



CITY OF LAKE OSWEGO NATURAL RESOURCES ADVISORY BOARD MINUTES

May 3, 2004

I. CALL TO ORDER & ROLL CALL

Chair Jonathan Snell called the May 3, 2004, meeting of the Natural Resources Advisory Board to order at approximately 6:30 p.m. in the Human Resources Conference Room of City Hall, 380 A Avenue, Lake Oswego, Oregon.

Members present included Chair Jonathan Snell, Vice Chair Christine Roth, Sarah Asby and Russell Jones. Kelly Calabria, Ellen Adams, Marcus Glass and Jenny Lee (student representative) were not present. City Council Liaison, Karl Rohde attended the meeting. Staff present were Lisa Hamerlynck, Natural Resources Coordinator; Sidaro Sin, Associate Planner; and Charles Aubin, Natural Area Volunteer Project Coordinator.

II. EXECUTIVE SESSION [pursuant to ORS 192.660(1)(e)]

The members met in executive session to deliberate with persons designated by the governing body to negotiate real property transactions. Chair Snell then reconvened the regular meeting.

III. ANNOUNCEMENTS

None.

IV. REGULAR BUSINESS

Natural Resource Annexation Policy

The Board examined the draft Natural Resource Annexation Policy. Ms. Hamerlynck related that the City Council had recognized the need for such a policy after several property owners removed trees from their parcels before the land was annexed to the City and subject to City regulations. She said the Council planned to discuss the draft policy in a work session the following evening. The members discussed whether it was a good idea to require larger-sized mitigation trees. Vice Chair Roth recalled that arborists had cautioned the Tree Code Revision Task Force that larger mitigation trees did not thrive as well as younger trees. Ms. Hamerlynck reported that some nurseries that guaranteed that the 15- to 25-foot high trees they delivered and planted would thrive. Ms. Hamerlynck left the meeting*.

The Board acknowledged that the community was divided into strident opposing views of tree regulations. The staff explained the Council planned to hear all views, including those of residents of unincorporated areas. Vice Chair Roth stressed that the policy should not be at odds with the Tree Code after she observed that the draft policy and the Tree Code addressed mitigation differently. She also cautioned against setting a single size threshold for all species of trees. She advised that a 15-inch diameter White Oak was much older than a 15-inch diameter Douglas fir tree. She suggested that the protection threshold for a slow-growing species should be 10 inches or less. Vice Chair Roth confirmed that Diameter at Breast Height (DBH) meant the diameter as measured at 4.5 feet off the ground. She suggested that the draft policy be distributed together with a one-page summary to make it easier for people to understand. The Board indicated they needed clarification about whether the policy was to only apply to resources already mapped, and if there were large trees that were as yet unmapped in the unincorporated areas.

The Board agreed to discuss the **George Rogers/Foothills Park Development Update** next and return to the two following Agenda items if there was time after Ms. Hamerlynck rejoined the meeting.

Metro Goal 5 Update

No discussion.

Development Review

No discussion.

George Rogers/Foothills Park Development Update

Sidaro Sin, Associate Planner, displayed the proposed plan for George Rogers Park. He reported that the City had submitted applications to the Development Review Commission (DRC) for approval of an Overall Development Plan and Schedule (ODPS) and a more specific proposal for four initial phases of development. He said the development phases that had been presented related to the area of the lower park and the Memorial Gardens (including an historic element at the location of the smelter). He reported that the DRC had not yet approved the applications because the Commissioners were concerned that more parking was needed closer to the children's play area and that there was not sufficient turn-around room for buses. He pointed out how parking and pathways were to be realigned, the viewpoints, and some switchbacks leading down to the beach. He said the City was not yet certain when construction would start because phasing of development might be affected by DRC-imposed conditions. Mr. Sin reported the task force charged with proposing the design for the historic element in the park was scheduled to present the latest draft of their proposal to the City Council the next evening. The Board members examined the plan and the proposed changes to parking and circulation. The staff explained that neighbors had asked the City to address parking problems along Ladd Street.

