



APPROVED

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

April 16, 2008

I. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

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

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

Guests were Carlyne Jones, and unidentified person.

Staff present were Jonna Papaefthimiou, Natural Resources Planner; and Natalie Strom, Parks Natural Resources Coordinator.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Minutes of March 19, 2008 were corrected and approved by unanimous agreement of those members present.

III. PUBLIC COMMENT

Carlyne Jones, Glenmorrie Neighborhood Association, referred to an April 2008 "Total Landscape Care" magazine article about regulating plant growth and suggested it might be useful to use chemicals to limit growth of invasive species.

IV. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ms. Papaefthimiou announced that student bicyclists billing themselves, "An Inconvenient Ride" to raise awareness of global warming would be greeted with lunch and a tree planting ceremony before they continued their ride to Seattle the following Monday morning.

V. REGULAR BUSINESS

Green Street Tour

The Board decided to tour the 10th Street "Green Street" project on May 18th. Ms. Papaefthimiou agreed to ask the owners of a passive home water management system if

the Natural Resources Advisory Board (NRAB) could visit their house on that day to see their system. Ms. Gronowski related that some senior planners from the City of Portland also planned to tour the project.

Sustainability Advisory Board Recruitment Update

Ms. Papaefthimiou reported that the City had received over 43 applications from persons who wanted to serve on the new Sustainability Advisory Board. The new board was to have nine adult members and two student members.

Arbor Week Report

Ms. Papaefthimiou reported that Arbor Week had been a great success. Fifteen persons had attended the Heritage Tree dedication of two giant redwood trees on Glenmorrie Drive; fifty persons had attended an artists' reception; and a class and family fun day had also been well attended.

Heritage Tree Update

Vice Chair Holen volunteered to draft a letter to the City Council asking them to revise the code so it specified that it was part of the NRAB mission to select Heritage Trees. She explained that when the City adopted the Heritage Tree designation program in 1997, the Board's mission statement had not been changed to reflect their new responsibility.

Cooks Butte Management Plan

Natalie Strom, Parks Natural Resources Coordinator, presented the Cooks Butte Management Plan that she planned to present to the City Council on May 6th. She said it was important to assess the condition of each of the City's natural areas and determine how it should be managed so staff and volunteer maintenance efforts could be more effectively coordinated and focused. She anticipated the Cooks Butte program would serve as a model and demonstrate an ecological approach to natural area maintenance. She said its shape; size and habitat quality made it the best area to demonstrate that. Ms. Strom reported 83% of City parkland was in 24 natural area parcels, but only one full-time and one temporary staff person were assigned to maintain them. She confirmed the full-time staff person was trained in ecology, but she reported that the natural area staff spent most of their time mowing firebreaks.

NRAB members wanted the presentation to emphasize that the City Council had created the natural area maintenance staff position to ensure the long-term ecological value of natural areas. They stressed that it was important to reduce and keep invasive species under control in order to maintain biodiversity and wildlife habitat. They observed that the plan for Cooks Butte was more detailed than the Springbrook Park plan. They indicated they wanted the presentation to emphasize the educational aspect of the program. The Board members wanted the general public and park users to understand the importance of regulating human impacts on sensitive areas within the park.

Ms. Strom explained the components of the initial scientific analysis that was to be done to identify different types of habitat (each requiring a different type of

maintenance and management). Board members recalled they had previously agreed that management policy should be not to interfere with the natural progression of species, such as the evolution of a deciduous forest to an evergreen forest. However, they generally agreed the initial emphasis should be to make City natural areas healthy. Ms. Strom pointed out locations where forest trees were substantially covered by ivy; where erosion was a problem; and where steep topography justified use of professional contractors. She said entrances were not well defined and off leash dogs; mountain bikers; a muddy service road; and deposits of landscape debris affected the habitat. She anticipated the initial effort would be to remove tree ivy and other invasive plants. She agreed there should be an educational aspect to the user experience. She anticipated that after four years the program would be in ongoing maintenance mode.

Ms. Strom saw a need to engage a professional trail expert. She suggested the meadow at the top of the park be planted with native prairie grass. Mr. Rajani saw a need to mow it more than twice a year so people could enjoy it. Board members suggested that staff graphically depict how the larger initial cost in early years would result in lower ongoing annual maintenance costs and increased value of the City's green infrastructure asset. They anticipated the results of the program would become very obvious to the community and that might encourage the City Council to add more natural area maintenance staff. The members questioned staff's plan to offer the City Council several options for "next steps" that included continuing the City's current approach. They suggested, instead, the "next step" should be to present and justify a budget for the program and looking for grant funding. They recalled they had learned that bond funds could be used to acquire an asset, but not for maintaining it.

Ms. Strom reported that the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board (PRAB) had just voted to support the plan. NRAB members generally indicated they supported it with their recommendations incorporated into it. A guest stressed it was important to involve the surrounding neighborhood and get their support. Mr. Gaar agreed that volunteers should be part of the program, but he advised that some of the work had to be done by professionals trained to work in sensitive resource areas and on steep topography, and he stressed the City had the responsibility to ensure maintenance work was done.

Mr. Gaar **moved** to endorse the plan with the changes NRAB members had suggested during the discussion. Ms. Gronowski **seconded** the motion and it **passed by unanimous vote** of those members present.

Ms. Strom advised that staff was also planning to propose an update to the Sensitive Lands Ordinance that would require developers to remove invasive species from their own sites or pay a fee in lieu to the City to be used to remove them from City parks. The Board thanked her for her work and asked her to find out if they could attend the City Council study session.

Brainstorm Actions – Community Education Goal

Board members considered ways to fulfill their goal, Develop a Communitywide Education Initiative. They heard suggestions to sponsor bird watching and nature walks; focus on water-related issues or the new Community Forestry Plan; and

showcase the recently completed “Green Street.” They agreed to bring more ideas to discuss at the next meeting.

The group planned a demonstration stewardship project to show how to remove invasive ivy. They agreed to survey all members via email to select a date. Vice Chair Holen volunteered to alert the local and regional newspapers and invite the media.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

The next meeting was scheduled for May 21, 2008. There being no further business Chair Asby adjourned the meeting at 8:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jonna Papaefthimiou /s/
Jonna Papaefthimiou
Natural Resources Planner