



City of Lake Oswego Natural Resources Advisory Board Minutes

APPROVED

July 16, 2008

I. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Chair Sarah Asby called the Natural Resources Advisory Board meeting of July 16, 2008 to order at 6:35 p.m. in the West End Building, 4010 Kruse Way, Lake Oswego, Oregon.

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

Council Liaison Frank Groznik was not present. Staff liaison was Jonna Papaefthimiou, Natural Resources Planner. Other staff present were Chelsea Smith, AmeriCorps worker; David Gilbey, Water Quality Program Coordinator; Nathalie Strom, Parks Natural Resources Coordinator.

II. MINUTES

The Minutes of April 16, 2008 were approved by unanimous vote of members present after the draft was revised to reflect language suggested by Mr. Gaar regarding the importance of regulating the human impact on sensitive areas of Cooks Butte Park.

III. PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

IV. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chelsea Smith, AmeriCorps worker, reported that she and the other AmeriCorps worker in the City had inventoried street trees in the public right-of-way in one quadrant of the City and were working in the next quadrant. She announced their terms of service with the City were about to end and she said she hoped the next two AmeriCorps workers would complete the project. She reported that she used iTree software and that she had developed a manual that First Addition Neighborhood volunteers would use to inventory their neighborhood's trees.

Craig Diamond announced he was leaving to serve on the Sustainability Advisory Board. Chair Asby related that the City planned to fill positions on the new

Sustainability Advisory Board before they filled vacant positions on the Natural Resources Advisory Board (NRAB), and interviews were scheduled for July 29, 2008.

V. REGULAR BUSINESS

NRAB Volunteer/Outreach Events

Ms. Papaefthimiou reported that there were tables available at the August 2nd and 23rd Farmers Market. The Board had decided the theme would be “Ask an Arborist.” They asked Ms. Papaefthimiou to choose whichever date that Morgan Holen and the City Arborist could be there. They suggested putting a signup sheet for their demonstration ivy pull at their Farmers Market table. They planned to set a date for their demonstration ivy pull at their October meeting.

Chair Asby asked for other outreach ideas. She recalled Douglas Rich had invited NRAB members to distribute information at a Palisades Neighborhood gathering the next evening. No one present indicated they could attend. Ms. Wagner suggested the Board work with the school district to identify projects the students would be interested in working on and then help them with the projects. Mr. Gilbey related that the City had offered to reduce school property stormwater fees if the school district implemented a permanent watershed management education program that emphasized stewardship. He said Oregon Trout, Oregon State University Extension Service and other organizations had a lot of educational materials that could be used. Ms. Wagner said Friends of Tryon Creek wanted to work with the school district and the City. She said they were already working with Forest Hills School, where teachers were incorporating a watershed program into the curriculum. She related that Lake Oswego High School had a political action seminar where students decided what community projects they wanted to become involved in, and the students were very interested in environmental issues. She recommended that NRAB members talk with their teachers first to help them frame the issues and then mentor the students as they worked on their projects.

Mid-Year Goal Review

NRAB members compared their 2008 Goals with what they had accomplished so far. They noted the Cooks Butte Natural Area Management Plan had been adopted, but not funded. They planned to fashion a request for a related budget at their September meeting. The group had not yet developed a Natural Areas Vision Statement or a citywide invasive plant species eradication policy. They asked that those work items be placed on a future agenda. Ms. Papaefthimiou suggested one policy could be that the City would no longer plant ivy in median strips. The members noted the City had adopted a Water Conservation Plan and staff had added steps to follow in case of a water crisis. They discussed their Community Education Initiative and the need to help the public understand how to conserve water. They noted that the City newsletter featured tips and they indicated they would promote conservation at their Farmers Market table. The Board recalled seeing the same small group of patrons at every Farmers Market. Ms. Wagner saw a need to engage youth and to identify the “target audience” for each NRAB educational activity. Mr. Diamond saw a need to put together an integrated educational program to help people understand how all the initiatives fit together. For example, how the Urban Forestry Program helped water

quality. Mr. Diamond anticipated the new Sustainability Advisory Board would also advocate a large public outreach project. NRAB members suggested the two boards might work together to advocate a budget for it and to accomplish it. Ms. Papaefthimiou advised that the new City Council would update the Comprehensive Plan next year and decide whether or not there would be a visioning program. She advised that the NRAB could make a recommendation regarding a visioning process.

Board members observed that the City had adopted the Urban & Community Forestry Program and had begun implementing it, and the NRAB had nominated Heritage Trees this year. They anticipated that Morgan Holen would suggest revised code language at the next meeting that specified that the NRAB selected Heritage Trees. The group was very pleased the City had established the Sustainability Advisory Board (SAB) the NRAB had recommended. Mr. Diamond volunteered to be the unofficial NRAB liaison to the SAB and to attend NRAB meetings to update the group once a quarter.

