



CITY OF LAKE OSWEGO Sustainability Advisory Board Minutes

October 15, 2012

Call to Order / Roll call

Co-Chair Lisa Adatto called the October 15, 2012 meeting of the Sustainability Advisory Board (SAB) to order at 5:30 p.m. in the Conference Room of the Main Fire Station, 300 B Avenue, Lake Oswego, Oregon.

Members present: Co-Chair Gregory Monahan, Co-Chair Lisa Adatto, Sarah Asby, Andre DeBar, E. Jay Murphy, Vidya Kale, Mick Mortlock, Suzanne Spencer, and Mary Ratcliff (alternate)

Members excused: Jason Duhl, Ian Goldsmith (alternate)

Council Liaison: Councilor Mike Kehoe

Guest(s): Dorothy Atwood, Comp Plan CAC Liaison; Duke Castle (consultant)

Staff / Consultants: Susan Millhauser, Sustainability Coordinator; Erica Rooney, Assistant City Engineer; Josh Robertson, Associate Engineer; and Beth St. Amand, Senior Planner

Announcements from Board and Staff

Ms. Millhauser stated that Community Shred Day is this Saturday from 10am – 1pm at the West End Building; there is a three box maximum.

Co-Chair Monahan said there is a tennis center design meeting on the 25th; he sent an email to everyone.

Approval of Minutes

None.

Review City Council Draft Upcoming Meetings Schedule

The group reviewed the upcoming Council meeting schedule they received.

Public Comment

None.

Regular Business

A. Review Agenda

Co-Chair Monahan reviewed the agenda for tonight's meeting.

B. Wastewater Master Plan

Ms. Rooney provided an overview of the Wastewater Master Plan update process. She noted that 88% of Lake Oswego's wastewater goes to the Tryon Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant and 12% to the Durham Plant operated by Clean Water Services. Now that the Comprehensive Plan is undergoing a major update, she explained there is a requirement to update public facilities plan for water, wastewater, and stormwater.

Ms. Rooney shared that the last Wastewater Master Plan was done in 1989. Since then, regulations have changed, and even though the population has not changed drastically, the system has degraded in 25 years. She noted it is important to do an assessment of the system today. The Wastewater Master Plan is used for operating and managing the wastewater collection system. It directs how to spend resources and where to focus energy and dollars. It also protects the environment from raw sewage.

Ms. Rooney explained that in 2010, the City started the process of updating the Wastewater Master Plan. Josh Robertson, Associate Engineer, was selected to manage the project. As project manager, he is responsible for hiring and managing the consultants, getting data together, managing the process, reviewing information, and developing the plan. He also provides technical expertise on how the system works. The elements of the Wastewater Master Plan are: policy and criteria review; flow projections; developing a model for analysis of future needs; condition assessment; capacity evaluation; and capital project listing. Ms. Rooney stated the City hired Carollo Engineers, who are experts in water systems, and that they are responsible for developing the report, analyzing flows, developing models, and identifying capital needs.

Mr. Robertson said they did an inventory of the major collectors – the pipes that collect most of the neighborhoods and deliver it to the sewer interceptor. The majority of the City's wastewater infrastructure was installed in the 1960s and 1970s. Pipe materials have a life span of about 70 years, and that in about 2030 most of the system will come to the end of its useful life. He noted that the Wastewater Master Plan gives the City a strategic plan for replacing pipes in an orderly manner, and that when they do a failure replacement, it costs more and they are just patching it together. The fix before failure option is the lowest cost, does not need interim repairs, and gives more repair options. If pipes are left to failure, collapsed pipes cannot be relined. They have to be replaced which is costlier and has more impact.

Mr. Robertson explained that another key piece is inflow and infiltration, which is storm or rain water that enters the sewer system through leaks and improper connections such as gutters, downspouts, foundation drains, and catch basins. A lot of pipe put in 20-40 years ago did not have joint systems that they have today.

Mr. Robertson continued that the base flows from summer flow monitoring is 3,000,000 gallons a day and can get as high as 30,000,000 gallons a day during storm events. The options are to build bigger pipes, build a treatment plant large enough to handle it, or get it out of the system. The main thing is that the old system that needs a lot of work and the longer the City waits the more expensive it will be. The Plan will be going to the Planning Commission next and then on to the City Council for a study session.

