



City of Lake Oswego
Natural Resources Advisory Board Minutes

June 21, 2006

APPROVED

I. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Co-Chair Craig Diamond called the Natural Resources Advisory Board meeting of June 21, 2006 to order at approximately 6:00 p.m. in the City Council Work Room of City Hall, 380 "A" Avenue, Lake Oswego, Oregon.

Members present besides Co-Chair Diamond were Co-Chair William Gaar, Sarah Asby, Morgan Holen, and Nancy Gronowski. Russell Jones, Ellen Adams and Greg Wells (student representative) were not present.

Staff present were Jonna Papaefthimiou, Natural Resource Planner; and Rob Amsberry, Engineering Department.

II. MINUTES

The Minutes of February 15, 2006 and March 15, 2006 were corrected and then approved by unanimous vote.

III. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Staff distributed copies of the **Natural Areas Stewardship Report**. After Ms. Asby explained that some members of the Tryon Creek Watershed Council had asked her why the Natural Resources Advisory Board (NRAB) had not commented on the their December letter to the City Council, the Board agreed to send them a copy of the NRAB's original **written response to the Watershed Council**. Staff confirmed that the City had invited high school students to apply for the **student representative** position on the NRAB.

IV. REGULAR BUSINESS

Springbrook Stormwater Project

Rob Amsberry, Engineering Department, explained that staff was in the process of identifying outfalls into natural areas or open spaces that were in need of repair. He circulated a list of ten repair projects intended to address the worst situations they had found so far. He noted they were primarily located in the Tryon Creek and Springbrook Creek drainage basins, and he pointed out there were three projects (Projects 8, 9 and 10) that were more involved than simply repairing a pipe. He explained that the City had hired a consultant to develop designs for them and to prepare the application for federal and state permits. He highlighted Project 10, which he explained would involve a lot of

work in a stream corridor, removal of trees, and disruption of traffic near the Country Club Road /Boones Ferry Road intersection. He explained the stream was eroding the hillside and undercutting the roadway there. Mr. Amsberry described three options for repairing the area and making the infrastructure improvements and how they would impact the basin. He pointed out the option staff was recommending and what mitigation would be involved related to removed trees and wetland area. He explained the project was part of a larger roadway improvement project to be completed this fall. The Board members saw a need to be proactive and educate the public so they understood what the City was doing and why so many trees were being removed. They imagined that if a community forestry plan were in place, it would focus on how to maintain the “woody character” of the area, and not on specific individual trees to be removed. They suggested putting an article in *Hello LO!* and creating a website to inform the public about the project. Mr. Amsberry confirmed that staff planned to explain the plan on a website, and he related that the project’s environmental consultant had offered to talk about the project with any interested parties.

Community Forestry Plan

Ms. Holen related that David Odom, Assistant Planner, had agreed to document the recent history of the effort to change the Tree Code. Ms. Papaefthimiou announced that the City Council had received a grant to support an AmeriCorps volunteer coordinator who was to focus on community forestry. Mr. Odom was to supervise the new position. She anticipated the AmeriCorps person would be responsible for a public education program, work on a City tree inventory; and provide the NRAB with background on tree issues. The Board anticipated that the AmeriCorps person would work with Ms. Holen, Ms. Gronowski, and former NRAB member Chris Roth to provide information that would help the Board move toward a recommendation to the City Council regarding a community forestry plan.

Lake Grove Village Center Plan

Three board members had submitted individual comments regarding the draft Lake Grove Village Center Plan. Ms. Asby wanted to be assured that the proposed Plan would not change the adopted Trails and Pathways Master Plan for a pathway along part of the district boundary between residential and business uses. She noted it was not on the Plan map, even though the easement had been deeded to the public many years ago. She explained that even though existing residents did not want pathway traffic there, future new and re-development along the route should be required to implement that segment of the trails plan. She was not sure whether the trails plan had actually ever been incorporated into the Community Development Code. During the ensuing discussion it became clear to the group that they could not determine from the information they had been given whether a Code change was necessary to ensure a trail segment there, and exactly how the Village Center plan related to the trails plan. They asked staff to research the matter for them. They recalled hearing that the Village Center Plan Advisory Committee had chosen not to include the six-foot wide segment because they did not want to attract more traffic in that area. Ms. Asby pointed out there was already an alley and driveway connection through that area.

Ms. Asby also expressed her concern that not all of the tree groves were accurately mapped in the draft Plan. Ms. Papaefthimiou reported that the City anticipated the tree grove mapping would be updated in a citywide project some time in the future in order to allow the City to conform to Statewide Goal 5. Co-Chair Diamond then observed that the Board would not ask for a special inventory of trees along the Boones Ferry Road corridor. He observed a consensus to support the plan for a vegetated median because it fit a pedestrian environment and the sustainability effort. Members believed it would enhance safety, storm water management, beautification, noise absorption and air quality. They acknowledged there was a possibility that the City Council might eventually have to make some concessions to benefit parties who opposed the median, but they saw the median as a benefit to most stakeholders. They considered Co-Chair Diamond's suggestion to meter on-street parking in order to encourage drivers to park in parking complexes. Members commented that might discourage patrons from shopping in Lake Grove, or encourage more people to ride their bikes into the district. Co-chair Diamond observed the Board was not inclined to make that recommendation.

Co-chair Diamond asked members to consider environmental aspects of the draft Plan and whether they wanted to comment that it was not sufficiently "visionary" in that regard. One member said she felt the Plan went far enough as it was drafted. Ms. Papaefthimiou advised the group that the board had formulated the plan through an extensive stakeholder process. Co-Chair Gaar said such a recommendation would be consistent with the message the NRAB wanted to send. Co-Chair Diamond suggested the Board could simply recommend that the reviewing body review the material regarding green buildings and consider offering incentives for that kind of development. Ms. Papaefthimiou suggested the Board invite the City's Neighborhood Planner to a meeting to discuss how to incorporate that into neighborhood plans. The Co-Chairs agreed to incorporate the members' comments into a draft recommendation for the Board to consider at their next meeting.

Update on Electronic Meetings

Co-Chair Gaar advised that the NRAB had to comply with public meetings law and notice requirements and he reported the City Attorney's office had told him the City was not yet prepared to conduct electronic meetings. He clarified that meetings had to be scheduled so the public would have adequate notice, an opportunity to provide comments, and access. However, he advised that members could e-mail comments back and forth. He asked that members be flexible enough to be able to attend an emergency session if the Co-Chairs called for one in order to make a fast decision. He clarified that such a meeting required 48 hours notice and that some members could participate via teleferencing as long as the public was allowed to listen.

Sustainability Discussion

Co-Chair Diamond related that he had worked with the City's volunteer "sustainability coach," Dorothy Atwood to draft a recommendation for the Board to consider at their next meeting that would recommend how the City could structure its approach to sustainability. He reported the recommendation would be similar to the recommendation

staff was already proposing. Members agreed to consider the draft memorandum at their next meeting.

Dock Update

Ms. Asby reported that the City had received a grant to fund planning a dock on the Willamette River at Foothills Park. She reported that the Tryon Creek Watershed Council opposed the plan, which still had to be reviewed by the Army Corps of Engineers and the Division of State Lands. She said the City currently proposed a facility without a waste disposal facility that would allow boats up to 45 feet to dock for up to three days. She offered to monitor the proceedings and discuss the issues with the Watershed Council and with the biologist who had testified at the City Council meeting and then report back to the NRAB.

V. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the NRAB, Co-Chair Diamond adjourned the meeting at 8:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jonna Papaefthimiou
Natural Resources Planner