



CITY OF LAKE OSWEGO NATURAL RESOURCES ADVISORY BOARD MINUTES

April 20, 2005

I. CALL TO ORDER & ROLL CALL

Chair Jonathan Snell called the April 20, 2005 meeting of the Natural Resources Advisory Board to order at approximately 6:30 p.m. in the Municipal Court Room of City Hall, 380 A Avenue, Lake Oswego, Oregon.

Members present besides Chair Snell were Sarah Asby, Russell Jones, Jonathan Snell, Nancy Granowski and Ellen Adams. Vice Chair Chris Roth and Shirley Shangguan (student representative) were excused. Kelly Calabria was absent.

Guests present were Ron Hanson and Audrey Madison from Friends of Springbrook Park; and Sherrie Smith, AmeriCorp representative and Natural Area Volunteer Project Coordinator. Staff present was Lisa Hamerlynck.

II. MINUTES

The Minutes of June 23, 2004 and October 20, 2004 were approved by unanimous vote of members present. Vice Chair Roth, Ms. Calabria, and Ms. Shangguan were not present.

III. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chair Snell related that he had recently attended a meeting in Portland that focused on sustainability. He announced an April 22, 2005 project to remove ivy from school district property. He reported that a City Parks and Recreation Department maintenance crew had prepared the area for the volunteers and he anticipated that 156 junior high school students would participate. Ms. Smith announced there was to be an ivy-pulling project in George Rogers Park on Earth Day. She related that persons sentenced to do community-service were to help with that project. She also announced the ceremony to designate the Peg Tree as a state heritage tree would be held on April 29, 2005. She announced that a "No Ivy Day" project was to be held at Meadow Creek on May 7, 2005.

IV. REGULAR BUSINESS

Springbrook Park Management Plan

Ron Hanson and Audrey Madison, representing Friends of Springbrook Park, presented the Friends' draft Springbrook Park Management Plan to the Board. Mr. Hanson, who also served as chair of the Uplands Neighborhood Association, related that Natural Resources Advisory (NRAB) member and architect, Nancy Gronowski, had helped write the current version of the draft plan, which was a refinement of a preliminary plan the NRAB had endorsed in 2003. Ms. Madison recalled the contemporary history of the area. She said it had been logged in the 1960s, and in 1972 the community had voted to purchase the logged parcel and join it to a parcel the City already owned. She said the 52-acre park was protected as a natural area in the City Charter. She pointed out that the park served to link smaller neighborhoods and schools and was now also serving as an outdoor classroom. The Friends representatives circulated a revised, accelerated reforestation plan that was to be incorporated into the park plan. They said they hoped the plan would serve as a model that could be applied to other natural areas in the City.

The Board and Friends representatives then discussed what would be an appropriate level of management of the area. They observed that some level of management would be necessary in order to control non-native and invasive species, and some trees would eventually need to be removed in order to reduce the fire hazard and allow more sunlight into the forest. Ms. Hamerlynck confirmed that the City had a Tree Removal Permit process.

Mr. Hanson reported that his group planned to map all of the conifers in the park using GPS technology. The Friends representatives decided to examine the exact language of the City Charter to learn under what circumstances it would allow removal of trees from the park. They anticipated they would insert language in the plan to address tree removal. Chair Snell indicated that if the draft plan anticipated construction of more trails, he did not favor that. He encouraged Friends to use maps and photographs to document the current status of the area, to serve as a tool for planning work projects and planting, and to describe the "baseline" condition of the park that could be compared with future changes. He suggested the Friends hire a forest ecologist to walk the park with them and make recommendations about how to manage it and what it might cost.

Chair Snell advised them that volunteers should not be allowed to use herbicides, but a professional should apply herbicides every two years to holly bushes that could not be dug up by the roots. He observed that small ivy pulling projects in the park would not make a significant visible difference over the long term unless areas of heavy infestation were mechanically cleared first. The visitors reported that participation in the monthly Saturday work projects ranged from five or six volunteers to 18 volunteers. They looked forward to getting help from school students. Chair Snell anticipated that if City resources were allocated to hire contractors to do the initial cleanup, the resulting visible improvement would attract more volunteers to participate in the

