



## CITY OF LAKE OSWEGO NATURAL RESOURCES ADVISORY BOARD MINUTES

December 15, 2004

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### I. CALL TO ORDER & ROLL CALL

Vice Chair Chris Roth called the December 15, 2004 meeting of the Natural Resources Advisory Board to order at 6:40 p.m. in the Human Resources Conference Room of City Hall, 380 A Avenue, Lake Oswego, Oregon.

Members present were Vice Chair Chris Roth, Sarah Asby, Ellen Adams, Russell Jones, Nancy Granowski and Shirley Shangguan (student representative). Chair Jonathan Snell and Kelly Calabria were not present. Staff present were Susan Millhauser, Associate Planner; and Charles Aubin, Natural Area Volunteer Project Coordinator.

### II. ANNOUNCEMENTS

None.

### III. REGULAR BUSINESS

#### **2005 Work Plan**

The Board discussed a draft Work Plan that had been created by Chair Snell. The draft document listed a number of projects. The members considered whether to focus on all of the projects, or prioritize a few of them. They observed that the list could be further grouped into work items that related to City “policies” (such as those that related to environmental regulation) and items that were specific projects. Ms. Millhauser suggested the Board might fashion a basic plan to be used for maintaining and managing all natural areas, and then identify specific natural areas to work on. Members related that they understood that it was important to design and fund a new pedestrian bridge across the canal to Bryant Woods before new floodplain regulations were adopted that might make it impossible to ever build a bridge there. They suggested a work plan item to follow that project.

The Board noted that Chair Snell was concerned about possible future legal claims related to lake water quality. Ms. Millhauser explained that the City planned to hire a consultant to help update the Surface Water Management Master Plan. Mr. Aubin recommended that the members plan to attend a City-sponsored workshop, “Naturescaping for Clean Water,” on April 30, 2005. The Board members generally agreed it was timely to **focus on surface water management** because the City was also doing that. They noted Chair Snell’s draft Work Plan said “support” the Engineering

Department, but they wondered how the Board might do that. Ms. Adams suggested the Board invite the newly hired consultant for the update to speak at a Natural Resources Advisory Board (NRAB) meeting.

The members then discussed draft work items related to planning the new parks. They noted it was likely that Chair Snell prioritized the Foothills Park master planning process in order to ensure that the master plan considered the connection between Foothills and Tryon Cove parks. Mr. Jones confirmed that the Foothills Citizen Advisory Committee wanted to link Tryon Cove, Foothills and George Rogers Parks. He reported that the committee was to hear the consultant's recommendation at their January 2005 meeting. He also clarified the "cove" was the land the City had purchased along Tryon Creek. The Board observed that there was an enormous amount of restoration work to be done in natural areas along the creek and along the riverbank. They also recalled the City hoped the sewage treatment plant there could be relocated to another area so the site could be used for parkland. They observed that the natural amphitheater in Foothills could be "naturescaped." They suggested the NRAB could recommend low-impact land management and onsite detention of surface water there so the area might come to be considered an open space "showcase." **Vice Chair Roth observed general consensus to prioritize NRAB involvement in Foothills Park planning, and to wait, but prepare to become involved in Tryon Cove park planning after the Board had a better understanding of the City's plans and approach to that park.** Ms. Millhauser reported that after Chair Snell had asked her to find out whether the Foothills Park plan would address invasive plant control and that the manager of the project had confirmed that the City planned to hire a contractor to do work in the riparian areas of Foothills Park. Mr. Aubin reported that volunteers from the Evergreen Neighborhood Association had worked in the north end of Roehr Park. He also reported that staff anticipated a connection between Roehr Park and Foothills Park, and they anticipated that Foothills Park would be more like George Rogers Park.

The members recalled that **Open Space Management** had been an important objective of the NRAB for several years. **They generally agreed to make a specific plan for natural area management their highest priority in 2005.** They observed that although there had been many work projects in Springbrook Park, the park still needed to be replanted and maintained; and Bryant Woods needed to be cleared of invasive plants. They recalled that some decision makers erroneously believed that a "natural area" could be simply left as it was. Ms. Millhauser then reported that the City planned to fund a staff position to manage Open Space using additional franchise fees the City was to receive from a re-negotiated agreement with Rossman Sanitary Service. The members then discussed whether it might be more efficient use of funds to contract out work in the natural areas. They recalled an experienced two-person team had built the trails in Springbrook Park. They worried that most of the newly identified funding might be spent for administration, and no work would actually get done in the natural areas. They considered member's suggestions that the NRAB ask for a budget allocation to use for a demonstration project that the Board itself would coordinate; and that the City allocate funds to "friends" groups, such as Friends of Springbrook Park, to use to accomplish work in the parks. They recalled that the Open Space Bond money

was to be used for assets acquisition and it could not be used to maintain open space. Someone suggested a new trail was an asset. Vice Chair Roth recalled that funds that had initially been allocated to Bryant Woods had been re-allocated to pathways and other parks.

The Board generally agreed their work plan should **prioritize fashioning an “umbrella” plan for maintaining open space and funding of open space management. After that, they planned to list and rank specific natural area maintenance projects and estimate the cost of each project.** Vice Chair Roth cautioned that if the City did not address the need to maintain Open Space, voters would not be as likely to support another open space bond measure in the future. The Board decided to schedule a time at the January meeting to hear the new management plan of the Friends of Springbrook Park. After that, they planned to describe and rank each specific management project. They also planned to consider possible criteria for ranking projects. Vice Chair Roth agreed to relate the Board’s discussion of the work plan to Chair Snell and Lisa Hamerlynck.

#### **Volunteer Coordination Update**

**Charles Aubin, Natural Area Volunteer Project Coordinator**, reported that the last volunteer project of the year had been in Springbrook Park, where six people had participated. He announced that he had agreed to a new contract to work with the City in 2005.

#### **Regular Meeting Time**

The members decided to wait until the new Board met in 2005 to consider changing the meeting schedule. The January 2005 meeting was scheduled for January 19, 2005.

#### IV. OTHER BUSINESS

None.

#### V. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business Vice Chair Roth adjourned the meeting at 7:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Millhauser  
Associate Planner