



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

September 20, 2006

APPROVED

I. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Co-Chair Craig Diamond called the Natural Resources Advisory Board meeting of September 20, 2006 to order at approximately 6:30 p.m. in the City Council Work Room of City Hall, 380 "A" Avenue, Lake Oswego, Oregon.

Members present besides Co-Chair Craig Diamond were Morgan Holen, Douglas Rich, and Stephanie Wagner. Co-Chair William Gaar, Sarah Asby, and Nancy Gronowski were excused. Staff Liaison was Jonna Papaefthimiou, Associate Planner.

II. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ms. Holen announced that a Clean Streams community forum was scheduled for the following Saturday at the Adult Community Center. The Board welcomed new member, Doug Rich.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Votes on the Minutes of April 19 and May 17, 2006 were postponed for lack of a quorum.

IV. REGULAR BUSINESS

Springbrook Forestry Plan

The Board asked Ms. Papaefthimiou to convey their comments regarding the Springbrook Forestry Plan to Lisa Hamerlynck, Natural Resources Coordinator. Ms. Wagner saw the plan as unnecessarily aggressive, due to its use of herbicides, and because she did not agree with its assessment of the threat to the forest. She advocated a "trust nature's course" approach similar to the successful approach used in Tryon Creek Park. She said the plan ignored invasive plant control. She said it should include a plan for controlling blackberries and ivy and allow a more natural progression in introducing conifers. She said there was no reason not to have Western Red Cedar or Hemlock trees in a natural setting. She said the understory was in great shape and the City should arrange to have people pull ivy and blackberries. She said it was not necessary to kill hardwood trees and create snags and the City should let the park change more naturally. Ms. Holen did not necessarily agree that the plan was too aggressive, but she said she would have drafted a plan with issues and options that could be weighted and the best alternative selected. She also advocated a plan that would "set the stage" for natural conditions to take place. She suggested planting shade-tolerant species in the understory to provide diversity. She did agree it was a good idea to remove short-lived hardwoods near trails.

Highway 43 Culvert Rehabilitation

This discussion was postponed until the next meeting.

Lake Oswego Sustainability Strategy

Co-Chair Diamond related that he had asked City Councilor, Jack Hoffman, how the Natural Resources Advisory Board (NRAB) could influence the City Council to make sustainability a higher priority. He said Councilor Hoffman had suggested the Board present a fairly general memorandum that recommended a vision, general goals, and mentioned other cities that had been proactive. They should ask the Councilors to schedule thirty minutes each month for learning about and discussing sustainability, and schedule a Saturday morning training session. During the ensuing discussion, Co-Chair Diamond clarified that he had discussed the matter with Susan Millhauser, Sustainability Planner; and Stephen Lashbrook, Community Development Director, and he thought after the Council accepted the vision, staff could continue the process to implementation. Members suggested that he also talk with the City Manager. They indicated that they were not sure if the Board should lead the monthly discussion, or if staff and consultants would do that. They also wondered if the role of the Council liaison to the NRAB was to advocate on behalf of the Board. They agreed to ask Ms. Millhauser and consultant, Dorothy Atwood, to come to an NRAB meeting to update the members.

Members shared what they had each learned from researching how sustainability had been addressed in specific cities. Ms. Wagner reported that the City of Austin, Texas website showed that city had adopted the Austin Sustainability Community Initiative in 1995. She said it focused on community educational programs, and, currently, the most active component of the Initiative seemed to be the Sustainable Building Coalition, an organization of contractors who, with the City's assistance, promoted and celebrated sustainable building practices. She said she was waiting for responses to emailed inquiries she had sent them, but she did not see any discussion of City-government-specific sustainability practices on the web, and dated information and a lack of goals for the community on that site might indicate the Initiative had lost inertia.

Co-Chair Diamond reported that the City of Santa Monica, California had created its first sustainability program in 1994 and it had become a city priority. He said it contained a "laundry list" of six-year goals based on 1990 benchmarks, and it was subsequently updated in 2001. It called for all decisions of City government to be guided by sustainability considerations, and for promoting community awareness. Representatives of City departments served on a city advisory team to guide city operations. He circulated a copy of the 1999 report. He said the most recent plan had very specific community goals in eight categories, including "Human Dignity," that were measured by indicators, and progress was graded in a "report card" format. The members observed there was a difference between educating a community and increasing participation of the community; that such a program required a substantial financial commitment and buy-in by a broad stakeholder group; and that there should be economic benefits from such an initiative. The latter might be increased property values in a community that people wanted to live in.

Mr. Rich reported that the City of Portland had a clear mission statement and short- and long-term goals, and partnered with Metro and other groups to offer citizens comprehensive information and incentives they could use. He said they had formed a 30+ staff Bureau of Sustainable Development in 2000, and they awarded “Best” awards annually. He suggested that the City of Lake Oswego consider how Lake Oswego could also work closely with Metro and Tri-Met.

Lake Grove Village Center Plan

The Planning Commission had asked City boards and commissions to comment on the March 13, 2006 version of the draft Lake Grove Village Center Plan. HRAB members examined and edited draft comments fashioned for them by Co-Chair Gaar. They agreed to allow Co-Chair Diamond to make the changes and forward it to the Planning Commission. They agreed to add language saying it was a good plan that was the result of a lot of community effort, and that NRAB supported the plan and urged its adoption because they believed it was in the best interests of the City’s natural resources. They indicated they did not want to take a position on the controversial pedestrian easement segment between Reece and Bryant Roads at the last moment because they felt the Advisory Committee had devoted a lot of effort to reaching that compromise. However, they wanted to include stronger language supporting the medians and overall pedestrian/bicycling component of the plan, as follows: “In summary, NRAB believes that the green median and bike and pedestrian paths as presented are integral to a plan that enhances the natural resources of the Lake Grove neighborhood and the City of Lake Oswego.”

V. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business Co-Chair Diamond adjourned the meeting at 8:43 p. m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jonna Papaefthimiou
Associate Planner