



City of Lake Oswego Natural Resources Advisory Board Minutes

May 16, 2007

APPROVED

I. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Co-chair Craig Diamond called the Natural Resources Advisory Board meeting of May 16, 2007 to order at 6:40 p.m. in the West End Building, 4010 Kruse Way, Lake Oswego, Oregon.

Members present besides Co-chair Diamond were Co-chair William Gaar, Sarah Asby, Morgan Holen, Nancy Gronowski, Douglas Rich and Stephanie Wagner. Kate Mogentale, Youth Member, was excused.

Guests were Jack Carter and Carolyne Jones. Staff Liaison was Jonna Papaefthimiou, Natural Resources Planner; and Deb Wechselblatt, AmeriCorps Volunteer, were also present.

II. PUBLIC COMMENT

Carolyne Jones suggested that the tree canopy might have exacerbated a mildew problem at City Hall. Jack Carter observed the City was rapidly losing large mature Douglas fir trees and he commended the Natural Resources Advisory Board (NRAB) for taking the initiative to encourage the community to do something before the problem got worse. He also suggested that *Hello LO!* should feature more educational articles related to natural resources.

III. ANNOUNCEMENTS

None.

IV. REGULAR BUSINESS

Water Conservation Planning

Ms. Asby reported that the Water Conservation Committee had worked with the consultants last fall, and the consultants were preparing a final draft of the plan, but Committee members had not yet received a copy. She said she planned to contact the City Engineer to find out the status of the plan that would be submitted to the City Council. She indicated the draft plan did not focus as much on sustainability as she would have liked it to. She noted the City did not currently use a water rate structure that encouraged water conservation by accelerating rates with higher use. She reported that the 2009/2011 City budget would include funding to pay for an analysis of water rates that could lead to a graduated rate structure. She reported there was nothing in the plan regarding reusing gray water. She suggested the NRAB might consider making such a recommendation to the City Council. Co-chair Gaar observed that would also fit the Clean Streams program goal of addressing water runoff by retaining it on each site. Ms. Wagner suggested recommending the code be changed to allow rainwater and non-

potable water to be reused, particularly for flushing toilets. She recalled that toilet-flushing use was about 20% of total water use. Ms. Wagner and Ms. Asby offered to draft a letter to the City Council with the NRAB recommendations. Members suggested the new Plumbing Code should apply to both commercial and residential use, and remodeling, as well as new construction. It was to allow use of non-potable water, including rainwater and gray water inside a home. They anticipated that graywater should not be used for irrigation because it could be contaminated, but it could be used to flush toilets because that water was directed into the sewer system to be treated.

Co-chair Gaar reported the Clean Streams Committee saw a need for better Code enforcement when surface water runoff was allowed to run offsite. He said they had also suggested giving a developer a break in fees if they kept runoff from going offsite. He advised that the revised Code should distinguish between sewer, surface and gray water. Ms. Asby reported the Water Conservation Committee also supported using currently budgeted funds (\$25,000) for water conservation education more effectively by presenting it in schools. She said they had also discussed outdoor water use conservation educational projects. Co-chair Gaar stressed that people should learn how easy it was to conserve water. Doug Rich suggested letting people know they could disconnect their gutters from the larger system.

*Ms. Asby left the meeting.

Proposal for Sustainability Board

The Board examined the recommendation Co-chair Diamond had drafted. He reported he had incorporated input from staff and the City sustainability consultants. He related he planned to attend a business-oriented sustainability group's breakfast meeting on June 7, 2007 when he could discuss the NRAB recommendation with them. When the members questioned whether the draft should emphasize growth by saying that sustainability had economic benefits for the City because it would attract businesses, he explained that since growth was inevitable, the City should address it by operating in a sustainable fashion and promoting cleaner growth and good balance between natural resources and growth. He saw that part of the recommendation as a "selling point" for sustainable practices. Ms. Gronowski advised that the City could accommodate a lot of growth without a proliferation of large houses on small lots and it should strive to keep a certain level of "greenness." Board members eventually agreed to say that sustainable practices would offer significant environmental and economic benefits to both City businesses and residents. They also suggested the draft stress the Sustainability Advisory Board was to take a holistic approach in its work and endeavor to recommend a framework of integrated solutions. They agreed the City should promote innovative forms of transportation, but they removed a reference to streetcar transportation as a Highway 43 corridor transportation alternative because it might never be built. They suggested a smaller board of seven voting members (and two youth members) would be closer to the size of the City's existing boards and they noted that an odd number of members would ensure there would never be a tie vote. They changed the recommendation to comply with the City policy of term limits and they suggested terms of members should be staggered so the entire board was not replaced in any one year.

They suggested the Board should have a landscape architect member. They decided not to recommend that the Sustainability Advisory Board be a permanent board, and not just a temporary task force, but to let the City Council determine that. They suggested Co-chair Diamond talk about their recommendation at the upcoming breakfast meeting. They anticipated they would recruit the support of developers, local homebuilders, and large landowners, such as Marylhurst. They commended Co-chair Diamond for his work on the draft.

Community Forestry Open House Update

Ms. Holen reported almost 30 persons had attended the first Community Forestry Open House. Ms. Wechselblatt reported that the Community Forestry Committee had discussed the public comments that had been collected at the open house and then prioritized goals and related action items. She said she would email the document to NRAB members. She announced the next open house was to be held on June 13, 2007. She reported she had presented a summary of comments collected at the first open house to the Lake Oswego Neighborhood Action Coalition (LONAC) recently and they seemed to be in support a community forestry plan, but she had not yet received any written comments back from a mailing to those members.

Ms. Wechselblatt anticipated an *Oregonian* article to be published the next day would draw more people to the next open house. NRAB members volunteered to man the conversation stations at the next open house. Board members observed a need to let community residents know the community forestry program they anticipated would not impose more regulations, but would serve as a voluntary program to promote good stewardship and educate the public. They suggested there should be more articles in the local paper to let people know the City would not trespass on private property to conduct the tree inventory. They suggested asking property owner to volunteer data about trees on their property. Ms. Holen said she was working on draft revisions to the Code that related to the Board's authority to designate Heritage Trees.

NRAB Joint Meetings with Parks

Ms. Papaefthimiou reported that she had assured Kim Gilmer, Director of the Parks and Recreation Department, that the NRAB was interested in discussing park management issues in natural area parks. Ms. Gilmer, had suggested that the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board (PRAB) and the NRAB schedule a joint meeting in August or September and again in the spring. The Board indicated the joint meeting agenda items should include maintenance issues related to natural areas and sustainable practices in parks. They also suggested inviting the natural areas maintenance staff person to attend a NRAB meeting to describe her goals and work plan and accomplishments. Co-chair Diamond anticipated he would meet with the PRAB chair before the joint meeting.

Update on Budget Discussion

Ms. Wagner and Ms. Holen volunteered to assist Co-chair Gaar to organize the Board's budget presentation and lobby individual City Councilors.

V. ADJOURNMENT

The next meeting was scheduled for Wednesday, June 20, 2007. There being no further business Co-chair Diamond adjourned the meeting at 8:20 p. m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jonna Papaefthimiou /s/
Jonna Papaefthimiou
Natural Resources Planner