



Study Session

SS

Milwaukie City Council



MINUTES
MILWAUKIE CITY COUNCIL
www.milwaukieoregon.gov

STUDY SESSION
AUGUST 27, 2015
City Hall Conference Room

Mayor Gamba called the Study Session to order at 6:06 p.m.

Council Present: Council President Lisa Batey and Councilors Wilda Parks, Karin Power, and Scott Churchill (late)

Park and Recreation Board (PARB) Present: Lisa Gunion-Rinker, Lisa Lashbrook, and Lynn Sharp

PARB Excused: Erin Willett Holcomb

Staff Present: City Manager Bill Monahan, City Recorder Pat DuVal, and Assistant to the City Manager Mitch Nieman

Economics of Urban Forestry

Mayor Gamba introduced Dr. Geoffrey Donovan with the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Forest Service.

Mr. Nieman noted the absence of 1 PARB member and **Council President Batey** noted the absence of Councilor Churchill.

Dr. Donovan introduced himself and talked about his work quantifying the public health benefits of trees, identifying the magnitude of these benefits, and understanding how these benefits are distributed. He explained why local officials should know about the benefits of trees and discussed a study he conducted that looked at the impact of trees on house prices which found that street trees add value to property values.

The group noted that the house price study identified trees in the right-of-way (ROW) as street trees and also accounted for houses that had yard trees outside the ROW.

Dr. Donovan discussed the impact of concentrated costs and diffused benefits of street trees and he noted the opportunity for local government to share the costs and manage the benefits of trees. He pointed out that increased house prices would increase local property tax revenues, and talked about a study he conducted that looked at the impact of trees on rental prices which found that trees created streams of benefits for property owners, renters, and neighbors.

Dr. Donovan suggested that the presence of trees can mean the difference between life and death, and discussed studies that looked at the impact of the tree canopy on birth outcomes which concluded that the greener the residential area the better chance for a higher birth weight. He noted the rise of tree diseases and bugs, and the connection between nicer trees and nicer neighborhoods. He cited studies dealing with disease and the environment that drew links between poor health and polluted environments.

Mayor Gamba and **Dr. Donovan** noted the possible impact of different types of trees on air quality during different seasons.

Dr. Donovan described the use of maps to predict and track health issues.

Council President Batey and **Dr. Donovan** noted the value of the data collected from moss on trees from different areas around the region.

Dr. Donovan discussed why trees are an essential part of public health infrastructure.

Ms. Sharp asked about the impact of the ozone layer on specific parts of the region, and **Dr. Donovan** discussed how his studies took the ozone layer into account.

Dr. Donovan discussed how trees can help prevent crimes and reported that a study he had conducted revealed that larger trees and street lights led to lower crime rates while smaller trees and fences obstructed views and increased crime rates. He talked about the financial benefits trees and vegetation can provide like cooling homes during the summer and acting as a stormwater collector.

Ms. Gunion-Rinker and **Dr. Donovan** discussed how weather conditions and tree size and structure can affect the amount of pollution found in tree moss.

Dr. Donovan talked about a study he would be conducting that will look at heavy metals in the air in urban environments, and the group noted the possibility of comparing moss samples from Milwaukie and **Dr. Donovan's** studies.

The group discussed policies that could externalize the costs of a street tree program, such as the City assuming program costs, providing a tax incentive to program participants, or forming a street tree risk pool to minimize liability and cost issues.

Dr. Donovan expressed his willingness to work with the City on future studies, and explained how technology is allowing researchers to collect follow-up samples.

The group noted books and cultural references that address the relationship between human life and trees, and they discussed how to communicate the benefits of trees.

Councilor Power, Dr. Donovan, and Council President Batey discussed the housing shortage in Clackamas County, what retaining trees could mean to property values, and noted the impacts of density and the urban growth boundaries.

Council President Batey, Dr. Donovan, and Mayor Gamba noted the trade-offs in terms of land use and food production when planting trees.

Mayor Gamba recessed the Study Session at 8:05 p.m. and reconvened the Study Session at 8:17 p.m.

Tree City USA Update

Mr. Nieman provided a report on the City's effort to earn the Tree City USA status and conduct a review of the City's existing tree ordinance.

It was noted that Councilor Churchill arrived at 8:19 p.m.

Mayor Gamba and Ms. Lashbrook noted that the tree ordinance review was also prompted by the need to make changes not related to the Tree City USA designation.

Ms. Sharp provided background information on the tree ordinance review process and commented that it was her goal that the tree ordinance would encourage tree plantings.

The group discussed the proactive versus reactive nature of the proposed tree ordinance changes and the feasibility of managing trees on publically owned property.

Councilor Churchill remarked that the tree ordinance should focus on City-owned property, and **Mr. Nieman** and **Council President Batey** commented that subsequent changes to the tree ordinance could include public property owned by other agencies.

The group discussed what public lands the City of Portland's tree ordinance covers, and it was noted that PARB had looked at several other cities' tree ordinances.

Council President Batey, Mayor Gamba, and Mr. Nieman discussed current and proposed requirements for new developments to plant and manage street trees.

Mr. Nieman and **Ms. Sharp** discussed the public works standards related to the tree ordinance and the draft tree list required for the Tree City USA application.