smaller projects. He suggested volunteer efforts be directed not to the thickest ivy infested areas (where mechanical removal would be best), but to fringe areas where ivy was not as dominant, where the volunteers could see their progress. The Friends representatives presented their map of conifer tree locations. They reported there were primarily Douglas fir trees, but they had also mapped the locations of a patch of oak trees and a stand of a dozen Sequoia trees. They pointed out the concentration of young conifers at the edges of the path, where seedlings had been planted in previous years, indicated they needed a better reforestation strategy. They said that they were also identifying the locations of wetlands and sunnier spots and learning where each species of tree had the best chance of survival. They anticipated they would create an invasive species overlay. Chair Snell advised them the City staff could help them identify the locations of drainage facilities in the park. The Friends representatives asked for NRAB endorsement of their draft plan. Chair Snell observed that the plan could serve as a template for plans for other natural areas in the City, especially after Friends got help from a professional forest ecologist and attached photographs and maps that would show the baseline condition of the area. The Friends representatives said their work program would be attached as an addendum to the plan. They reported the City staff had been very helpful.

Chair Snell moved to recommend the April 11, 2005 draft of the Springbrook Park Management Plan, as a working document, to the City Council. Ms. Gronowski **seconded** the motion and it **passed** by unanimous vote of all members present. Vice Chair Roth, Ms. Calabria, and Ms. Shangguan were not present.

Heritage Tree Recommendations

Ms. Hamerlynck circulated copies of the Heritage Tree nominations the City had received. The Board agreed to consider them and make its recommendations at their next meeting. They had already decided to recommend that a group of trees at the Lake Grove Fire Station should be designated as a Heritage Tree Grove. Ms. Hamerlynck reported that Planning Department staffer, David Oldham, was being trained as an arborist and would eventually handle most tree permits and tree issues. She said he planned to visit and assess the trees nominated for Heritage Trees over the next week. She explained the staff was researching whether some of the nominated trees were within the public right of way, and who was the actual owner. She said she planned to contact the owners of nominated trees and invite them to attend the next Board meeting. She pointed out that the City Police and Fire Departments had nominated the Freedom Tree to also be a Heritage Tree.

Foothills Redevelopment Plan Update

Mr. Jones showed several conceptual plans that were being considered for the new Foothills Park. Chair Snell advised the City should start working on removing invasive species soon.

NRAB Budget Recommendations

The Board then examined and compared the budget the NRAB had suggested to the City Manager with the budget proposed to the Budget Committee (see Chair Snell's letter to the City Manager and the Budget Issues and Options paper that was to be submitted to the Budget Committee with the proposed City budget). They recalled the NRAB recommendation was that the Natural Resource Coordinator should spend more time on Open Space/Natural Resource management; there was a need for a staff position to maintain open spaces; and there should also be funding to pay contractors for restoration projects. They had pointed to increased Rossman fees as a primary source of funding of the natural resource area management budget. Chair Snell explained that the proposed City budget asked for two new parks maintenance positions: the Open Space maintenance position and a Foothills Park maintenance position.

The members observed that because there was no specific line item in the budget for "Natural Area Management," they had to read the entire 2005/2007 budget document and look for items that were related to natural area management. They recalled that they understood maintenance of open spaces could not be paid for from existing Open Space bond funding, and that they had agreed that there should be a provision in future open space bond measures that allowed some of the money to be spent for restoration and maintenance activities.

Chair Snell reported the Budget Committee planned to approve the new City budget at its May 2, 2005 meeting. As the members examined the proposed City budget, they questioned whether the option recommended by the City Manager would allow the Natural Resource Coordinator position to spend enough time on managing natural areas. They recalled the natural areas maintenance position was currently unfilled. They wondered how the money that had already been budgeted for that position had been spent. Chair Snell observed that there did not seem to be funding in the proposed City budget to hire contractors. The members agreed they needed to lobby the City Councilors and the other members of the Budget Committee and to attend the May 2 Budget Committee meeting in order to convince the decision makers to decide to accept the NRAB-preferred budget option, which they estimated would provide another \$200,000 for Open Space/Natural Area management and maintenance. Chair Snell suggested the members might ask them to make a policy decision that "x" percentage of the value of City-owned Open Spaces was to be used for maintaining those areas. He noted the City's asset management policy was that those lands were not to be degraded, given away, or allowed to deteriorate, except by action of the City Council. The members agreed to find and examine the language and the results of the Community Survey question regarding Open Space. Chair Snell reported the Tryon Creek Watershed Council and the Three Rivers Land Conservancy had endorsed the NRAB budget proposal.

Stewardship Report

Ms. Smith announced that her project website was to be officially linked to the City website.

IV. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business Chair Snell adjourned the meeting at 9:49 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Hamerlynck

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Natural Resources Coordinator