



## CITY OF LAKE OSWEGO NATURAL RESOURCES ADVISORY BOARD MINUTES

December 15, 2005

**APPROVED**

### I. CALL TO ORDER & ROLL CALL

Lisa Hamerlynck, Natural Resources Coordinator, called the December 15, 2005 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 Ellen Adams, Craig Diamond, William Gaar, Nancy Gronowski, Morgan Holen, Russell Jones, and Sarah Asby. Greg Wells (student representative) was absent. Staff present were Susan Millhauser, Sustainability Planner, and Lisa Hamerlynck, Natural Resources Coordinator.

### II. ANNOUNCEMENTS (None)

### III. REGULAR BUSINESS

#### **Sustainability Program**

**Susan Millhauser, Sustainability Planner**, updated the Board on the City's Sustainability Program. She said City strategy was to begin a Sustainability Program at City Hall, in order to provide an example to the private sector. She said citizens could follow the progress of the program on the City website. She distributed copies of "City Hall Sustainability Plan." She reported that the staff was updating the Plan and anticipated the City Council would formally accept it. She said the proposed plan featured policies and standards for "green" City-owned buildings and offered incentives to private developers. She reported one of the Building Department staff had attended the U S Green Building Counsel meeting the previous month (she had interviewed him for the City's "Friday Letter"). She said other City officials planned to attend training seminars. She said the staff would recommend a "Green Building Policy" to be applied to new or remodeled public buildings, like the Safeco building.

Ms. Millhauser said a policy was also being crafted for sustainable purchasing. During the questioning period, she confirmed staff planned to develop benchmarks, or incorporate "indicators" developed during the Quality of Life Indicators project to track progress related to things like air and water quality and traffic congestion. She confirmed staff was looking for examples of programs used in other jurisdictions, and trying to make the program as simple as possible. One of the Board members suggested she look at programs used in Austin, Texas, and Vancouver, BC. which won an international sustainability competition a couple of years ago.

Mr. Diamond wanted to know how the Natural Resources Advisory Board (NRAB) could become involved in the program. Ms. Millhauser recalled the City of Santa Monica had a Citizen Sustainability Board. She said citizen involvement was very important in Lake Oswego. She suggested the members follow the updates the staff proposed and published on the website, and read about her past presentations to the City Council and their discussions in Council minutes. She said staff planned to recommend expanding the number of City-owned alternative fuel vehicles. She acknowledged that the staff had not done a good job of sharing ideas with the public.

Ms. Millhauser noted that the Maintenance Department had great water conservation tips. She reported a nonprofit group called Northwest Research Institute was working with staff and facilitating discussion groups in the City. She reported Eryn Deeming, Neighborhood Planner, was helping Neighborhood Associations share their ideas. She advised that the City had a Green Streets standard, and staff was working on a local green space demonstration project on 10<sup>th</sup> Street. She promised to continue to share information with the NRAB. She saw a good opportunity to incorporate sustainability into the Safeco Building on Kruse Way, if the City purchased it and remodeled or rebuilt it. She related the staff had received a letter suggesting giving property owners “points” for going beyond the requirements to protect habitat. Ms. Hamerlynck offered to send copies of it to the members. Ms. Millhauser anticipated the City Council would adopt updated sustainability guidelines for buildings and offer incentives to builders who followed them.

The Board was eager to hear ways the NRAB could help. Ms. Hamerlynck advised them that a good time to discuss that with the City Council was in January, when a representative of the NRAB was to meet with the Council to discuss the Board’s goals. Ms. Millhauser suggested the Board follow the progress of the update of the City’s Surface Water Management Plan and related projects in the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP). She noted that one issue the City needed to address was the impact of outfalls on creeks.

### **Election of Officers**

**The Board members elected Craig Diamond and William Gaar co-chairs by unanimous consent.**

### **Council Goals Discussion**

The Board members reviewed notes from their mission and goal setting discussion on December 8, 2005. They saw a need to focus on a few projects that coincided with what the City Council was interested in. Ms. Hamerlynck related the history of the NRAB from the time it had been spun off from the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board to protect natural resources in the open space. The members contrasted the focus of the 2005 Board on maintaining City open space with the new Board’s focus on some of the same issues while including some new goals. However, they acknowledged that the City had purchased a lot of property, which was rapidly deteriorating and in need of

maintenance. They discussed the concept of inventorying a specific natural area, providing the City Council with an estimate of its condition, rate of deterioration and cost of restoration, and then ensuring the project was accomplished. They anticipated the Councilors would be pleased to see that kind of successful use of City funds. Ms. Hamerlynck advised the group to use the time before the next budget cycle to do the preliminary work and keep the City Councilors informed about their intentions. She recalled the former Board chair had lobbied for a budget line item for natural resource/open space maintenance staff, which did not happen. However, the Council had dedicated extra funds from an increase in garbage fees to that purpose. She said it was possible that when City staff was reorganized in January a position to maintain the natural area parks might be created.

The members suggested prioritizing two goals. Goal 1 would be to get the results the Council wanted from the garbage funds by recommending a management and work plan for natural areas/open space. Goal 2 would be to identify and push for certain sustainability goals that coincided with projects the City Council was already interested in. The members also saw preventing loss of trees (saving assets) as a qualifying reason to spend Capital Improvement Project funds. They discussed another goal to inventory all City natural areas. Ms. Hamerlynck reported there was funding available for a project to remove invasive plants from Springbrook Park. She related that some jurisdictions and conservation groups reported both the cost of restoring an area, and the cost if nothing was done there. She also related that Metro first “acquired and stabilized” land, then considered how to maintain it. The members agreed to schedule a meeting to plan the goals presentation to the City Council.

### **Stewardship Report**

Ms. Hamerlynck reported that Sherrie Smith, AmeriCorp representative and Natural Area Volunteer Project Coordinator, was scheduled to present a Stewardship Report to the City Council.

### **January Meeting Date**

The members agreed to meet again on January 18, 2006.

## **IV. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business the meeting ended at 8:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Hamerlynck  
Natural Resources Coordinator