Councilor Power and **Mr. Nieman** noted background material available for Council to review before considering the proposed tree ordinance changes.

Mayor Gamba expressed his interest in knowing how other cities govern trees on all publicly owned property.

The group noted the Tree City USA application requirements that were not related to the tree ordinance, including hosting an Arbor Day celebration, reading a proclamation, and providing an accounting of City funding on trees.

Orange Line Grand Opening Update

Mr. Nieman discussed the September 11th First Responders event and the activities planned throughout downtown Milwaukie for the Orange Line Grand Opening.

Councilor Parks and **Mr. Nieman** noted the positive public response to the City's Orange Line Grand Opening poster.

The group reported the Orange Line Grand Opening activities planned by the North Clackamas Parks and Recreation District (NCPRD) and Clackamas County Tourism Board at the Park Avenue Station. They discussed how Council can participate in the various City and community activities and events.

Mr. Monahan reported that the Milwaukie Police Department had hired Dan Cloyes to patrol downtown Milwaukie on a part-time basis, and he asked for Council feedback on when to schedule the proposed public meeting regarding food carts.

The group discussed the format and outcomes of the public meeting regarding food carts. **It was the Council consensus to hold a Food Cart Forum in the Community Room at the Public Safety Building at 6:00 p.m. on September 22, 2015.**

Mr. Monahan noted the status of the revised temporary use application for the Cannabis Cup event, and the group discussed the impacts of the Cannabis Cup on other communities where it has been held.

Mr. Nieman discussed the involvement of Milwaukie businesses in TriMet's Orange Line Grand Opening mobile beacon program. He announced that the Bike Repair Stand would be installed in front of City Hall within the week, and **Mr. Monahan** noted that the City had paid or waived the fees related to the Bike Repair Stand installation.

The Council agreed with the City's decision to waive or pay the fees related to the Bike Repair Stand. The group noted that the Bike Repair Stand would be unveiled during the September First Friday event.

Mr. Nieman reported that the public art mural by Chris Haberman at Milwaukie High School had been completed.

The group noted that the Adams Street Connector would be open for public use in advance of the September First Friday.

Council President Batey thanked staff for filling the lighting gap along the Trolley Trail, and **Mr. Monahan** noted the recent Pamplin Media article featuring Stacy Bluhm the City's Light Rail Construction Manager.

Mayor Gamba adjourned the Study Session at 9:29 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Scott S. Stauffer, Administrative Specialist II

This page intentionally left blank.



MILWAUKIE CITY COUNCIL STUDY SESSION

City Hall Conference Room
10722 SE Main Street
www.milwaukieoregon.gov

AGENDA
AUGUST 27, 2015

A light dinner will be served.

**Page
#**

1. **6:00 p.m. Economics of Urban Forestry**
Staff: Mitch Nieman, Assistant to the City Manager
Presented by Dr. Geoffrey Donovan, USDA Forest Service
2. **8:00 p.m. Tree City USA Update** 1
Staff: Mitch Nieman, Assistant to the City Manager
3. **8:30 p.m. Orange Line Grand Opening Update**
Staff: Mitch Nieman, Assistant to the City Manager
4. **8:45 p.m. Adjourn**

Meeting Information

The time listed for each item is approximate; the actual time each item is considered may change due to the length of time devoted to the previous item. The Council may vote in Work Session on non-legislative issues.

Public Notice

Executive Sessions: The Milwaukie City Council may meet in Executive Session immediately following adjournment pursuant to ORS 192.660(2). All Executive Session discussions are confidential and those present may disclose nothing; representatives of the news media may attend as provided by ORS 192.660(3) but must not disclose any information discussed. Executive Sessions may not be held for the purpose of taking final actions or making final decisions and they are closed to the public.

The Council requests that mobile devices be set on silent or turned off during the meeting.

The City of Milwaukie is committed to providing equal access to information and public meetings per the Americans with Disabilities Act. For special accommodations, please call 503-786-7502 or email ocr@milwaukieoregon.gov at least 48 hours prior to the meeting.



**MILWAUKIE CITY COUNCIL
STAFF REPORT**

Agenda Item: **SS 2.**
Meeting Date: **August 28, 2015**

To: Mayor and City Council
From: Mitch Nieman, Asst. to City Manager
Through: Bill Monahan, City Manager

Subject: **Tree City USA Update**

Date: **August 28, 2015**

ACTION REQUESTED

Receive and file an update on achieving "Tree City USA" designation.

HISTORY OF PRIOR ACTIONS AND DISCUSSIONS

On August 4, 2015, The Milwaukie Parks and Recreation Board informed Council that they were still in pursuit of achieving a Tree City USA designation as part of their 2015 work plans.

BACKGROUND

Members of PARB, City Staff and the City Attorney's Office have been working on amending the City's existing public tree ordinance to make the city eligible to achieve said designation. The team anticipates having a draft amendment to share with Council at a meeting in September 2015.

CONCURRENCE

N/A

FISCAL IMPACTS

The financial impact of achieving this goal involves a combination of paid Staff time, unpaid volunteer time, and approximately 15 hours of City Attorney time.

WORK LOAD IMPACTS

Work primarily consists of volunteer and Staff time to prepare materials and/or correspondence for Council consideration, and any required follow-up action.

ALTERNATIVES

N/A

ATTACHMENTS

None