be anonymous, they can still contribute. She asked how everyone felt about that. John suggested she look at both Sandy and Wilsonville as they are held up as examples of how this is being done. One thing is that they ended up having heavily proctored sites, and he believes Wilsonville ended up having their site go to one-way only for announcements rather than dialog. The structure they came up with was

reflective of it being a City Hall function which created some baggage as to how it would properly work. If Jan and the committee will take a look at those two examples and still want to pursue it, it can be discussed at a later meeting. Jan commented that the City does have a Facebook page and we may be able to branch out from that. Charlie agreed that we want the input, but we don't want people talking back and forth to each other on the page. It was suggested that Jan also look into a site called Nextdoor.com which is kind of a social network for neighborhoods. It's becoming a pretty big thing nationwide and communities as a whole use it.

iii) Champion articles/notices. Zach suggested another function of the CAC could be to publish something in the next Champion and give a particular address where mail would be received by the CAC so that we could address it at the next committee meeting following that. We would need to establish that whoever monitors the site (i.e., the incoming comments) could not speak for the committee or the City.

iv) Service-oriented projects. Zach continued that according to the Code, the committee's original function was to advise on planning issues with recommendations to Council. He has the feeling that this changed when the CAC decided to work on the Community Garden. That seemed to work well as it was a more active function than the committee had done before, and he suggested something like that to take on as a committee project, something service-oriented. [Because of background noise, some of Zach's proposal was inaudible in the audio recording.] He spoke with the woodshop teacher at Reynolds High School who said he would be interested in having students make a class project, possibly for the bike racks, but would want funding for materials. He spoke of placing these, and Victoria Rizzo spoke of trouble with regard to them.

v) Downtown handicap and regular parking. Jon Lowell asked if the committee could consider downtown parking, especially handicap parking. John Morgan said they could. Jon said there is but one handicap parking spot downtown right in front of Mayors Square, and one needs to park parallel to traffic which is dangerous for a wheelchair as well as dealing with the curb there. Jan asked about parking spaces on the north side of the right-of-way; she added that the committee did something about parking a few years ago but couldn't remember what. Zach said that was related to a Metro request and they wanted less downtown parking. This was discussed as one of the CAC topics, perhaps specifically handicap parking, and a good discussion followed.

Committee comments/questions on the above items: Jon asked if the CAC still wants to be involved in the new City Hall discussion and the change in the Police Bureau to the County Sheriff. David Becker said he thinks we should be involved a lot more. Victoria said we used to be. David said he told a few of the Councilors that he feels like the Vice President of the United States – the CAC is just there.

Zach said regarding the Council's request for the CAC to expand the UGB that he thinks we would need more direction from them on what they want us to do, exactly. If they want to make the off-leash dog park a priority, they can send it to us for consideration. And the bike rack design seems to require a fast turnaround. We need to come up with some ideas

and pass those along to the Council. He asked for discussion and thoughts. Jon said both MHCC and he possibly Reynolds High School have some architectural and/or mechanical drawing/design-oriented classes and he asked if we could get them to submit several different options for this; someone else suggested for a cash prize. Sounds good, Jon said. This prompted a discussion; one question was if the City has the funds for a cash prize. David suggested offering a photo in the Champion. We will need to know the City's specifications for these, Zach said, in order to pass that along. Jon said he believes also that we are limited in land space for these so the location of racks was discussed, while Charlie pointing out that Glenn Otto Park attracted more bikers in nice weather than downtown ever does.

Zach asked if the committee agreed to let the Council know that they are available for and interested in all three of their suggestions, and if we should specifically ask that they put on our agenda ideas to increase access to parking for handicapped visitors to Troutdale. If things go well with the Reynolds High School shop teacher, then we can reconnoiter. Victoria commented on the off-leash dog park and Charlie said there was supposed to have been one created at Sunrise Park but nothing has ever happened. He does not know why. The name change for Columbia Park hasn't happened either, Jon said. An off-leash dog park has been a continuing issue for this committee since he's been a member, Charlie said, and we supposedly were doing it. Someone said maybe they need to check with the Parks Department. Charlie said he will ask Steve Gaschler next week if anyone has even told the City about the little library that's been put up at Sunrise Park; it's brand new and he does not believe it's a City addition. The Parks Advisory Committee (PAC) definitely should have been at least informed about it as well as aware of it, he added.

Zach Hudson moved that he write a letter to the City Council on behalf of the Citizens Advisory Committee expressing interest in finding out more and advising in their capacity on the potential expansion of the urban growth boundary southward, and also the bike rack design and location in downtown and including Glenn Otto Park, as well as specifically requesting to consider and advise on the question of increased access to parking for the handicapped in downtown Troutdale. Jon Lowell seconded the motion. In discussion, John Morgan said they had also discussed a possible Facebook CAC site. Jan wanted to include that in Zach's letter. Charlie suggested they talk to Craig Ward, City Manager, before proposing this to Council. John Morgan counseled that if they want to do that and have an official web page, they need to add it to the list they send to the Council. You'll need to state what you want to do and how, as well as what you want to achieve from it. **Zach amended his motion to add the proposed social media connection and its input to his motion; Jon Lowell seconded that amendment. The motion passed unanimously.** Since Zach is writing this letter, Charlie suggested that he state that the Committee will be at the City Hall discussion as well as the Police Department merger with the County. **Jon Lowell moved, with a second by Zach Hudson, to include in the previous motion that the committee will attend the City Hall discussion as well as the Police Department merger with the County. The motion passed unanimously.**

Jan White moved to approve the overall motion as amended to send the letter to the City Council, with a second from Victoria Rizzo. The motion passed unanimously. (A copy of this letter should be provided to City staff for the record.)

Jon asked if anyone has seen the information on the proposed Springwater Parks & Recreation District, an item that was brought up at the Parks Advisory Committee. David Becker is on that committee and he said there are a lot of people for it and a lot of people against it. Jon asked if it is going to be discussed again at the next PAC meeting; probably not, David said, and he suggested Jon go to Fairview for their meeting on September 23 at 4:00 p.m. (Fairview Community Center on about 2nd and Harrison). You can check it on their website, too, but he said he was not certain of the exact name of the District.

There was discussion on an October 1 meeting for the committee and an agenda. It was suggested that everyone plan on a regular meeting on the first Wednesday of each month as they have done in the past and let staff know if they cannot attend a specific meeting. Charlie said he will not be able to attend the October meeting. Jan said she will poll the members on their availability in order to have a quorum and will provide John Morgan with that information. John Morgan added that he will ask Steve Gaschler to attend the October meeting if the Council approves the bike rack item; the committee agreed to that.

5. **Adjourn – There was a motion and a second to adjourn; the motion passed unanimously.** The meeting adjourned at approximately 8:20 p.m.

Zach Hudson, Chair

Date

Attest: _____
Rooney Barker, Transcriptionist