Co-chair Monahan asked about opportunities to specify sustainable materials and how the improvements will be paid for. Ms. Rooney replied that materials designed for longevity will be specified. She added that the identified projects will be prioritized and included in the Capital Improvement Plan and rate analysis processes, and that typical funding sources may also include Local Improvement Districts (LIDs) and System Development Charges (SDCs). Ms. Spencer asked if the analysis will be able to narrow down where the inflow and infiltration is most serious and if there are opportunities to compare inflow and infiltration mapping with urban forest canopy cover mapping to see if there is a less in the areas of greater canopy. Mr. Robertson noted there are currently 27 monitors and that they will need more information prior to replacing pipes.

C. Comprehensive Plan Update – Energy and Climate Goals and Policies

Ms. St. Amand, Senior Planner, is working on the Comprehensive Plan update and sharing draft energy and climate goals and policies with SAB for their feedback. She noted that responses received from the recent online survey helped to determine the direction of the updated policies. The Board then discussed the draft goals and policies.

Goal 1 – Co-Chair Monahan asked why communication was cut out of required energy and utilities because higher broadband connections can help reduce transportation energy. Ms. St. Amand thought this was a good comment and suggestion.

Goal 2 – Co-Chair Monahan said he felt they should be thinking outside the box – getting to net zero. He believed that there should be something added that was related to energy sources, energy storage, and a way to make all the energy needed for Lake Oswego.

Mr. Mortlock thought they should require energy systems to be provided or available for all new developments whether centralized or decentralized and language to that affect added to the policy.

As time was running out for this topic, Ms. St. Amand asked the SAB to send her any comments or suggestions by email. She will also draft a response of the points brought up tonight and that will go to the CAC, with follow up to the SAB as to the CAC's discussion. Ms. Atwood encourage members to attend the next CAC meeting as well.

D. Strategic Planning Wrap Up

Co-chair Monahan noted that the results of the Board's strategic planning process would help to identify new projects, in addition to dogging ongoing projects. Mr. Castle said there were six presentations being given this evening on subjects discussed at the last meeting.

Mr. Kale said he and Mr. Goldsmith are interested in getting people to take other forms of transportation. He also wants to get more people involved in the 100 Mile Challenge. There are currently 206 members and he would like to see this increase to over 1,000 members. He would also like to set up a new website and provide increased bicycling opportunities. It was suggested that volunteer resources they could contact might be former Board members or those who applied to be on the Board but were not selected as a member.

Mr. Murphy said he and Mr. DeBar were interested in community gardens. The idea is to use underutilized park and city land for community gardens, make them available to people, and

encourage year around food production. They would start with contacting neighborhood associations and other citizen groups. Building a support group will be an important aspect.

Ms. Spencer was interested in starting an initiative for quantifiable tree value. Her goals are to add to the 2009 state of the forest report; codify a tree value calculator; expand the urban forestry website; have all information regarding tree removal easily accessible; and see if the tree code has been effective in protecting trees. The city has a 44% tree canopy, but there is a huge need for tree maintenance and ivy removal and right tree-right place education, especially with new construction. There are 6,000 open planting spots for street trees. She also thinks price tagging is important for trees such as Heritage Trees. Contacting the neighborhood associations regarding planting the street trees in the open spots would be a good idea.

Ms. Ratcliff said she felt the group should reach out to the different neighborhood associations and find out what they are doing and where they want to get involved in sustainability and to be sponsors or facilitators for a high school sustainability club. High school students have a vital stake in sustainability as it impacts their future. She thought training students to be effective spokespersons would be good as students engaged in activities find hope in their future.

Mr. Mortlock's idea involves using games to represent a future way for schools to educate kids. He wants to use the creation of games to teach the kids the value of sustainability such as recycling. The hardest would be getting a community agreement around the values and educate people as to what the world could look like.

Co-Chair Adatto is working on outreach, getting key decision makers involved. She proposed a joint meeting with the Chamber and the City Council, other community leaders, and citizens to discuss a sustainability plan which sorts out expectations and presentations of what other cities have done.

Co-Chair Monahan wants to see the group become a community and find a way to interact outside the meetings so they can get things done. He asked that they take a half hour at the next meeting to discuss ongoing projects and continue discussing strategic planning, including prioritizing which new projects to take on. Ms. Millhauser noted she would prepare a memo outlining last year's goals and work plan projects and status to date.

Adjournment

The next regular meeting is scheduled for November 19, 2012. There being no other business Co-chair Monahan adjourned the meeting at approximately 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Millhauser
Sustainability Coordinator