



City of Lake Oswego Natural Resources Advisory Board Minutes

March 21, 2007

APPROVED

I. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Co-chair Craig Diamond called the Natural Resources Advisory Board meeting of March 21, 2007 to order at 6:37 p.m. in the Media Room of the West End Building, 4010 Kruse Way, Lake Oswego, Oregon. Members present besides Co-chair Craig Diamond were Co-chair William Gaar, Morgan Holen and Nancy Gronowski. Sarah Asby, Douglas Rich and Stephanie Wagner were excused. The student liaison position was vacant.

Staff Liaison was Jonna Papaefthimiou, Natural Resources Planner.

Guests were Brant Williams, Project Manager, Community Center Planning Steering Committee; and Carolyne Jones.

II. PUBLIC COMMENT

Carolyne Jones, a resident of the Glenmorrie Neighborhood, explained that she felt the Clean Streams Program was unfairly focused on residential properties along a stream corridor but not on several other generators of pollution, such as the sewer treatment plant. She said a case study showed that about two-dozen residents in her area would eventually have to move their houses back 30 to 40 feet. She held the Clean Streams Program should address the entire drainage system in order to be effective. Co-chair Diamond explained the Natural Resources Advisory Board (NRAB) had not originated the program.

III. REGULAR BUSINESS

West End Building – Next Steps

Brant Williams, Project Manager, Community Center Planning Steering Committee, reported that the Steering Committee planned to hold one more open house before they submitted their final recommendation to the City Council this summer. He said they encouraged the NRAB to present recommendations related to the project so they could consider how to factor them into the Committee's recommendation to the Council.

Mr. Williams confirmed that the City Council had asked the Committee to make "sustainability" an ongoing effort. He anticipated that if the project were funded, things like solar panels and methods to minimize water usage would be considered in the design phase. Co-chair Diamond recalled that after Mr. Williams and the architect had discussed the project with the Board at their last meeting, the NRAB had decided not to take any immediate action, but to continue to discuss the project at the current meeting. Mr. Williams asked the NRAB to support the Steering Committee by offering input to the

Committee. He asked them if they had a recommendation related to the wetlands. He explained the Committee had found they could not re-route the stream because that would further constrain the developable area of the site. However, they intended to maintain and enhance the wetland area and offer the public access to it. He asked if the NRAB would support allowing that kind of access. Co-chair Gaar and Ms. Holen reported they had attended the last open house. Mr. Williams confirmed the comments received at the open house were to be made available on the website. He explained the architects were trying to utilize the existing building as much as possible. For that reason they were using architectural features, such as columns, to enhance the existing walls and air vents. He noted that was a sustainability-related effort. He confirmed the storm water pond would address roof runoff.

Mr. Williams confirmed the project would expand the existing building footprint, so there would be more impermeable area over the site. He said the parking area had to be re-graded, and he anticipated the Committee would consider use of bioswales, and reuse asphalt and other materials. He encouraged the Board to recommend that. He confirmed the Committee had discussed putting a “green roof” and solar panels on the flat-roofed building. He reported that Susan Millhauser, Sustainability Planner, was discussing the project with experts who knew how to manage energy credits. Mr. Williams left the meeting.

Co-chair Gaar said he was most concerned about how the project would handle the increased stormwater runoff and keep it all on site. Ms. Gronowski suggested putting bioswales between some parking stalls to handle water runoff instead of repaving the entire parking lot. She noted that could be very attractive. She and Co-chair Gaar observed that a transit stop was close by, and that reducing the number of available parking spots and making the stalls smaller might encourage the public to not use cars, or to use smaller cars. The group agreed to prepare to discuss a recommendation at their next meeting. Meanwhile, Ms. Holen was to review the public comments submitted at the last open house and Ms. Gronowski and Co-chair Gaar were to draft a recommendation for the Board to consider. Co-chair Diamond suggested the NRAB attach their original memorandum to the City Council to the recommendations they submitted to the Steering Committee.

Sustainability - Next Steps

Co-chair Diamond had not been present at the last meeting. Co-chair Gaar updated him regarding the Board’s discussion of how to address their Sustainability goal. He recalled the members had different opinions on how much the NRAB should do to move toward that goal, and whether sustainability efforts would take the Board away from their focus on natural resource issues. He said they eventually decided their action toward the Sustainability goal would be ask Co-chair Diamond if he would agree to draft a mission statement and action items for a separate Sustainability Advisory Board that the NRAB could discuss and consider recommending to the City Council. Co-chair Diamond said he would be happy to do that. Co-chair Gaar indicated he was aware that other cities were fashioning sustainability goals and he advised that the City of Lake Oswego would have to be more proactive to be on the leading edge of the sustainability trend.

Review of 2007 Goals

Board members agreed to Co-chair Gaar's suggestion to address how to achieve each of the four 2007 Goals at each meeting. They began with the Community Forestry Program. Ms. Holen reported the AmeriCorps worker had received permission from the City Council to form a working group, which included Ms. Holen and Ms. Gronowski, to host three public open houses. She recalled Board members had previously indicated they were interested in helping facilitate the open houses and Ms. Wagner had suggested breaking up into smaller discussion groups for NRAB members to facilitate. So the working group had agreed to try that at the first open house. She said they planned to meet to plan the open house on April 11th and to hold the first open house on April 25th. She anticipated the Board could discuss how they could participate at their April 18th meeting.

