



COUNCIL WORK SESSION

City Hall Council Chambers, 10501 SE Main Street
& Zoom Video Conference (www.milwaukieoregon.gov)

MINUTES

MAY 6, 2025

Council Present: Councilors Adam Khosroabadi, Robert Massey, Council President Will Anderson, and Mayor Lisa Batey

Council Absent: Councilor Rebecca Stavenjord

Staff Present: Joseph Briglio, Assistant City Manager	Adam Moore, Parks Development Manager
Mandy Byrd, Development Projects Manager	Peter Passarelli, Public Works Director
Justin Gericke, City Attorney	Emma Sagor, City Manager
Brent Husher, Library Director	Scott Stauffer, City Recorder

Mayor Batey called the meeting to order at 4:01 p.m.

1. Council Goal Update: Parks and Greenspace – Report

Passarelli provided background on the development of the Parks and Greenspace Action Plan and reviewed the plan's language section by section. **Passarelli** reviewed what the plan was proposing to accomplish by 2027, and the group discussed the addition of enhancing tree canopy in green spaces as a 2027 goal.

Passarelli reviewed the success measurements starting with Milwaukie Bay Park. The group discussed the timeline for completing the park and **Councilor Massey** shared updates on recent negotiations with North Clackamas Parks and Recreation District (NCPRD) leadership, noting that staff-to-staff discussions were underway to expedite progress on a revised intergovernmental agreement (IGA). The group discussed how the conversations were going and what they meant for Milwaukie Bay Park.

The group discussed metrics for Kellogg Creek restoration, recognizing that much of the near-term work involved planning, advocacy, and securing funding. They noted that interim restoration activities were underway and highlighted the importance of maintaining project visibility and stakeholder engagement.

The group reviewed resident satisfaction metrics and acknowledged that expectations may rise as new parks and amenities were added. Staff would continue to track multiple dimensions of satisfaction, including maintenance, amenities, and access.

The group reviewed and discussed metrics for walkable access, accessible park and greenspace areas, and investments to enhance greenspace and recreational opportunities. The discussion included strategies to expand and fund green space access, with emphasis on improving walkability and equitable access in underserved neighborhoods, and on exploring complexities in defining "accessible" spaces for future gap analyses, including potential inclusion of school grounds, religious properties, trails, and private green spaces. Staff would return with refined methodology and options for Council consideration. **Moore** highlighted potential Metro Community Choice Grant funding for acquisitions and amenities, and the group noted that the city's Good Neighbor Program provided additional annual funding opportunities.

The group discussed public-private partnerships in parks, noting the need for future policy direction to balance community access, equity, and appropriate use of public lands, and

recognizing the implications for the NCPRD cooperative IGA. The conversation also addressed tree canopy goals, with consensus that metrics should distinguish between public and private lands, and that city-controlled areas could support stronger targets. **Passarelli** noted that an updated Branch Out Milwaukie tool would assist with tracking canopy progress. The group also discussed a proposal to install a sauna from a private business in a park and explored examples of other private amenities and whether such amenities should be accessible without cost to the public.

Council emphasized the need to assign specific tasks within the plans' action roadmap to ensure clarity and accountability. They discussed the role of Council liaisons and staff liaisons in leading efforts and reporting progress each quarter, with Council providing feedback and direction rather than managing implementation details. They discussed informal efforts to attend neighborhood meetings and supported using liaison reports to coordinate consistent messaging and progress tracking.

Passarelli noted that the Urban Forest Equity Implementation Plan would be added back into the action roadmap and summarized the near-term priorities. **Sagor** noted staff would work with Council liaisons to define actions and priorities and recommended retaining the annual presentation from the NCPRD director in the cooperative IGA to ensure regular updates to Council, which Council supported. The group discussed tracking activities in parks, community garden opportunities, and ensuring that green space strategies consider habitat connectivity and a range of amenities.

2. Kellogg Creek Restoration and Dam Removal Project – Update

Briglio provided a project overview, noting that while the Kellogg Creek Dam Removal project had made significant strides over the past 12–18 months, recent federal funding changes required the team to explore new fundraising strategies. **Briglio** expressed optimism about the project's momentum, despite the challenges and explained the roles the city played as part of the project leadership team and shared that additional project partners, including representatives from American Rivers and the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT), would be invited to provide future updates to Council.

Neil Schulman, North Clackamas Watershed Council (NCWC) executive director, shared enthusiasm for the project and the community engagement opportunities it provided and summarized the project's status noting the team was in the final design phase and preparing a design acceptance package (DAP). **Schulman** reported that \$27 million had been raised to date, acknowledged recent federal funding setbacks, and underscored strong progress in workforce development and community engagement. **Schulman** explained that if current momentum continues, construction could begin in 2028–2029, resulting in a free-flowing stream and a new natural area.

Amy van Riessen, NCWC, provided a detailed design update with **Schulman**, they reported that the team was preparing a 60% DAP, with work underway on channel restoration, bridge and trail design, sewer line replacement, and other infrastructure elements. **Schulman** explained that progress on the DAP was critical to position the project for upcoming federal funding opportunities. The discussion highlighted coordination challenges between the project and the Coho Point at Kellogg Creek redevelopment project, as well as the need to manage interactions with the city's sewer infrastructure and private property owners affected by the creek's water level drawdown. The group also began considering future planning for access and amenities in the new natural area, with an emphasis on ensuring manageable maintenance.

Schulman provided an update on community engagement and monitoring activities, noting that the project's Community Action Team (CAT) was meeting regularly to provide feedback on project design elements, and broader engagement efforts included bird walks, tours, webinars, and public feedback collection. Monitoring and stewardship efforts included macroinvertebrate surveys, amphibian surveys, freshwater mussel surveys in partnership with the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation (CTUIR), and a planned lake cleanup.

Schulman reported on fundraising plans, noting that Metro funds remained available through 2032, and the team would continue to pursue federal and state funding amid ongoing uncertainties and the group discussed sediment remediation.


Schulman presented the next steps for the project, including upcoming fundraising, continued design coordination, and long-term maintenance planning.

The group discussed the Union Pacific Railroad (UPR) trestle over Kellogg Creek and coordination with UPR.

3. Adjourn

Mayor Batey adjourned the meeting at 6:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Nicole Madigan, Deputy City Recorder

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