



City of Lake Oswego Natural Resources Advisory Board Minutes

October 17, 2007

APPROVED

I. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Chair Sarah Asby called the Natural Resources Advisory Board meeting of October 17, 2007 to order at 6:35 p.m. in the West End Building (SAFECO), 4010 Kruse Way, Lake Oswego, Oregon.

Members present besides Chair Asby were Vice Chair Morgan Holen, Craig Diamond, William Gaar, and Rishi Rajani (student member). Nancy Gronowski, Douglas Rich and Stephanie Wagner were excused.

Staff present was Jonna Papaefthimiou, Natural Resources Planner.

II. PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

III. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Board members heard that Kate Mogentale had not expected to be replaced as the Natural Resources Advisory Board (NRAB) student member and they asked staff to find out if the board could have two student members. Ms. Papaefthimiou asked each member to let her know if they planned to attend the Boards and Commissions Dinner on October 24, 2007.

IV. REGULAR BUSINESS

Update on Sustainability Board/Community Meeting

The NRAB had asked the City Council to create a Sustainability Advisory Board, and the Councilors had asked NRAB members to discuss the idea with members of other boards. The idea of a sustainability board composed of members of other boards had been suggested by City Councilors. Mr. Gaar and Mr. Diamond reported they had met with the chairs of the Transportation Advisory Board and the Development Review Commission and the Vice Chair of the Planning Commission. They recalled the participants were not all certain that the new board should be composed of members of other City boards because those individuals might not have enough time for the added responsibility of serving on an additional board.

Mr. Gaar suggested the Council might be more receptive to a recommendation to create an ad hoc committee to accomplish a specific goal, such as to create a community sustainability plan. He hoped after that the City Council would decide to make it a

permanent advisory board. Board members acknowledged the risk they would be taking included that a temporary committee would only have short-term vision and the City Council would decide to allow it to “sunset.” They discussed only suggesting a temporary committee if the concept of a permanent board were rejected.

The NRAB considered whether sustainability advisory board members would be the best-motivated board members and want to do “double duty,” sitting on other boards. Vice-Chair Holen worried dual board membership would reduce a member’s commitment to the NRAB and that to add sustainability discussion items to other board meeting agendas would result in longer and less focused meetings. She did favor making it an NRAB goal to become more aware of what other boards were doing and foster closer relationships with PRAB. Mr. Gaar and Mr. Diamond suggested a more informal means of inter-board collaboration and spreading sustainability ideas could be for the chairs to get together once in a while for breakfast or coffee. They also suggested scheduling a semi-annual meeting of board chairs. Rishi Rajani joined the meeting.

Vice Chair Holen suggested the NRAB continue to lobby for a permanent sustainability advisory board and work closely with the sustainability planner. Mr. Diamond agreed and suggested that the NRAB could propose forming a temporary committee if they found the City Council was not inclined to form a permanent board. Ms. Papaefthimiou advised the NRAB could hold a public open house on November 15 (after their next regular meeting on November 14) and present their recommendation to the City Council on November 20th, when the City Council would likely adopt the sustainability plan for City operations. The Board encouraged Mr. Rajani to alert the Lakeridge High School Environmental Club members about the open house and City Council meeting.

Members agreed to make revisions to the recommendation to create a sustainability advisory board that they had sent to the City Council earlier this year. Mr. Diamond volunteered to work on it and present it to the members at their November 14th meeting; however, members were concerned there was not enough time for that and they preferred that he draft the documents based on their discussion and forward them to the City Council. The document was to report how the three other advisory board officers he had met with felt about dual board membership and suggest the composition of the new board. Members saw a need to be more flexible and allow appointment of interested citizens rather than continue to say the new board was to be composed of a specific number of representatives from specific categories of professions or groups. They agreed to attach a report regarding the feedback they anticipated they would get at the public open house.

Mr. Gaar moved to authorize Mr. Diamond to create a revised memorandum based on the board’s discussion and email it to the members and then submit it to the City Council for consideration at the next Council meeting. The motion passed by unanimous consent.

The Board then discussed how to organize and publicize the public open house. They agreed to invite questions and allow general discussion. Among the questions they planned to ask was whether a sustainability advisory board was important in Lake

Oswego, and why, and if they were interested in serving on it. They suggested publicizing the open house in *Hello LO!* and local newspapers; inviting members of all City boards and neighborhood associations; and notifying, the Chamber of Commerce, Marylhurst University and the school district.

Stewardship Project

The Board had previously decided to find an appropriate spot for a demonstration project to serve as an example of how the City should maintain its open space. They asked that the City Arborist recommend some locations so they could select one at the next meeting. They specified they wanted the project to be in City-owned open space near a busy roadway so people could see it from passing cars. Ms. Papaefthimiou related that some staff had also decided to designate November 3rd as, “Day of the Dead Ivy,” and work on a model project in George Rogers Park. She said that project was intended to demonstrate best practices for invasive plant removal.

Update 2007 Annual Goals

Board members agreed to think about how to present their accomplishments and to suggest new goals for 2008 and discuss them at their next meeting. The members generally favored Vice Chair Holen’s suggestion to ask individual board members to serve as the “go-to” experts for their own areas of expertise, and to update the other members on a regular basis.

The group anticipated that would be an effective and efficient way to keep abreast of issues and changes related to goals such as community forestry, natural areas maintenance, and sustainability. They all indicated they felt the NRAB had made significant progress toward its 2007 goals and they thanked staff for helping them be more effective. However, they agreed they still had more work to do to advance natural areas maintenance.

Mr. Gaar reported the Clean Streams Program advisory group he served on was not meeting as often as planned. Members decided to invite engineering and natural resources staff to participate in the discussion at the next meeting, contribute their ideas and identify the key items on their agendas. They agreed to invite the City’s AmeriCorps worker to an NRAB meeting to present the final draft of the community forestry plan she was to present to the City Council. They agreed to encourage more students to come to the meetings. Vice Chair Holen suggested a new goal to foster relationships with other advisory boards. The Board asked staff to bring a poster showing their Mission Statement to each meeting. Two members stressed the new and revised goals should be achievable and if funding was necessary there should be a financing plan.

Update NRAB Contact Info

The members each updated their contact information.

V. OTHER BUSINESS

Chair Asby related that Doug Rich had discussed the concept of common goals with the Transportation Advisory Board. The members looked forward to hearing him report on the meeting.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

The next meeting was scheduled for November 14, 2007. There being no further business Chair Asby adjourned the meeting at 7:56 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jonna Papaefthimiou /s/
Jonna Papaefthimiou
Natural Resources Planner