Co-chair Gaar asked what needed to happen and what the NRAB could do to move the Community Forestry Program forward, and Ms. Gronowski said the Board could serve as a "sounding board" and listen to ideas and information gathered from the community regarding what the community wanted. Ms. Holen reported the AmeriCorps worker had begun to draft the related plan and the NRAB could help her outreach efforts, and help her "flesh out" the plan. Co-chair Gaar suggested discussing the program with the Lake Oswego Neighborhood Action Coalition (LONAC). Ms. Holen reported the AmeriCorps worker had begun presenting to neighborhoods and was finding volunteers willing to participate. She anticipated the initial draft plan might be ready for the Board to examine at their next meeting. Ms. Papaefthimiou reported that she and the AmeriCorps worker had exchanged ideas and talked about potential goals for a Community Forestry Program. Jonna suggested the NRAB could help prioritize the goals that the draft plan listed, and help determine whether the focus of the program should be education, maintenance, or enhancement. She added that the Board could help assess the community's knowledge about the relationship between trees and other environmental issues, such as global warming and stormwater pollution.

Ms. Holen observed that Arbor Week was the first week of April. She reported the AmeriCorps worker had scheduled and organized several events, including the April 1st dedication of the Heritage Tree Grove at the Lake Grove Fire Station; an environment-themed art exhibit and choral presentation at the Adult Community Center; and a Sunday ivy-pull at Cooks Butte Park.

Community Forestry Action Items

The board agreed to wait to fashion Community Forestry Program-related Action Items until they heard the next report from the working group about how the NRAB could help with the outreach process. They recalled that City Arborist, David Odom, had anticipated the program could be in place by 2008. The Co-chairs asked if this goal was close enough to being achieved to remove it from the Board's listed goals, or if the NRAB should send another formal recommendation to the City Council to ensure it was adopted or implemented by 2008. Ms. Gronowski saw no reason to do that because she observed that it was a current Council goal to have an urban forestry plan and the City was making good progress toward achieving it. There was general agreement to wait until Ms. Holen

and Ms. Gronowski advised it was timely for the NRAB to forward such a recommendation to adopt or implement a program by 2008.

Ms. Holen reported the City of Vancouver, Washington had drafted an urban forest management plan that was to be presented to the public on April 3, 2007. She also noted they had recently revised their tree ordinance.

Clean Streams Technical Sounding Board Update

Co-chair Gaar, who was the NRAB representative on the Clean Streams Technical Sounding Board, reported the new board had met twice so far. He announced that their meeting schedule was posted on the City website and the meetings were open to the public. He reported the makeup of the board included experts in water law, surface water runoff, and representatives from the City and the Lake Oswego Corporation. He said they were using a map of watersheds in and around the City where City services were to be extended, and examining the direction of runoff and how it eventually ended up in the creeks and rivers.

Co-chair Gaar said they were examining survey results to determine how the public felt about the issue of runoff and comparing that to Code provisions. He said they were considering what changes might be necessary to the Code. He related that the Plumbing Code did not allow the use of “graywater” due to cross-over potential, so the board was considering how the Code might be rewritten. He said stormwater policies were sometimes administrative regulations or practices that were not necessarily incorporated into the Code. He said they found the permitting process involved dealing with more than one entity. He said he planned to advise the technical board regarding water law, but he asked NRAB members to read and comment on information he planned to forward to them, including sustainability-related information, so he could discuss their comments with the technical board. He said it was important and timely that the City started to address the issues because of the trend toward infill development and the resulting increased surface water runoff. He said the technical board wanted to know how a property could contain runoff, the affect of runoff on the City’s waterways; the effect of runoff on erosion; and how improvements to the City’s system of handling runoff might be paid for. He reported that former NRAB chair, Jonathan Snell, had attended the last meeting and described the impact of increasing runoff on natural waterways.

NRAB members noted that Ms. Wagner had emailed them a memorandum that contained her suggestions regarding what the NRAB could recommend. They anticipated that they would each read it and discuss it at the next meeting. Co-chair Gaar observed that the City had more stringent requirements for a development of four or more dwellings than for one with three or fewer dwellings. He encouraged the NRAB to stay involved in the Clean Streams process.

Student Interview Update

Ms. Holen reported that only three students had applied for three open student positions on City boards. She said she had asked, but had not been afforded an opportunity to talk directly to high school students about serving on the NRAB. The Board members asked

Ms. Papaefthimiou to find out if one of the applicants had been assigned to the NRAB. Co-chair Gaar suggested the interview process should be changed, at least in a manner that would make it easier for students to participate on boards and commissions.

New Business/Next Meeting/Announcements

Ms. Papaefthimiou reported that she did not know if the City had decided on which projects to spend the Metro Bond Measure 26-80 funds it had received. She reported that staff member, Lisa Hamerlynck, intended to come to the next meeting to discuss natural area projects. She said the NRAB would have a revised Springbrook Forest Management Plan to examine at the next meeting. Board members asked to have meeting minutes from each preceding meeting available to vote on at the following meeting. They asked that Ms. Hamerlynck also discuss the natural areas budget at the next meeting. Co-chair Gaar anticipated he would bring and distribute copies of an emailed memorandum from Ms. Asby to the next meeting. The Co-chairs encouraged Board members to suggest agenda items for NRAB meetings. Co-chair Diamond said he planned to present a draft recommendation for a Sustainability Board at the next meeting. He also announced that the two open board positions had been filled, and the new appointees' names would be announced on April 3, 2007. He announced that he was now working for Climate Trust, in Portland.

IV. ADJOURNMENT

The next regular meeting was scheduled for April 18, 2007. There being no further business Co-chair Diamond adjourned the meeting at 8:03 p. m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jonna Papaefthimiou
Natural Resources Planner