



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

November 14, 2007

APPROVED

I. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Vice Chair Morgan Holen called the Natural Resources Advisory Board meeting of November 14, 2007 to order at 6:40 p.m. in the West End Building, 4010 Kruse Way, Lake Oswego, Oregon.

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

Staff present included Jonna Papaefthimiou, Associate Planner and Natalie Strom, Parks Natural Resources Coordinator.

Emily Eddie and Carson Wyson were guests.

II. PUBLIC COMMENT

Lake Oswego High School students Emily Eddie and Carson Wyson related they had decided to make setting up a water conservation action group their political action class project. Natural Resources Advisory Board (NRAB) members suggested they follow the City's water conservation and Clean Streams planning processes.

III. REGULAR BUSINESS

Review 2007 NRAB Accomplishments

NRAB members examined the draft NRAB 2007 Accomplishments. Vice Chair Holen commented that they should be proud they made such good progress toward achieving their goals, especially development of an Urban and Community Forestry Program. She read aloud each 2007 goal and the accomplishments listed under it. Members noted the City Council was still considering NRAB's suggestion to create a Sustainability Advisory Board. They were disappointed that they had not yet convinced the City to budget \$150,000 for natural area maintenance, and they discussed joining forces with the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board for that purpose during 2008. They observed that the City's work on a Clean Streams program seemed to have slowed down and Ms. Papaefthimiou agreed to research and update them on its status.

Discuss 2008 Goals

Board members discussed potential 2008 NRAB Goals. They suggested one might be to continue to support the Natural Area Parks Management Program. Ms. Strom reported that she was looking for the best location for a project that would show achievable, tangible, short term results of good natural area management, and she anticipated the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board (PRAB) would likely choose either Iron Mountain Natural Area Park or Cooks Butte Park. Thereafter, she planned to list goals and objectives for the chosen park and create a related plan and budget.

NRAB members saw a need to also fashion citywide natural area management policies that would address issues such as use of herbicides, invasive plant removal techniques, fire suppression, beaver control, prohibited uses (such as no dogs or horses), how “aggressive” plant management should be handled, and placement of structures in natural areas. They suggested asking Portland State University students to set up test plots to demonstrate different management techniques. They also saw a need for broad priority-setting guidelines, such as to assess all parks and stabilize parks in good condition so they did not deteriorate (a City of Portland priority); or, to first address parks in the worst condition. They noted a project at Cooks Butte Park would not be as “visible” to the public because it did not experience high pedestrian traffic due to limited access and parking. Ms. Strom related that PRAB planned to consider setting a design theme for benches and kiosks.

NRAB members wanted to know how they might coordinate their goals with PRAB’s goals. They recalled the Parks Director had commented that invasive ivy in the Iron Mountain Natural Area needed attention. They suggested the members or staff liaisons of NRAB, PRAB and the Transportation advisory Board (TAB), which recommended trails, might get together to discuss common goals. Ms. Strom agreed to consider also recommending broader policies and “park rules” as part of the management planning strategy. The members invited her to attend their December 19, 2007 meeting.

The group suggested keeping the goal to have an Urban and Community Forestry Program in order to ensure continued progress of that program. They also suggested setting a “water-related” goal. They wondered if water-related projects, including the sewer interceptor project, were being coordinated as part of a larger City strategy. They asked Ms. Papaefthimiou to talk with the City Engineer, and the City’s water conservation, water quality, and Clean Stream coordinators about that and to invite the Water Quality Coordinator to speak at their next meeting. They hoped he could advise them how the NRAB could help support his work and integration of projects. They expressed disappointment that the City’s water conservation plan was so limited. They suggested the NRAB might find out from Lake Oswego Corporation how they could work together on water quality issues.

Ms. Papaefthimiou asked the Board to think about what they would prefer to do if the City Council decided not to create a sustainability advisory board. She also invited members to attend the City Council meeting the following Tuesday when the City Council planned to discuss that. Some members stressed the NRAB already had a well-defined mission focused on natural resources and they advised that a sustainability

board would have to address broader issues. They suggested in that case the NRAB might ask the City Council to expand the NRAB so there would be enough members to form a subcommittee that met separately for that purpose. Some observed that the time and effort the Board had spent discussing their recommendation for a new board already represented a major time expenditure, and that time might have been used to focus on other issues, such as a better water conservation plan.

Board members suggested a goal to formally incorporate their Code charge to oversee and encourage designation of Heritage Trees. They suggested partnering with the Historic Review Advisory Board in that effort. They suggested working with the City, the Lake Oswego Corporation and PRAB to improve public access to the lake. Mr. Rich reported the Palisades Neighborhood's lake access easement was overgrown and dangerous. Ms. Papaefthimiou reported the City had recently hosted a staff boat tour of the lake and she had been surprised to discover how large it was. The Board members liked the idea of a canoe tour and thought they might discuss co-sponsoring one with PRAB for recreational and educational purposes.

Vice Chair Holen offered to begin drafting 2008 Goals for discussion at the next meeting. She invited the other members to email her their ideas for new goals to be incorporated into the draft.

Review Forestry Plan/Recommendation Adoption

Ms. Papaefthimiou distributed the draft Urban and Community Forestry Plan. She said she planned to add language related to street tree maintenance after she consulted with maintenance staff. She invited members to offer their comments. Ms. Wagner suggested expanding references to ivy to "nonnative invasive species that limit diversity." Board members advised that could include nonnative invasive trees. They suggested the plan should call for integrating removal and control in City work plans. They anticipated that the City could demonstrate how private landowners could accomplish that work on their properties. However, they noted there were public areas where ivy was deliberately used as ground cover, such as in front of City Hall, and that was not a good example of invasives control. Ms. Gronowski suggested explaining in more detail what the full time staff person was to accomplish for the City.

Ms. Gronowski **moved** to approve the Urban and Community Forestry Plan as drafted, but allow minor edits to be done by staff. Vice Chair Holen **seconded** the motion and it **passed** by unanimous agreement.

Update on Sustainability Board/Community Meeting

Ms. Papaefthimiou announced a community open house to present the NRAB proposal to create a Sustainability Advisory Board was to be held the next day. She said Dorothy Atwood would offer an "overview" of sustainability; and Susan Millhauser, Sustainability Planner would describe how the City addressed sustainability concerns in its operations. She said the staff was scheduled to report back to the City Council the following Tuesday.

Stewardship Project

Ms. Papaefthimiou reported that ten City staff members - including the City Manager and the Community Development Director – and some of their friends and family members, had participated in a November ivy pull in George Rogers Park. She said they worked near Oswego Creek Bridge and enjoyed supportive comments by many passers by. She said they planned to do it again in the future. Board members intended to decide on a date and location for their own ivy pull at a later meeting. It was suggested it might be best to continue the work in the bridge location because it was a very visible spot and they could expand the area the staff project already improved. The staff project had been named, “Day of the Dead Ivy.” HRAB members anticipated they would also name their own project. Ms. Wagner announced the Tryon Creek Watershed Council planned to start a mentoring program in the spring. She suggested HRAB project volunteers could tell inquiring passers by about it.

Vice Chair Holen **moved** to postpone the stewardship project discussion until the January HRAB meeting. Mr. Rich **seconded** the motion and it **passed** by unanimous agreement.

All present agreed that Ms. Papaefthimiou should arrange a joint meeting with PRAB to discuss setting common goals.

IV. ADJOURNMENT

The next meeting was scheduled for Wednesday, December 19, 2007. There being no further business Vice Chair Holen adjourned the meeting at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jonna Papaefthimiou /s/
Jonna Papaefthimiou
Natural Resources Planner