



# City of Lake Oswego Natural Resources Advisory Board Minutes

July 18, 2007

**APPROVED**

## I. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Sarah Asby called the Natural Resources Advisory Board meeting of July 18, 2007 to order at 6:42 p.m. in the West End Building (SAFECO), 4010 Kruse Way, Lake Oswego, Oregon.

Members present besides Ms. Asby were Co-Chairs Craig Diamond and William Gaar (who joined the meeting at 6:48 and 6:49 p.m.), Morgan Holen, Nancy Gronowski, Douglas Rich, Stephanie Wagner and Kate Mogentale (student member).

Staff present were Jonna Papaefthimiou, Natural Resources Planner; and Deb Wechselblatt, City AmeriCorps Volunteer.

## II. MINUTES

The Minutes of April 18, 2007 and May 16, 2007 were approved by unanimous vote of members present after the name of a speaker on the May 16 draft was corrected and a reference to a percentage of irrigation use was removed.

## III. PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

## IV. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ms. Wechselblatt's service to the City through AmeriCorps was scheduled to end in August. One of the Board members offered to write a letter of recommendation.

The Board observed that Natural Resources Coordinator, Lisa Hamerlynck, was no longer working for the City, and they anticipated that they would discuss the Natural Area maintenance program at their next meeting. They decided to learn more about a surcharge the City of West Linn levied on each household to pay for parks and recreation areas.

## V. REGULAR BUSINESS

### Board Elections

Mr. Gaar nominated Sarah Asby to serve as Chair and Morgan Holen to serve as Vice Chair of the Natural Resources Advisory Board (NRAB) and they were elected by unanimous vote.

## **Revision of NRAB Mission to Include Heritage Trees**

The group examined a memorandum from Ms. Holen and then **voted unanimously to recommend Code revisions** she proposed in the document to the City Council. The revisions would be inserted in LOC 12.51.045 and they specified that the NRAB was responsible for nominating, reviewing and approving Heritage Trees. The Board heard a suggestion to create and sell a Heritage Tree poster and use the funds to maintain and protect those trees. They also heard a suggestion to tell elementary school children about the City's Heritage Trees.

## **Community Forestry Open House Update**

Ms. Holen and Ms. Wechselblatt reported the working group had met that morning to prepare for the next Community Forestry Open House, which was scheduled for the following Wednesday. Ms. Wechselblatt reported she had placed an announcement on the City website, in the newspaper, mailed announcements to everyone who had attended the previous open houses. She said she would distribute her final draft of the Community Forestry Plan in time for the NRAB to read and comment on it at their August board meeting. She related the working group had discussed how a community forestry program fit the City's sustainability goal. She also described the tree-mapping project that she and another AmeriCorps volunteer were accomplishing. The Board observed the map would create a "baseline" that would help the City identify future significant changes in the tree canopy and carbon footprint. Ms. Wechselblatt announced that she, Ms. Holen and Ms. Papaefthimiou would be at the August 11, 2007 Farmers Market and they would conduct an "Ask an Arborist" session.

## **Update on Water Conservation Plan**

The Board refined the draft letter to the City Council with their recommendations. They planned to forward it to the Council in time for the Councilors to consider it at their August 6<sup>th</sup> study session. They agreed that Mr. Gaar was to finish the final draft, forward it to the Council, and email copies to staff and board members. They agreed the letter should emphasize that their recommendation to change City policy and allow reuse of graywater and rainwater fit both the Water Conservation Plan and the Clean Streams Program. They noted that would also reduce the amount of wastewater the City had to deal with. They stressed it would help the City meet sustainability goals. They planned to encourage the City Council to actively investigate how other jurisdictions had changed their Codes to allow it. They agreed the least the City could do would be to look into it, and they believed the long-term benefits would be worth it. They suggested the Councilors learn about rainwater reuse sites in Portland and learn about new construction at Portland State University that featured toilets that were flushed with rainwater. They agreed to emphasize the importance of public education about water conservation and water quality. They worried that many people might not be informed about and understand the connection between water conservation, water quality and wastewater. Someone suggested the City Council should create a water board to advise them. Mr. Gaar was the NRAB representative to a clean water technical advisory board and he offered to relate the NRAB suggestions to the members of that board. The members agreed to ask the City Engineer to come to an NRAB meeting to talk about the relationship between conservation, water quality and wastewater. Ms.

Asby, who served on the Water Conservation Committee, recalled the Water Conservation Plan was mostly a product of the City's consultants and that plan did not talk about reusing graywater and how that could also reduce the load on the sewer system and the lake interceptor. Ms. Papaefthimiou agreed to let the members know the exact date and time of the Council work session and to invite the City Engineer to a future NRAB meeting.

### **Update on Sustainability Board**

Several Board members reported they had attended and enjoyed a June 7, 2007 Sustainability Breakfast sponsored by the business community. The two former Co-chairs reported that they had to reschedule a meeting with the City Manager to talk about creating a Sustainability Board. They reported they had met with Jane Heisler, Public Affairs Director, instead, and she observed the City already had many advisory boards, some board positions were vacant for lack of applicants; and a new board would require additional staffing resources. They said they planned to prepare for a September 4<sup>th</sup> City Council study session by compiling a list of citizens, including some from the business community, who supported creating a Sustainability Board and who would serve on it. Several NRAB members indicated they would be willing to serve on the new board when their terms on the NRAB were over. A board member suggested applying for a state grant to fund creation of the new board.

## **VI. NEW BUSINESS**

Members observed they had not been consulted before the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board (PRAB) agreed to move the temporary dog park to another property in the Stafford area that also featured natural resources. Staff announced the joint NRAB/PRAB meeting was scheduled for September. The members decided to ask PRAB to update them about how close the dog park was to be to the wetland at that meeting. They planned to discuss what should be on the joint meeting agenda at the NRAB August meeting. Mr. Diamond and PRAB officers planned to meet before the meeting to discuss the agenda.

New student NRAB member, Kate Morgenthal, explained she wanted to serve on the NRAB because she was interested in government and politics and she had become interested in the environment after she took an ecology class. Other Board members welcomed her and suggested she could help make her fellow students more aware of issues such as climate change.

## **VIII. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business Chair Asby adjourned the meeting at 8:28 p.m.

Jonna Papaefthimiou /s/  
Jonna Papaefthimiou  
Natural Resources Planner