



CITY OF LAKE OSWEGO  
NATURAL RESOURCES ADVISORY BOARD MINUTES

February 15, 2006

**APPROVED**

I. CALL TO ORDER & ROLL CALL

Co-chair Craig Diamond called the February 15, 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, Nancy Gronowski, Morgan Holen, Sarah Asby, and Greg Wells (student representative). Ellen Adams and Russell Jones were absent. City Council liaison, Councilor Frank Groznik, was also present. Guests were Terri Preeg Riggsby, Chair of the Tryon Creek Watershed Council; and Laura Rybowiak. Staff present were Annie Bergelin, Natural Area Volunteer Project Coordinator; and Lisa Hamerlynck, Natural Resources Coordinator.

II. MINUTES

The *Minutes of December 15, 2005* were approved as drafted by unanimous consent.

III. ANNOUNCEMENTS

None.

IV. REGULAR BUSINESS

**Tryon Creek Watershed Council Letter**

**Terri Preeg Riggsby, Chair of the Tryon Creek Watershed Council (TCWC), and Laura Rybowiak** explained that the TCWC had observed that drainage changes and construction that was too close to wetlands and the creek in the Forest Hills area adversely impacted those resources. They explained the area was a patchwork of City and County land, and the County was less stringent about natural resource protection than the City. They said some developers removed resources under the County before they applied for annexation to the City. They pointed out that TCWC had asked the City Council in a December 9, 2005 letter to take steps to work with the County to evaluate and protect all resources within the Urban Services Boundary, and to work with TCWC, the City of Portland, and other partners to develop a strategic plan for the Tryon Creek Watershed. They clarified they had not yet talked with the County about the issue, but they had asked a law school professor to research what the existing regulations were. They said they wanted the City to work with the County to address violation of resources. They noted the City and the County might not agree on what were protected resources. For example, the City might choose to preserve a tree grove and the County might not. They wanted the City to complete its evaluation of all

resources within the USB and then negotiate a related memorandum of understanding with the County.

During the questioning period Ms. Riggsby confirmed this was a high priority issue for the TCWC. Ms. Hamerlynck advised the City was updating its maps of resources in the USB over the next few years in order to comply with the Metro Goal 5 program that would result in regional standards for resource protection. She advised that one challenge to accomplishing that was lack of access to private property. Ms. Rybowski reported that the Forest Hills Neighborhood Association members had indicated at their last meeting that they were interested in participating in developing a plan that would include their neighborhood and a small part of Mountain Park. Councilor Groznik reported the City had adopted an ordinance that did not allow annexation of property on which the natural resources had been removed in preparation for annexation. He also related the City wanted to comprehensively annex that portion of the County, but had been unsuccessful so far. He indicated that he appreciated TCWC's efforts. Ms. Riggsby said the TCWC was aware of the ordinance, but they questioned how the City would know if resources had been removed if they had never been identified. Councilor Groznik explained that neighbors would tell the City.

Mr. Riggsby suggested a scientific inventory was necessary to back up such a charge, and professionals should be enlisted to accomplish it. She suggested that the City and TCWC could partner to map the area. She did not believe that student volunteers would be sufficiently motivated for the work. Ms. Rybowski noted that part of the watershed was in the City of Portland, which could become another partner. Ms. Hamerlynck saw the possibility that the assessment could be done in conjunction with the City's work on other projects, such as updating the Surface Water Management Plan, addressing ESA obligations related to Tryon Creek, and qualifying for renewal of the Storm Water Permit. She said TCWC could help arouse public support for protection of resources. The TCWC representative pointed out the group recommended that the Development Review Commission (DRC) include an environmental advocate. She said they were waiting for the City Council to respond to their letter, which they saw as a "starting point" in addressing the issues. They felt it was the City's responsibility to ensure resources were protected on land that would ultimately be annexed to the City.

The Board then considered the requests in TCWC's letter to the Council. They considered what "environmental advocate" meant, and whether a landscape architect with certification in environmental issues would have the right kind of expertise and ability to persuade the other Commissioners. One member recalled that the Commissioners were supposed to be unbiased, and compare an application with applicable Code criteria. The Board recalled the Planning Commission also had a role in balancing resources and development, and that the Commission might need an environmental advocate member. The Board generally agreed to table the matter and discuss it further at their next meeting, after they had time to research the expertise of the individual members of the DRC.