Officer Elections

Ms. Gronowski **nominated** Morgan Holen to serve as Chair of the Natural Resources Advisory Board. Ms. Wagner **seconded** the nomination and Chair Holen was **elected by unanimous agreement**. The group decided to hold the election for the vice chair at their next meeting, when they hoped more members would be present.

Hunt Club Next Steps

Ms. Wagner and Ms. Gronowski reported that the Parks and Recreation Department director had held a well-attended community meeting at the Hunt Club, on Iron Mountain Boulevard, to consider whether the City should take over the site and pay for the Hunt Club to relocate somewhere else. They said the Oregon Iron and Steel Company had conveyed the site as a land grant to offer residents a horse event venue, but the site was too small for that purpose today. They noted the buildings were considered historic structures. They related hearing there were many questions to be answered regarding issues such as who really owned the land and what the City could do with it. They saw many natural resource-related issues. Springbrook Creek had been diverted to make room for the barn, and the site was almost entirely wetland. NRAB members indicated the site might be a made a City-owned open space and they generally agreed to stay aware of any changes proposed there.

Stormwater BMPS

David Gilbey, Water Quality Program Coordinator, discussed the Stormwater Management Plan and MS4 Permit application benchmarks. He explained that the Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) was the amount of pollutants a water body can receive without violating water quality standards. He said the goal was to use the benchmarks to measure the City's success in increasing the amount of reduction of pollutants. He said TMDLs had been established for the levels of phosphorous; bacteria and dirt (which reduced the amount of dissolved oxygen in the water) in the Tualatin and Willamette Rivers and Oswego Lake. He said the plan called for minimizing the amount of mercury in the Tualatin River, as well as the Willamette River, but there might not be a way to measure mercury levels until 2011. He said the City would

estimate how much reduction in pollutants it was achieving by monitoring ponds, swales, wetlands, pollution control manholes, and rain gardens (for example, the 10th Street “Green Street” project).

Mr. Gilbey said the City featured hundreds of publicly-owned pollution control manholes and over 250 privately owned facilities. He introduced Eric Carr, the University of Oregon intern who was building a database listing the facilities. The intern reported that technology was constantly changing and there was a need to educate homeowners associations, who tended to “forget” they were responsible for maintaining their facilities, about how they should be maintained and operated. Mr. Gilbey said the City planned to begin random inspections of private facilities starting in 2010. He clarified the City did not currently have sufficient staffing resources to monitor street catch basins. He presented charts that projected how the City would meet its wasteload allocation. He explained that Tryon Creek was not addressed separately because it was considered part of the Willamette River area. He noted that Oswego Lake was not close to meeting its phosphorous level. He said none of the cities in the MS4 Permit area were meeting their bacteria wasteload allocation, so they needed to find a better way to address that. He advised that the comment period for the City’s MS4 Permit application ended on August 8th. He invited NRAB members to submit comments. He said he proposed to expand the pollutant list to include dissolved copper, lead and zinc and he proposed wet weather monitoring. He said he hoped to negotiate a cost sharing agreement to get more work done. He advised the City planned to work with a federal agency to monitor pesticides in drinking water.

City Wildlife Policy

Natalie Strom, Parks Natural Resources Coordinator, presented a City Wildlife Policy that she and Ms. Papaefthimiou had drafted. They saw a need for a clearer policy explaining what the City could or could not do and what the alternatives were when people called staff or the police to complain about wild animals on their property. For example, when they received a call about a dead animal or a trapped bird they would recommend the caller contact county animal control or the Audobon Society. They said the current policy was “peaceful co-existence” with wildlife. They said residents needed to be made aware that the City did not have the resources to deal with trapped animals and they were euthanized. When asked, they advised Board members that residents could euthanize non-endangered species of trapped animals on their own property, but it was not legal to poison rats or discharge a firearm in the City, or to transport fur-bearing animals in the state.

Staff explained that people needed to understand that when they called a private service to come and get a trapped animal, those animals would be euthanized. They said they did not believe the City killed moles or trapped and killed other wildlife on its own property. Ms. Wagner related that animal dumping was a problem at Tryon Creek Park. She suggested cautioning people that state law did not allow them to release trapped animals in state parks, and it would be hard to find any appropriate place to take them. Board members cautioned that removing one problematic animal from an area could make room for some other problematic animal to take its place. Board members suggested some changes in the terms used in the draft and asked staff to contact Mr.

Gaar to hear his comments; incorporate the suggested changes; and return with a revised draft for the NRAB to consider endorsing at the next meeting.

Ms. Strom reported that ODOT had begun the fish passage enhancement project at the Tryon Creek culvert. Ms. Wagner reported another stream project was underway near the Iron Mountain Bridge. Ms. Strom announced that two Great Horned Owls were to be released at Bryant Woods Park the following Tuesday.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

The next meeting was scheduled for August 20, 2008. There being no further business Chair Asby adjourned the meeting at 8:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jonna Papaefthimiou /s/
Jonna Papaefthimiou
Natural Resources Planner