



**CITY OF LAKE OSWEGO
NATURAL RESOURCES ADVISORY BOARD MINUTES**

January 18, 2006

APPROVED

I. CALL TO ORDER & ROLL CALL

Co-chair Craig Diamond called the January 18, 2006 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 besides Co-chair Diamond were Co-chair William Gaar, Sarah Asby, Ellen Adams, Morgan Holen, Russell Jones, and Greg Wells (student representative). Nancy Gronowski was excused. Doug Hawley attended as a guest. Staff present was Lisa Hamerlynck.

II. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Co-chair Diamond related that he and Co-chair Gaar had discussed the Natural Resources Advisory Board's (NRAB) focus, including the Board's desire to focus on "sustainability," with the Community Development Director and City Councilors, and they felt they had received a positive response.

III. REGULAR BUSINESS

2005 NRAB Accomplishments, Staff and Budget Changes

Ms. Hamerlynck had drafted, "Natural Resource Advisory Board Review of 2005 Council Goal Recommendations." She observed the Board had been successful in getting Council support for natural area/open space maintenance funding and staffing. She reported that there would be a Natural Resource Coordinator in the Parks and Recreation Department, a position that focused on "sustainability" in the Long Range Planning Department, and the City was to also have a full time Natural Area/Open Space maintenance person as soon as that position could be filled. She said the new AmeriCorps person, Annie Bergelin, would start working in the City in February 2006. She reported that staff member, David Odom, had just received certification as an arborist and would work on all Tree Code issues. She reported the Springbrook Park Management Plan had been approved, and ODOT was working on the fish passage project on Tryon Creek that the Board supported. She added that because ODOT had taken over the project, the City had grant funds they could use elsewhere.

Tryon Creek Watershed Council Letter

The Board discussed a December 9, 2005 letter from the Tryon Creek Watershed Council, that listed pockets, or un-annexed “islands” of County land within the City where they worried natural resources were being degraded. They suggested the City annex the islands. Ms. Hamerlynck explained that she was the City representative on the Tryon Creek Watershed Council and had helped them put the list together. She and the Board members examined it and she described what was happening on different sites on the list. The Board then examined the four recommendations in the letter and Co-chair Diamond observed a consensus of Board members that the recommendations were reasonable. He suggested sending a letter to the Council to encourage them to take another look at island annexations and consider the recommendations. Ms. Hamerlynck explained that Recommendation 2 was to complete the inventory and assessment of resources on land outside the City under the Sensitive Lands program. She explained that Recommendation 3 was based on the upcoming need for the City to refine its Goal 5 (Sensitive Lands) program to comply with Metro’s Goal 5 program. She anticipated that her work in 2006 would include reporting how the City program compared to Metro’s program. Members observed that Recommendation 4 was to have a “dedicated environmental advocate” on the Development Review Commission (DRC). Ms. Hamerlynck described what the DRC was authorized to do, and suggested the makeup of the Commission could include an architect or planner experienced in environmental review. Members wondered exactly what the letter writers meant by “dedicated environmental advocate.” They did not want to “rubber stamp” the recommendations based on an assumption. They asked Ms. Hamerlynck to clarify the recommendation with the Tryon Creek Watershed Council and report back at the next NRAB meeting.

Review of 2006 Goals Presented to City Council

The Board examined “Natural Resource Advisory Board, 2006 Council Goal Recommendations,” which outlined the goals the NRAB had suggested to the City Council. Co-chairs Diamond and Gaar reported they had told the Councilors that the board wanted to ensure the funding to maintain natural areas generated results. They reported to the members that Co-chair Gaar would be the “point person” for this. They recalled that members had previously agreed to work on developing relationships with individual Councilors, so the Council would get to know and better understand the focus of the NRAB. They said they had suggested a goal to have a plan and approach to “sustainability.” They reported hearing a Councilor’s concern that the NRAB proposed to develop planning policies, when that was not their expertise. However, they had assured him the goal fit the NRAB mission statement and the board would look at the larger picture and provide general suggestions for ways to deal with issues, such as water quality, air quality, and traffic flow, and the primary focus of the Board would be on natural resources. Co-chairs Diamond and Gaar reported their suggested goals were well received by the City Council when they presented them.

Future of SAFECO Building Site

Board members recalled the City was holding public meetings about the possibility of purchasing and developing the SAFECO site. Ms. Hamerlynck advised that about a third of the site contained natural resources, including wetlands, which could be impacted by redevelopment. Co-chair Gaar saw that as an opportunity for the NRAB to speak publicly regarding its concern for sustainability, and to recommend that the City balance development with resource protection. The Board asked Ms. Hammerlynck to draft a letter reflecting the NRAB position that the site should be addressed in an environmentally responsible manner. She suggested the Board point out that the natural resources on the site were an amenity, and to recommend that they be restored and enhanced as an integral component of the process; and that the existing building be deconstructed, instead of demolished.

Development of 2006 Action Plan for NRAB

Co-chair Gaar encouraged the members to examine the NRAB goals and think about what they could do as individuals, as well as a Board, to help achieve them. He related that because he had a strong personal interest in sustainability, he would focus his personal energy toward achieving that goal. He suggested the Board might recommend the City adopt policies and targets to reduce energy consumption by 20% by 2010; add “x” amount of wetlands; use “x” percent less water; and require all new public buildings to comply with standards set by the US Green Building Council. He said they could start by making a recommendation related to the SAFECO site. Mr. Hawley said he had a lot of experience addressing invasive species in Tryon Creek State Park. He advocated public/private (volunteer) projects to address the problem in other areas. Ms. Hamerlynck pointed out that was one of the NRAB goals for 2006. She also clarified for the members that a Sensitive Lands overlay zone protected natural areas, and no owner would be caught off-guard if the areas were mapped, and Planning Department staff would make them aware of that protection.

The Board examined Ms. Hamerlynck’s suggested action items to implement Goal 1, Develop a Natural Area Park Management Program. She suggested using the management plan Friends of Springbrook Park had created as a template for management plans in other areas that would be part of a citywide invasive plant species eradication plan. She also suggested the Board consider recommending budget line items for Goal 1 projects, for example, money to implement the Bryant Woods Natural Area Master Plan. She agreed to refine action items and suggest a time line for Goal 1, and develop some action items related to Goal 3 that the board could discuss at their next meeting. Co-chair Gaar offered to expand and refine action items related to Goal 2, Sustainability Program. Ms. Hamerlynck advised the City was already developing a Surface Water Management Master Plan that would address water quality.

IV. ADJOURNMENT

Because Council liaison, Frank Groznik, had other meetings scheduled on Wednesdays, the Board agreed to meet on a Thursday evening three times a year so he could attend. Ms. Hamerlynck agreed to email a proposed schedule to members. The next meeting was scheduled for Wednesday, February 15, 2006. There being no further business, Co-chair Diamond adjourned the meeting at approximately 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Hamerlynck
Natural Resources Coordinator