



CITY OF LAKE OSWEGO NATURAL RESOURCES ADVISORY BOARD MINUTES

July 2, 2001

I. CALL TO ORDER & ROLL CALL

Chair Keith Moe opened the meeting of July 2, 2001 at approximately 6:30 PM in the Human Resources Conference Room of City Hall, 380 A Avenue, Lake Oswego, Oregon.

Members present were Chair Moe, Deborah Shimkus, Sarah Asby, Russell Jones, Kelly Riordan and Nicholas Vance. Vice Chair Christine Roth and Jonathan Snell were absent. Staff present was Lisa Hamerlynck, Natural Resources Coordinator.

II. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ms. Hamerlynck announced the City Council planned a joint dinner meeting with the NRAB. She also announced that the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board (PRAB) had changed their meeting day to the third Monday of each month (beginning in September) in order to be able to occasionally meet jointly with the NRAB.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Jones moved to approve the Minutes of May 7, 2001 and June 4, 2001. Chair Moe seconded the motion and it passed by unanimous vote of all members present. Vice Chair Christine Roth, and Jonathan Snell were not present for the vote.

IV. REGULAR BUSINESS

1. Elections

Ms. Shimkus nominated Jonathan Snell for Chair and Keith Moe for Vice Chair of the National Resources Advisory Board. Mr. Jones seconded the nominations, which were approved by a unanimous vote of all members present. Vice Chair Christine Roth and Jonathan Snell were not present for the vote.

2. Report of NRAB representation at Council

Ms. Asby reported that she had represented the Board before the City Council at the Council's final budget meeting. She said she had explained that staff changes had an adverse impact on Board accomplishments and had stressed the need for master planning and a maintenance program for Open Space Acquisitions. She had

requested that the Council allow the NRAB to become more involved in future budgeting processes. She recalled that she had clarified for the Councilors that since master-planning funds had already been allocated to George Rogers Park, some of those funds should be used to plan the natural area portion of the park. She also recalled that several Councilors had anticipated the NRAB would provide recommendations related to storm water management. She related that a Councilor who was also on the Budget Committee had encouraged the NRAB to make a presentation to the Budget Committee during spring budget discussions. She also reported that the NRAB was the only advisory committee to arrange to be represented at the Council budget meeting. She noted that a woman had approached her after the meeting to suggest that the Board recommend user fees as a source of funding (similar to Multnomah County's user fee for visitors to Blue Lake). She opined that people would not be willing to visit natural areas if they had to pay a user fee. The Board thanked Ms. Asby for making the presentation.

3. Council Liaison

Ms. Hamerlynck announced that Councilor Bill Schoen had been appointed Council liaison to the Board and she confirmed that NRAB agendas and minutes were distributed to all of the Councilors.

4. NRAB Web Page Brainstorm

Ms. Hamerlynck distributed a material showing the format of the Historic Advisory Review Board (HRAB) website as NRAB members considered elements that should be included in their future website. They suggested that the new site include the NRAB's history, mission, goals and current work program as well as maps, descriptions and photographs of natural areas and links to other sites, such as the Tree Code, Metro, Tryon Creek Park, the Audubon Society and Three Rivers Nature Conservancy. They decided to highlight the Heritage Tree Program, the Open Space Acquisition Program; the Open Space Grant Program and the Open Space Master Plan. They wanted to include information regarding wildlife issues (coyotes, eagles, etc.), invasive species, use of herbicides and pesticides near natural areas, opportunities for NRAB membership and public involvement in projects (e.g. scout projects). A section was to be devoted to past projects accomplished during Arbor Day celebrations, Tree Walks, the Open Space Grant Program, Open Space Acquisitions and master planning. Ms. Hamerlynck envisioned a future program of guided walking tours through natural areas. Other suggestions included a pathways/trails map, an "Open Space of the Month" section, links to SOLV and the Lake Corporation, a section showing the natural area maintenance worker's schedule and the schedule of upcoming projects, and a place to contact the Board (the Chair's email address).

*Mr. Snell joined the meeting.

5. Maintenance Worker Job Update

Ms. Hamerlynck reported that the City had received 34 applications for the open half-time position of natural area maintenance worker and five applicants had been invited to an interview to be conducted the following week. She noted the position paid \$11.00 per hour, the worker's wages were to be funded by a Parks Maintenance Budget item of \$15,000 for natural area maintenance, the worker would be supervised by the Parks Maintenance Department, and he or she would use that department's truck and equipment. She anticipated the employee would regularly walk through different natural area parks and sensitive lands areas owned by the City to assess maintenance needs and look for encroachment activities, then schedule a time to return to work on areas that needed maintenance. She also envisioned the worker could assist Springbrook Park residents with their trails plan and provide tools and assistance to scouts working on ivy removal projects. She anticipated that the worker would provide regular reports for the benefit of the staff and the Board.

