



City of Lake Oswego Natural Resources Advisory Board Minutes

APPROVED

January 16, 2008

I. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Chair Sarah Asby called the Natural Resources Advisory Board meeting of January 16, 2008 to order at approximately 6:30 p.m. in the West End Building, 4010 Kruse Way, Lake Oswego, Oregon.

Members present besides Chair Asby were Vice Chair Morgan Holen, Nancy Gronowski, Douglas Rich, Stephanie Wagner and Rishi Rajani (student member). Craig Diamond and William Gaar were not present.

Carolyn Jones attended as a guest.

Staff present included Jonna Papaefthimiou, Natural Resources Planner.

II. PUBLIC COMMENT

Carolyn Jones commented about the proposed urban forestry plan. She saw a need for a better balance between protecting trees and building homes. She said the plan would be too restrictive on future development. She stressed that regional density goals called for urban density of 40 persons per acre and that 70% of the state was forestland. Vice Chair Holen explained that the plan was more an education/outreach “tool” than a governmental policy “tool.” She hoped it would shift the current paradigm - which was mainly focused on the number of trees to be preserved - to a focus on leaving “the right tree in the right place,” where it fit the ecosystem and contributed to long-term sustainability. She explained that the plan would allow building where it “made sense.” Mr. Rich recalled living in another region where old oak trees had been arbitrarily removed because there was no tree protecting code. He said trees made the Lake Oswego area attractive to many people, and his experience was that a well-thought-out request for a tree-removal permit, backed by a trained professional’s evaluation, was not too hard to obtain in the Palisades neighborhood. He said the plan would help educate people so they could make appropriate decisions about tree removal.

III. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Rich reported his neighborhood’s Styrofoam recycling project took in 55 carloads of Styrofoam. He suggested making it a citywide project in the future. He explained that each incoming vehicle had paid a fee and the proceeds had been split between the recycling vendor, PC Plastics, and charity. The vendor shredded the material, melted it, and reformed it into plastic pellets to be used to make other plastic products.

IV. REGULAR BUSINESS

Natural Resources Advisory Board (NRAB) Goals for 2008

Board members examined suggested goals drafted by individual members. Mr. Diamond had submitted sustainability-related subgoals. The members generally agreed to continue to support the City Council and staff in forming the Sustainability Advisory Board until that board was formally established. Ms. Papaefthimiou confirmed the City Council had decided to form such a board and had asked staff to create an implementing ordinance. Members wanted to support an integrated, communitywide education campaign about environmental issues. They observed that funding of water-related programs should be more consistent. They agreed that educating the public about how to conserve water was important. They noted the workshop the AmeriCorps worker was to conduct in March was an example of the kinds of programs that should be funded. They also wanted the NRAB to be given an opportunity to examine and comment on each program before it was adopted.

The group then examined subgoals related to Natural Area Park Management that had been drafted by Ms. Wagner and Ms. Gronowski. They agreed to support development and implementation of a comprehensive, citywide, invasive plant species eradication policy and to support staff in developing and obtaining City Council approval of a Cooks Butte Natural Area Management Plan. They added a subgoal to secure sufficient funding for citywide natural area management activities.

Chair Asby related that she and Mr. Gaar had participated in a conference call with David Gilbey, Water Quality Program Coordinator; and Kevin McCaleb, Water Conservation Coordinator before they drafted water-related subgoals. The members questioned what role they might play in helping staff meet their own goal to renew the City's water quality permit, but they agreed that they could help implement the City's water conservation plan by promoting public education regarding water conservation, and that they could encourage the City to develop a Clean Streams Plan.

Vice Chair Holen had drafted subgoals related to the Urban Forestry Program goal. She noted that the City Council was to consider adopting an urban forestry program at their February meeting and she suggested the members could be there to show their support. She said they could thereafter also support staff implementation of the program by participating in it and by participating in educational workshops. The board decided to add a goal to work with the Historic Resources Advisory Board, if that board were interested in participating in the Heritage Tree program by connecting a tree with a "story."

The members were reluctant to number or prioritize their goals because at least one member was very interested in each goal. They agreed to list them as follows:

- Natural Areas**
- Water Quality**
- Community Education**
- Urban Forestry**
- Sustainability**

Mr. Rich **moved** to adopt NRAB 2008 Goals as modified during the discussion. Ms. Wagner **seconded** the motion and it **passed** by unanimous agreement of members present.

Chair Asby announced that she was scheduled to present NRAB 2008 Goals to the City Council on February 4th. Each Board member was assigned to keep the others updated throughout the year on a particular area of interest, as follows:

Diamond – Sustainability

Rich and Rajani – Community Education

Wagner and Gronowski – Natural Areas Management

Holen - Urban Forestry

Asby and Gaar – Water Quality

NRAB 2007 Accomplishments

Board members examined and generally accepted the draft 2007 Accomplishments list. They recalled they had informed themselves about some projects that were not directly related to their 2007 Goals when they heard updates from staff about the sewer interceptor, the West End Building and the Lake Grove Village Center Plan. They indicated they still wanted to work with the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board (PRAB) to identify common goals to work toward together. They asked Ms. Papaefthimiou to invite the Parks and Recreation Department Director to a NRAB meeting to discuss PRAB goals, so the NRAB could identify potential common goals. During the discussion they recalled the PRAB had voted against supporting the NRAB recommendation to create a Sustainability Advisory Board. They also recalled the City Council had approved the Foothills Park Dock without consulting the NRAB.

The members planned to schedule a place and time for a demonstration ivy pull at their next meeting. Vice Chair Holen agreed to ask the City arborist to suggest a location. Ms. Papaefthimiou confirmed that staff planned to schedule a second all-staff ivy pull. The NRAB also planned to tour the 10th Avenue Green Street project when it was done. Chair Asby offered to ask owners of a home that collected rainwater in a basement tank if the NRAB could visit their home. Staff advised that school district support of invasive plant clearing projects was spotty, but they might be interested in partnering in a community education program.

2008 Meeting Dates

The members examined and accepted the list of 2008 Meeting Dates.

V. ADJOURNMENT

The next meeting was scheduled for February 20, 2008. There being no further business Chair Asby adjourned the meeting at approximately 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jonna Papaefthimiou /s/
Jonna Papaefthimiou
Natural Resources Planner