Glenmorrie Greenway Proposal

Mr. Sin presented the Glenmorrie Greenway proposal for improvements to a parcel that the City had purchased with Open Space Bond Funds. He said the objectives of the proposal were to provide access to the Greenway, to address an issue of ingress and egress from Glenmorrie Terrace and to provide access to an historic house on the site. He said the City planned to close Glenmorrie Terrace, a private drive off of Highway 43, for safety reasons. He related that the City Council had agreed to consider a proposal from the Historic Resources Advisory Board (HRAB) to preserve the house by selling it to a purchaser who would agree to rehabilitate it. He noted the Council had specified that the sale had to be accomplished by the end of 2004. He reported that an accessibility expert had helped the staff plan the pathway and parking. He confirmed the path would be linked to the City's larger pathway system. Mr. Sin said the City had arranged with ODOT to use the house's old driveway off of Highway 43 because the City had to respect neighbors' rights to exclusive use of an adjacent shared access easement. He explained the City had decided not to move the house because too many trees would be impacted, but sale of the house would require the buyers to agree to an access easement to the Greenway. He said the current proposal would remove 38 trees 5- to 10-inches in diameter; eight trees 10- to 20-inches in diameter; and one 27-inch tree that had been deemed hazardous by an arborist.

Chair Snell suggested that instead of spending money for a roadway through dedicated Open Space, the City should use those funds to link the area to the larger trail system. Mr. Sin explained the roadway had become necessary to provide legal access to the house because the neighbors would not allow access via their shared driveway. He added that if the old driveway location were used, the City could avoid removing an excessive number of trees. He said the roadway would feature a 20-foot wide pervious asphalt surface that would serve as a demonstration project for roadways that minimized impacts.

Board members considered the route of the pathway and the steep grades in the area. They noted that even if the house were not saved, the small parking area would serve those who wanted to access the pathway. Mr. Sin assured them that any money the City received from the sale of the house was to be returned to the Open Space Bond Fund. He said potential purchasers would be required to submit a preservation plan.

Mr. Aubin reported that neighbors had recently removed ivy at the site and they planned another fall ivy removal project. Mr. Sin advised that there would be opportunities for public comment regarding the application at the DRC's public hearing. He anticipated it would be scheduled for sometime in June 2004. He reported the staff had walked the site with the neighbors and described to them how the City planned to avoid removing trees. He recalled the biggest issue for the neighbors was parking.

AmeriCorps Update

Charles Aubin, Natural Area Volunteer Project Coordinator, related that two neighborhood volunteer groups had recently initiated their own projects. He reported that both volunteer groups had done a good job. He said that he had been present to get the first group started with loaned tools and paperwork and then returned at the end of the day to pick up the tools and check to see that the pulled material was deposited in the prescribed location. He said the second group had both cleared ivy and planted an area along Iron Mountain Road beside the riding club. He explained they had used plants provided by the City and a planting plan provided by Ms. Hamerlynck. He said nearby neighbors had agreed to allow the group to use their water. He advised that the Iron Mountain work area was now protected by a low cedar fence that homeowners had asked for to buffer their residences from headlights. He said the next project would be at Freepons Park during the metropolitan area's "No Ivy Day." Thereafter, he planned to invite volunteers to meet on the third Saturday of each month at Lamont Springs. After a few months there he planned to select a new location for the work. He reported that the Friends of Springbrook Park had stopped their activities for the summer but they planned to start again in the fall, meeting the first Saturday of each month.

*Ms. Hamerlynck rejoined the meeting.

Natural Hazard Mitigation

One of the board members pointed out that the City Council was scheduled to discuss Natural Hazard Mitigation, including how to deal with wild fires.

V. ADJOURNMENT

The next meeting was scheduled for June 7, 2004. There being no further business Chair Snell adjourned the meeting at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Hamerlynck
Natural Resources Coordinator