6. Tree Code Update - NRAB Suggestions

Ms. Hamerlynck related that the City Council had directed the staff to recommend changes to the Tree Code after the Council had received complaints the new Code was too restrictive. She reported that the staff was compiling a list of public comments each had received regarding tree regulation and she anticipated they would subsequently be directed to work with the Forestry Commission to recommend changes to the Code. Chair Moe recalled the NRAB had devoted a great deal of time to its previous recommendations regarding the Tree Ordinance. He recalled most of the public comments he had heard were supportive of the new Code. Ms. Hamerlynck advised that she believed it would be desirable to provide for appropriate treatment of tree roots (to encourage property owners to ensure that impacted roots were cut or tunneled under, rather than slashed). Chair Moe recalled that the Board had considered recommending different size thresholds for different species of trees and different functional triggers (e.g., erosion control), but they had decided those kinds of criteria would require more complicated administrative procedures and would be too complicated for a property owner to apply without help. The members generally agreed that a complaint letter to the Mayor that the Tree Code did not allow a property owner to remove a tree that was undermining his house most likely had not related all of the pertinent facts about the application. They observed that owner would be allowed to appeal the decision. Mr. Snell suggested the Code could be applied in a more flexible manner if a qualified staff person was authorized to make a judgment call after visiting the site. Ms. Hamerlynck reported that the City Planning Department was short staffed, and the only staff member assigned to tree issues, due to lack of time, sometimes issued permits after reviewing photographs of a site, rather than visiting the site. She noted that there had only been one decision that had been denied and appealed since the new Code had been adopted. Chair Moe wondered if some complaints stemmed from the increase in fees for a tree permit (\$80 for the first tree, plus \$10 for each additional tree). He recalled the NRAB had not recommended higher fees, only

higher penalties. He acknowledged, however, that the new tree program was more expensive to administer. He observed that the City could hire a consulting arborist to prepare for an appeal of a tree removal decision. He also recalled that the Council had set the size trigger for Type II permits at 10 inches or larger, although the Board recommendation had been to set the trigger at 18 inches or larger. He wondered if an 18-inch threshold would ease public pressure on the Council to loosen Tree Ordinance restrictions. He strongly recommended that arborists (perhaps volunteer arborists currently serving on the Forestry Commission) be involved in any future recommendations regarding the Tree Code. He suggested that the Council create an ad hoc committee to review the ordinance that would include several arborists, a representative from NRAB and staff. The members generally agreed that if the City adopted a comprehensive urban forestry program and had an arborist on staff, it would be a more positive way to address tree issues than to focus solely on the Tree Ordinance.

7. Joint NRAB/City Council Work Session

The members selected topics to discuss with the Council at their July 17, 2001 joint dinner meeting. They agreed to explain that a Community Forestry Program might be a more proactive way to address issues currently related to the Tree Ordinance, and to stress the importance of master planning of natural areas and watershed (storm water) management. Chair Moe suggested each member could describe his/her favorite natural area to the Councilors. They also anticipated that the appointment of Councilor Schoen as liaison to the NRAB would improve communication between the Board and the Council. Chair Moe related that he would be unable to attend the meeting.

8. Community Forestry Grants

Ms. Riordan reported on her research into various grants that might be available to provide “seed money” for a community forestry program. She said that she believed the Board would have the best chance of being awarded a grant from the Oregon Department of Forestry. She said she had requested more information about that program, which awarded grants in the fall of each year. She also discussed what she had learned about other grant programs:

- Watershed Assistance Grant (WAG). She related that this EPA sponsored grant might provide financial assistance to address watershed components of a community forestry plan.
- Department of Agriculture - Clackamas County Soil and Water Conservation District. She said she had been advised that “pass-through” dollars were available in late July to fund grants for various types of projects, including education, research and watershed enhancement projects.

- East Multnomah County Backyard Conservation Program. She said she had learned this program was similar to a community forestry program and could be multi-jurisdictional in scope.
- Catalog for Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA). She explained this was a large catalog listing grants awarded by the federal government.
- Federal Department of Transportation ICETEA program. She explained this was a surface transportation grant program that focused on natural habitat mitigation and storm water projects along roadways.
- Urban and Community Forestry Advisory Council website listing of research development grant programs.

Ms. Riordan reported that she had sent for grant application forms. She asked the Board to determine what elements of a community forestry program to focus on in completing the applications. Chair Moe suggested the most useful use of grant funding would be to inventory tree species, determine canopy trends and hire an arborist. Ms. Riordan agreed to select the most promising grant programs for further discussion at the next meeting. The Board thanked Ms. Riordan for her efforts.

9. Stafford Basin Trails Plan

Ms. Hamerlynck distributed copies of a Stafford Basin Trails Outreach Plan that had been created by Portland State University candidates for a masters degree in planning. She explained they had designed the plan after they had surveyed property owners in the area, held an open house/workshop and conducted public hikes between Luscher Farm and Cooks Butte. She reported that a Stafford Basin Trails Advisory Group would continue to design a larger trails system that would link isolated green spaces in the area. She also reported that Metro was soliciting public input as they created an updated trails master plan for the metropolitan area that was to be finalized by fall 2001. The map was to show a trail from the Willamette to the Tualatin River through the Stafford Basin.

V. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Chair Moe adjourned the meeting at approximately 8:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Hamerlynck
Natural Resource Coordinator

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