



CITY OF LAKE OSWEGO NATURAL RESOURCES ADVISORY BOARD MINUTES

June 23, 2004

I. CALL TO ORDER & ROLL CALL

Chair Jonathan Snell called the June 23, 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 were Chair Jonathan Snell, Vice Chair Christine Roth, Sarah Asby, Russell Jones, Kelly Calabria, Ellen Adams, and Jenny Lee (student representative). Guests present were Jeanne Buck, Mike Buck, and Joan Clinton-Cox. Staff present was Lisa Hamerlynck, Natural Resources Coordinator.

II. MINUTES

None.

III. ANNOUNCEMENTS

None.

IV. REGULAR BUSINESS

Friends of Brookside Management Plan

The group, Friends of Brookside, described their efforts to plan and work on the Brookside Nature Area. They explained there were at least three City-owned sites of natural and historic significance on Iron Mountain that they wanted to see preserved as additional natural area and a park. They explained that they had strong local support for their efforts and they were seeking advice about how to proceed and work with the City. They said they hoped their work, starting with Sites #1 and #2, would spur other groups to adopt other sites and eventually, the entire Iron Mountain area. They reported Friends of Brookside had 60 members, a steering committee, a listserv, and a website, and that they had conducted four work parties last year. They reported they had removed ivy from a large portion of Site #1 and planned tree-planting parties there this year. They related that their group's mission was to protect, restore and maintain the Brookside Natural Area in cooperation with the Lake Grove Neighborhood Association and the City of Lake Oswego. They said they wanted to maintain Site #1 as a natural area and promote Site #2 (where the old trailhead was) as a park and gateway to Iron Mountain. They anticipated the challenge of balancing the natural area with pedestrian, horse and vehicle traffic. They confirmed that they were discussing trail use with the

Hunt Club and other owners of adjacent private property. They explained they were educating the neighbors regarding the need to remove ivy from their properties. They recommended that the City post signs warning about the high fire danger this summer. They explained they preferred to see the existing Iron Mountain parking area removed so that area could be allowed to revert to a natural state.

Natural Resources Advisory Board (NRAB) members explained that invasive plant control was an NRAB priority. They recalled that the City had hired contractors in the past to pull ivy at Lamont Springs and in George Rogers Park. They cautioned that local residents had not been supportive of an idea to use prison labor for invasive plant removal. They acknowledged that City resources were scarce and volunteer labor was a great value. The visitors asked if the Board had been actively recruiting student volunteers. They related that they had heard Friends of Tryon Creek describe that group's educational efforts. The NRAB confirmed that local school students had participated in invasive plant removal projects in Springbrook Park. They suggested Friends of Brookside discuss volunteer projects with Charles Aubin, Natural Area Volunteer Project Coordinator, and also with the staff liaison to the high school honor society.

Vice Chair Roth recommended that the NRAB send a letter to the City Council to support the efforts of Friends of Brookside, and to recommend that City resources be allocated to their effort. Chair Snell anticipated that might mean resources in the form of money, an ivy removal crew, plants, or whatever the group found they needed when they were about to work on the sites. He said he would like to see the group present a five-year management plan and proposed budget for invasive plant control and establishment of desirable vegetation. He suggested they propose to start with an initial significant removal project using hired contractors, and then plan to have volunteers maintain and replant the area over the longer term. The Board urged the visitors to prepare a proposal package and suggested budget to present during the next budgeting process, and to rally neighbors to attend the budget meetings. They suggested the group present their plan as a model for other groups, and explain how the City could leverage the work of volunteers.

After the Friends of Brookside presentation, NRAB members discussed the importance of budgeting funds to maintain sites that had been purchased by the City with Open Space Acquisition funds. They recalled those bond funds could not be used for maintenance, and that parks bond fund money could only be used for capital improvements. They stressed that City-owned natural areas should not be allowed to deteriorate. Vice Chair Roth suggested the NRAB begin preparations to lobby the City during the next budgeting process.

Natural Resource Annexation Policy

Ms. Hamerlynck related that she asked each property owner who applied for a Tree Removal Permit if they were aware of the natural resource annexation policy. The Board members observed the importance of ensuring that Sensitive Lands standards

meshed with the Tree Ordinance. They anticipated that statewide and regional goals related to natural resources would eventually force the City to compare the status of the City's tree canopy with Goal 5.

Tree Code Task Force

Vice Chair Roth related that the Tree Code Task Force had met with the City Council. She reported that Task Force members were disappointed that the Council as a whole did not support their recommendation for Tree Code revisions that would require a City arborist, an urban forestry program, and a tree technical manual. She clarified that the Council had not dissolved the Task Force, but had requested that the group reconsider some aspects of the proposed Tree Code revisions. She said one aspect at issue was the Task Force recommendation that any tree removal had to meet Type 2 criteria.

Canal Road Trail and Bridge

Ms. Adams circulated a June 3, 2004 draft letter from the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board (PRAB) to the City Manager proposing a Canal Road Trail and Bridge. The letter advised him that PRAB and NRAB were interested in a connection across the Canal, and suggested how that might be accomplished. She reported that PRAB had approved the letter. She recalled that it was an NRAB priority to create public access from the east side of Bryant Park. She related that a group that included herself; a PRAB member, who was also a resident of Melissa Drive; Rob Larson; Charles Aubin, Natural Area Volunteer Project Coordinator; and Kim Gilmore, Director of the Parks and Recreation Department, had met in the field to look for the best location for a bridge and pathway that would connect both sides of the Canal. She explained that a representative from the Lake Oswego Corporation had planned to join them, but had not been able to. She reported that as they walked toward the park from Melissa Drive they decided it could be a challenge to obtain right-of-way from the Lake Oswego Corporation, which owned property alongside the Canal. Subsequently, they had found a more viable route that used a pedestrian easement from Canal Road that crossed Lake Oswego Corporation property and connected with the Bryant Woods existing easement. She said along the route they observed that a large house bordered the easement, but they believed the owners would not be impacted because they had already erected a privacy fence, and there was an Open Space tract adjacent to that property. She said the group then decided to recommend this access as the easiest route because it utilized dedicated green space.

Vice Chair Roth commented that a bridge was long overdue. She recalled past attempts to build a bridge across the Canal at Old Gate Road had not been successful because neighbors there had not supported them. Ms. Hamerlynk confirmed a bridge and trail along the Canal were in the Trails Master Plan, but a large portion of that route was over

wetlands. Chair Snell advised that any structure in a floodway (the route of floodwater flow) had to be mitigated if it caused any reduction in flow. The members suggested that a suspension bridge might be appropriate. The Board agreed to support the PRAB letter.

Bryant Woods Park Kiosk

Vice Chair Roth reported the Rotary was urging the City to approve their proposal for a kiosk in Bryant Woods Park while the Rotary still had the funds and volunteers ready to build it. Ms. Hamerlynk reported that she and Ms. Gilmore were working on the application in their spare time, and they needed to address challenging environmental issues, such as the existing tree grove and wetland, and easements and rights-of-way. Vice Chair Roth suggested the NRAB might ask the Rotary to consider building the bridge across the Canal instead of a kiosk.

Volunteer Coordination Update

Ms. Hamerlynk announced that Charles Aubin, Natural Area Volunteer Project Coordinator, planned two more ivy pulls in July at Lamont Springs and at Metal Creek.

New Meeting Time

The Board agreed to change their meeting schedule to 6:00 p.m. the third Wednesday of each month.

V. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business Chair Snell adjourned the meeting at 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Hamerlynck
Natural Resources Coordinator