



APPROVED

**City of Lake Oswego
Natural Resources Advisory Board Minutes**

July 19, 2006

I. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Co-Chair Craig Diamond called the Natural Resources Advisory Board meeting of July 19, 2006 to order at 6:25 p.m. in the City Council Work Room of City Hall, 380 "A" Avenue, Lake Oswego, Oregon.

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

Guests present were Cliff Newell, Lake Oswego Review; Joni Taylor, Bryant Neighborhood Association; and Stephanie Wagner, Friends of Tryon Creek. Staff present were Jonna Papaefthimiou, Natural Resources Planner and David Odom, Associate Planner.

II. ANNOUNCEMENTS

It was announced that the City had scheduled a public meeting on July 27, 2006 to solicit comments on the Clean Stream Plan update; the City had invited the Natural Resources Advisory Board (NRAB) to appoint a representative to serve on the new Water Conservation Committee; and election of NRAB officers would be held at the next meeting. Ms. Asby was selected as the NRAB liaison to the Water Conservation Committee. Board members were also urged to contact a member of the US House of Representatives to urge Congress to provide funding for a state sustainable urban forestry program. Staff announced they had been interviewing applicants for the Community Forestry Coordinator position.

III. REGULAR BUSINESS

Community Forestry Discussion

David Odom, Associate Planner, announced that he had been directed to focus on urban forestry. He said the City had received a grant that would be used to fashion an urban forestry plan. He noted the City had been built within a forest, it still was about 1/3 tree covered, and it had been designated as a "Tree City" for many years. He and the Board discussed the benefits of an urban forest, which, besides offering aesthetic value, also helped to address air and water quality and manage storm water. He anticipated that an AmeriCorps staff person would start a tree inventory and act as liaison with groups and individuals to educate them about trees. The Board noted that a tree inventory would help the City know if the urban canopy was shrinking. Mr. Odom suggested a policy that

Engineering staff and Urban Forestry staff were to work together on projects that would meld traditional infrastructure with “green” infrastructure. The Board suggested an education program would show the community how to plant the “right tree in the right spot;” how to care for and prune trees; and inform them that trees were important to temperature regulation, a sense of privacy, healthy air and water and would help manage storm water. Mr. Odom advised that a shaded parking lot was three to five degrees cooler due to trees, and a mature tree saved \$10 per year in storm water management costs and increased property value.

Mr. Odom anticipated that the Tree Code, which addressed individual trees, could eventually be administered as part of an urban forestry program that addressed the sustainability of the forest. He stressed that some of the reasons urban forests needed to be managed was because they were damaged by cars, suffocated by ivy, and killed by over watering. He added that they could also die early if they were planted in the wrong place. The Board noted that trees helped take air particulates emitted by diesel-fueled vehicles out of the air. Mr. Odom suggested goals be a tree inventory, an education program, and allocation of resources and a good management plan to ensure a sustainable forest. Board members generally indicated they agreed. They observed, for example, that the vegetation in Cook’s Butte had to be managed because if it were not, invasive species would take over. They asked what the status of an urban forestry plan was. Mr. Odom recalled that staff had been talking about it for years, and the City Councilors seemed to be interested in the concept, but there was no plan yet. He said the grant money would be allocated to the AmeriCorps person’s ground work, and the Councilors might see the results of that work and decide to go forward with a plan.

Ms. Gronowski related how the City of Portland had fashioned their first plan in 1995 using stormwater management funding. Then they updated the plan in 2005. Mr. Odom observed the Lake Oswego Comprehensive Plan called for sustainability and preserving the treed character of neighborhoods. The Board agreed that a community forestry plan could also promote sustainability. They asked the staff to update them periodically on the progress of the groundwork. Co-Chair Diamond anticipated that the Board would play a role in advocating an urban forestry plan, and then helping to implement it. When they asked Mr. Odom, he advised it might be possible to have a draft plan to propose at the end of two years, if the AmeriCorps person finished the ground work in one year and if that was what all of the stakeholders (such as neighborhood associations, Chamber of Commerce, home builders, etc.) and decision makers wanted. The Co-Chairs suggested the Board recommend a two-year goal for the City to have a written plan ready. They suggested Ms. Gronowski and Ms. Holen could serve as the Board’s expert liaisons with staff and report back at NRAB meetings, and Board members could discuss it with the public in venues like the Farmers’ Market.

Lake Grove Plan Update

Co-Chair Gaar agreed to discuss this item in more depth at a future meeting. However, he suggested that the Board generally advocate that the District become a pedestrian and bicycle-friendly area, but not make a specific recommendation regarding a controversial pathway easement between Bryant and Reece Roads.

Sustainability Discussion

Co-Chair Diamond reported that he had discussed how the NRAB should approach the City Council. He indicated that after consulting with several City Councilors he believed that most Councilors considered “sustainability” to be a project or projects, and not a vision that the City would become a national leader in meeting sustainability goals. He said it might be better for the NRAB to wait to send a written recommendation until the new City Council was seated. He reported that he regularly discussed sustainability with staff members and Oregon Natural Step Network Sustainability Coach, Dorothy Atwood, and that he had conveyed to them that the Board wanted to assist them.

Co-Chair Diamond said staff was assembling a committee to guide the City’s own sustainability efforts. He suggested the Board continue to work with staff until the end of the year, and then fashion their recommended goals for 2007 to present to the new Council. He said the NRAB could recommend that the Council adopt a vision of sustainability that would make the City a nationally renowned leader in future years. He said that would attract business and residents to the City. He suggested the Board work with staff first, and then help them influence the City Council to consider adopting the long term vision, guiding principles, policies, goals and allocating resources. He suggested Board members consider how they could support staff. He related that he believed staff already knew the Board wanted to be of assistance. When he asked if the NRAB members were ready to tell the newspaper reporter present that they had agreed to begin preliminary steps leading to advocating a position, they indicated they felt it was too soon and it was better to wait to discuss that with the two new board members they would have soon. Co-Chair Diamond agreed it was better for the Board to wait so they would speak as a collective body and he observed they wanted to have more discussion.

Ms. Asby recalled that the Board had found during the previous budgeting process that it had to make budget recommendations in a timely manner for them to be considered. She suggested they could recommend a sustainability component to the budget for natural area maintenance.

Interview Process Update

Co-Chair Gaar reported there were five applicants for the open Board positions. He asked Board members to email him to tell him what expertise and skills the Board needed.

Springbrook Stormwater Update

Ms. Gronowski reported she had met with City staff to discuss the work to be done in Springbrook Park and she commented that the replanted area might be “rough-looking” for a while.

Co-Chair Diamond moved for the NRAB to indicate in writing that they supported the City’s Storm Drainage Outfall Repair and Stream Abatement Rehabilitation Project. Co-Chair Gaar seconded the motion and it passed by unanimous vote.

IV. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business Co-Chair Diamond adjourned the meeting at 8:05 p. m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jonna Papaefthimiou
Natural Resources Planner