## **Stewardship Report - AmeriCorps**

**Annie Bergelin, AmeriCorps, Natural Area Volunteer Project Coordinator,** reported that she was planning events for Arbor Week (April 2 – 8), and one of them would be a tree-planting project in Springbrook Park on April 8<sup>th</sup>. She said she was also planning an Earth Day event in Iron Mountain Park.

## **Update on the Environmental Planner Position**

Ms. Hamerlynck reported there were 18 applicants for the open position of Environmental Planner.

## **Approval of Final 2006 Meeting Schedule**

The Board examined the 2006 Meeting Schedule.

## **Scheduling Discussions with City Council Members**

The Board had previously agreed to arrange to meet with individual City Councilors to learn their views on environmental issues and sustainability, and to get feedback on what they wanted from the NRAB. Co-chairs Diamond and Gaar reported that they had held the first meeting with the Mayor that morning and had scheduled more meetings over the next three months, so by the end of April they would have talked to all of the Councilors. They invited the other Board members to join in the discussions.

## **Sustainability Recommendations for Safeco Property**

Co-chair Diamond saw the City's interest in the Safeco property as an opportunity for the NRAB to offer suggestions related to how to address the site's resources, and demolition and development there, in ways that would help accomplish the City's Sustainability Goal. He suggested the Board research "green" building methods and other sustainability concepts and then send their recommendations to the City Council. He related that the US Green Building Council had fashioned Leadership and Advocacy in Environmental Design (LEAD) standards for buildings of good environmental design and construction, and the highest level of certification was "Platinum." He suggested the NRAB recommend the City strive for Platinum certification on the Safeco site, and use sustainable property management practices there as well. He confirmed the Board could acknowledge that financial and economic considerations were also important. Board members noted that if the existing structure were torn down its components should be recycled.

**Co-chair Diamond proposed to draft a recommendation letter to the City Council and circulate it to the NRAB members for their input. An informal vote was held and they all agreed to that.**

## **Developing the 2006 Action Plan for Natural Resources**

Ms. Hamerlynck distributed the Natural Area Management Plan Work Plan. She pointed out it called for the Board to prioritize master plans and management plans for parks and natural areas. She advised there were some parks that were so big and had so many issues she could not address them by herself, but there were other parks where

she could make expedited decisions and start getting the work done. She indicated she would refine the work plan over the next few months. The Board asked her to let them know whenever she needed their help. Ms. Hamerlynk confirmed she was to be Managing Arborist. The group discussed the history of attempted revisions of the Tree Code. They noted that the latest proposed revision had been based on the City having a City Arborist, and now the City had one.

### **Developing the 2006 Action Plan for Sustainability**

Co-chair Diamond explained his approach to “sustainability” would be to first consider the earth as a whole. How natural resources were being degraded, and how that affected the oceans, fisheries, soils, climate change, etc. He said sustainability practices could ensure that even with a larger population in the future, people could have the same or better quality of life. He suggested the City could take a leadership role in the state and the region by focusing on sustainability in relation to things like trees, storm water, energy, water and materials use, air quality, urban growth patterns and driving habits. He suggested the NRAB advise the City Council how to make the projects they were already considering, such as the Surface Water Management Plan update, contribute to sustainability goals. He said they could turn specific issues into broader issues. They could build on citizen’s concerns about lake water quality by advising them how to address the quality of the watershed itself. He suggested the Board research sustainability methods and what other cities were doing in that regard and invite public input. He suggested they might recommend more specific goals, for example, to reduce energy consumption by 10%, or just what process to use to determine what that percentage should be. He recalled the work of the Quality of Life Indicators Task Force had not gone that far. He noted the City had already taken steps to increase sustainability practices of the local government. Ms. Hamerlynk related the Planning Department staff was already promoting the “Green Streets” concept.

The Board examined a January 17, 2006, Sustainability Report to the City Council from the Community Development Director, Stephan Lashbrook, and Sustainability Planner, Susan Millhauser. The staff recommendation had been presented to the Council before a recent goal setting retreat, but the Council had not yet responded to it. Co-chair Diamond noted it recommended getting advice from boards, such as the NRAB, regarding how to meet the sustainability goal. He agreed with the Board members that it made sense for him to work with Ms. Millhauser to fashion a NRAB proposal. He announced the Governor had re-authorized the 2001 Sustainability Act on January 19, 2006.

### **V. ADJOURNMENT**

The next meeting was scheduled for March 15, 2006. There being no further business Co-chair Diamond adjourned the meeting at 8:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Hamerlynck  
Natural Resources Coordinator