

City of Dundee
Parks Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes
January 8, 2014

Call to Order

Jeanette Adlong, Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M.

Council and Staff Attendance

Present: Jeanette Adlong, Jesse Dillow, Kimberly Felton, Melody Osborne, and Joyce Stalcup. Absent: Nick Gilbert. Staff members: Rob Daykin, City Administrator and Debbie Manning, Assistant City Recorder.

Public Attendance

Luke Westphal, Greater Yamhill Watershed Council.

Approval of Minutes

The motion was made and seconded to approve the Parks Advisory Committee Minutes for December 4, 2013. **The motion** passed unanimously.

Business

City Administrator Daykin relayed additional information on the extent of the plantings for the Viewmont Greenway project was provided to Pete Siderius, Newberg High Horticulture.

Jesse Dillow suggested use of a grower in Tillamook who brings native plants and shrubs into the area for the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). Luke Westphal, Greater Yamhill Watershed Council, added the program is the Northwest Oregon Restoration Project through the Tillamook BLM's nursery. They do large scale grow outs for the coastal conservation group members and provide plants to the valley; which they augment with locally purchased plants specific to this area.

Kim Felton inquired when work will begin on the trail. Daykin advised the expectation is to start the project in July.

Harvey Creek Trail Property Restoration

C.A. Daykin noted the city worked with the Greater Yamhill Watershed Council (GYWC) to obtain the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board grant and the volunteers used to remove the culvert on Harvey Creek and install a pedestrian bridge.

Luke Westphal, GYWC, stated they are a small (one staff member and a nine board members) nonprofit board; funded by the State. Their mission is to provide grant writing services and technical assistance for natural resource related projects. They can also provide in-kind services to coordinate volunteer work parties. The Yamhill Soil & Water Conservation District (Yamhill SWCD) has access to other resources, a larger staff and can help in other ways such with technical assistance. Chair Adlong, representatives from the Yamhill SWCD, staff and Westphal visited the project site. Options were presented in the Potential Management Plan Approaches handed out to the committee. Habitats include: savanna/grassland in the meadow, a riparian/bottomland hardwood forest corridor running along the creek, and a mixed upland forest. Historically the area is presumed to be an oak savanna or similar to the present site with less trees. Habitat restoration usually leans to returning the site to its historic state; which is option one.

Option 1 could include mechanically thinning the forest, possibly with a bobcat, to remove over story species and plant Oregon white oak, native grasses and forbs. If the property had more legacy oaks then you could clear and maintain the openness without replanting.

C.A. Daykin questioned removal of the hazelnut trees under either of the options. Westphal confirmed removal and poisoning of the stumps under Option 1.

Option 2 allows the city to decide whether to remove the Hazelnut trees or not. Removal can be accommodated by use of a bobcat through the open areas following the gradients. An estimated bobcat rental would cost \$1,700 for a week. The Yamhill SWCD operated a bobcat for GYWC's oak savanna project. Concern was expressed that removal will open the canopy and invite more weeds. Westphal suggested herbicide treatment. Daykin noted the difficulty for the city's public works staff to address maintenance tasks on the blackberries at Harvey Creek. An option could be a partnership Yamhill SWCD to help with the project. Westphal advised that Yamhill SWCD has completed only one contracted herbicide service; which was for GYWC, but it appears that they are interested in a providing that service to the surrounding community. Daykin questioned if they would be interested in a smaller project, similar to the Miller Woods project, and partnering with the city. Westphal replied it could be likely if the city had a clear understanding of what the city is looking for help with.

Chair Adlong questioned how to prioritize work on the project. Westphal suggested managing weeds on the existing trails and not focusing on the upland forest; which would be resource intensive. He suggested weed management in either the riparian (the English ivy and the Armenian/Himalayan blackberry) or the oak savanna. February is the time to spray herbicides on the English ivy. Daykin relayed the recommendation from Dean O'Reilley, Yamhill SWCD, who suggested clearing the plants from the savanna, reseeding and adding forbs. Westphal suggested one year of applications applied twice a year; a second year may be needed. The district should be a good contact for this project. He recommended use of a barrier, such as a bucket or traffic cones, around the oak saplings for protection. Jesse Dillow supported working with Yamhill SWCD. C.A. Daykin suggested inviting representatives to visit the property with a request for technical assistance.

GYWC has contracted with the district to grow wetland/prairie plants (sedges, rushes and forbs) at their nursery at Miller Woods. They grow the plants in a reusable "dibble" tubes which allows deep rooting of the plants. Westphal suggested contacting the district for plant acquisition and recommendations for plantings, etc. There may be funds available from GYWC for the Harvey Creek project.

C.A. Daykin noted that the Alternate School group had expressed an interest in placing bird houses on the site. Westphal shared that Yamhill SWCD has bird boxes available at Miller Woods, to improve cavity nesting and bird habitat. Tom Brewster makes them and can give advice on what type of box to place where.

C.A. Daykin noted the challenge is to get volunteers to place the plants. Westphal replied the GYWC coordinates work parties. They arrange four to eight community work parties a year with five to thirty volunteers at each. They can also help with birdhouse installation. There might be plants in February/March which could be donated to the project.

Chair Adlong supported focusing on the eradication of the weeds and then work in the open meadow.

Westphal informed that snags will enhance bird habitat for western bluebirds, kestrels and any of the species which will use the bird boxes. Two ways to make snags are: 1) girdling by penetrating the tree with a chainsaw about ten feet from the ground (not recommended within twenty feet of a trail) or 2) paying to have a tree delimit by topping the tree at twenty feet (\$400 a tree).

C.A. Daykin expressed interest in trail improvement. The committee reviewed the map for trail placement including switchbacks. It was suggested that Chris Roundtree, a trail builder for the U.S. Forest Service, might be able to offer trail planning assistance. Westphal noted a recommendation for trails is to restrict domestic dogs or horses for ecological restoration because of the impact to the water quality and hoof compaction to the trail bed.

Westphal shared that GYWC is contractually required to ensure the plantings at Harvey Creek survive for a year.

Joyce Stalcup inquired if fish in the creek were monitored. Westphal shared the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) advises there are native coastal cutthroat trout. The alder trees are keeping the river banks stable; but they are a short lived tree. He recommended planting western red cedars and grand firs along the creek.

C.A. Daykin will contact Yamhill SWCD for advice and interest in working on the project. Assistance is needed with the spraying of invasive plants (ivy to be sprayed in February) and with technical advice on the savanna meadow. Staff will look to Chris Roundtree and committee members for planning trail improvements. Chair Adlong supported work on at least one new switchback for the trail in the near future. Daykin asked for contact information for the Youth Conservation Corp. Plantings will be considered for the bridge and lower road trail areas after review of what plantings have survived. The bare root planting season ends mid-March.

The next Parks Advisory Committee meeting will be on Wednesday, April 2nd. The meeting was adjourned at 8:48 P.M.


Jeanette Adlong, Chair

Attest:


Debra L. Manning, CMC
Assistant City Recorder