



City of Lake Oswego **APPROVED**
Natural Resources Advisory Board Minutes

September 17, 2008

I. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Chair Morgan Holen called the Natural Resources Advisory Board meeting of September 17, 2008 to order at 6:36 p.m. in the West End Building, 4010 Kruse Way, Lake Oswego, Oregon.

Members present were Chair Morgan Holen, Vice Chair Bill Gaar, Denise Dailey, Nancy Gronowski, and Rishi Rajani. Douglas Rich and Shawn Howard were excused and Stephanie Wagner was absent.

Staff present was Jonna Papaefthimiou, Natural Resources Planner and Natalie Strom, Parks Natural Resources Coordinator.

II. MINUTES

None.

III. PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

IV. ANNOUNCEMENTS/UPDATES

Ms. Papaefthimiou reported that the Council had discussed proposed changes to the Natural Resources Advisory Board (NRAB) Mission Statement in a study session on September 16th and was supportive; the next step would be to return with an ordinance to formally adopt the changes. Ms. Papaefthimiou reported that the study session on the proposed wildlife policy had been postponed and that she would report back to the NRAB when a date was scheduled.

Chair Holen reported that the NRAB's table at the Lake Oswego Farmer's Market was well-received and that they were able to field questions on a variety of natural resource topics, particularly related to water use, landscaping, and trees. She said that this effort was worth continuing and possibly expanding in the next year.

Vice Chair Gaar reported that the NRAB would not be hosting a candidates' forum on the suggestion of the City Manager's office, however, he noted that a number of other community forums were scheduled to take place. There was general agreement that NRAB members should try and attend some of these events and suggest natural-resources related questions.

Ms. Papaefthimiou reported that the Sustainability Advisory Board (SAB) was developing a work plan and when the plan was complete they would be looking for support from other boards and commissions. She added that the NRAB might be a natural partner to support some of their work.

Chair Holen reported that the NRAB would be meeting in joint session with the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board (PRAB) in November and that the groups would try and agree on some shared goals for the coming year.

V. REGULAR BUSINESS

Budget for Fiscal Years 2009-2011

Natalie Strom reported that the PRAB would seek to replace the current Parks and Recreation Comprehensive Plan as part of their 2009 goals, and parks would make a budget request related to this. She said that planning for natural area parks would be a part of the overall plan, and that it would be a big-ticket item that would need PRAB and NRAB support to proceed. She also said that another accessible goal is implementing the Cooke's Butte Management plan for about \$40,000 per year. She said the final item proposed for funding would be a permanent staff person to replace the AmeriCorps volunteer coordinator who was grant-funded; she indicated that the grant was expiring in 2010 and could not be renewed.

Vice Chair Gaar noted that the volunteer coordinator was a valuable position that deserved support.

Ms. Gronowski asked for more information about the Comprehensive Parks Plan. Ms. Strom stated that the plan would address the goals and action steps for all parks, combining what are now the Open Space Plan and the Parks and Recreation Plan. Vice Chair Gaar added that the idea of developing a plan that speaks to the current goals and opportunities of Lake Oswego was important. Ms. Gronowski said comprehensive planning was the direction most parks agencies were moving towards. She asked who would lead the process. Ms. Strom said that Parks Director Kim Gilmer would administer a contract with a planning consultant, who would be advised by the PRAB and NRAB. Ms. Gronowski said the work would presumably include inventory work, and that the Cooke's Butte Plan provided an example of why that work has value. Ms. Strom added that the plan would help decision-makers see how planned maintenance was better than ad-hoc responses. Mr. Rajani asked what would be the result if the Cooke's Butte plan was not a resounding success. Vice Chair Gaar noted that it would still be a learning opportunity and a prototype.

Ms. Strom distributed a handout of planning, maintenance, and management goals and read the funding items from the handout: develop funding for long-term maintenance; secure funding for natural resources technician, and implement the Cooke's Butte plan. She then distributed another handout on the Natural Resources Technician job position.

Ms. Papaefthimiou noted that the Natural Resources Technician was important from a customer service perspective, because this job position was very visible and active in parks, working with community groups.

Vice Chair Gaar asked Ms. Strom to speak to current maintenance improvements. Ms. Strom reported that maintenance had stopped mowing the wetlands in Canal Acres and this not only protected valuable wetland habitat, but it also saved staff time and gas. She also added that she was interested in any ideas for long-term maintenance funding for natural areas, although none was proposed in the current budget.

Ms. Dailey asked if the group was comfortable with the monies proposed for natural area parks. Ms. Strom stated that the request was in line with other parks in the area and that the Parks Director felt that they were reasonable. Ms. Gronowski said the request was quite modest considering the high cost of trail construction. Ms. Strom said she would follow up on that issue, and that more money might be needed. Ms. Gronowski asked Ms. Strom to please report back to the group with details on the cost, particularly for the trails portion. Vice Chair Gaar asked Ms. Strom to return with additional budget numbers so that the group could vote at the next meeting.

Chair Holen asked for direction on what sort of action from the NRAB would be most helpful in support of the proposed Natural Area Parks budget request. Vice Chair Gaar agreed and asked that this information also be returned to the next meeting.

Ms. Dailey asked how the budget process worked generally. Ms. Papaefthimiou reported that staff made budget proposals to their department directors, that the directors forwarded their proposals to the City Manager, who worked with the Finance Director to develop a draft budget, and that the draft budget was reviewed and revised by the City's Finance Committee, and that that Committee's recommendation was forwarded to the City Council for final approval. Vice Chair Gaar noted that an understanding of the budget process was important to effective advocacy. Ms. Dailey asked for additional financial information at the next meeting and that the group might vote jointly with PRAB to support these steps at their November joint meeting.

Vice Chair Gaar asked if the natural areas budget was a division of the Parks and Recreation budget. Ms. Strom reported that it was not a separate division, that her work was classified as management services and that all the actual field work was in the maintenance budget.

Chair Holen summarized the discussion by stating that the group was generally agreed in their support for the natural areas budget, and that they would formally vote to support this at a future meeting when they had details about the budget and more information about what actions might be most helpful in moving the proposal forward.

Goals and Accomplishments

Chair Holen stated that the NRAB had some significant accomplishments over the past year. She also noted some areas where NRAB goals could be carried forward, as in implementing the Community Forestry Plan that was adopted. She asked the group to consider these and come prepared to discuss them at the next meeting.

City Centennial

Chair Holen stated that 2009 would mark the City's centennial year, and that planning was underway for a year-long series of events. She stated that natural resources were important to the history of the City, for timber, iron ore, and recreation on the lake. She said that there were opportunities to celebrate Lake Oswego natural resources as part of the events and that she was planning to attend the Centennial kick-off meeting and would report back to the group.

Upcoming Agenda Items/Issues

The next meeting was scheduled for October 15, 2008, when the Board would complete their discussion of natural area parks budgeting and discuss other goals for 2009.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business Chair Holen adjourned the meeting at 8:13 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jonna Papaefthimiou /s/
Jonna Papaefthimiou
Natural Resources Planner