



City of Lake Oswego Natural Resources Advisory Board Minutes

APPROVED

August 20, 2008

I. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Chair Morgan Holen called the Natural Resources Advisory Board meeting of Wednesday, August 20, 2008 to order at approximately 6:30 p.m. in the West End Building, 4010 Kruse Way, Lake Oswego, Oregon.

Members present were Chair Morgan Holen, Denise Dailey, William Gaar, Nancy Gronowski, Shawn Howard, Douglas Rich, Stephanie Wagner and Rishi Rajani (student member).

Council Liaison Frank Groznik was present. Staff present were Staff Liaison, Jonna Papaefthimiou, Natural Resources Planner; and Natalie Strom, Parks Natural Resources Coordinator. Guests were Ryan Olsten, Patricia Olsten and Richard Olsten.

II. MINUTES

The Minutes of June 18, 2008, were **approved** by unanimous agreement.

III. PUBLIC COMMENT

Patricia Olsten related that Ryan and Richard Olsten had just participated in a wildlife studies program at Boy Scout camp and they were interested in finding out about the Natural Resources Advisory Board (NRAB).

IV. ANNOUNCEMENTS/UPDATES

Chair Holen welcomed new members, Denise Daily and Shawn Howard.

V. REGULAR BUSINESS

Update on Changes to NRAB Mission

Chair Holen had drafted a memorandum that recommended the City Council change the NRAB Mission Statement to give the NRAB code-authorized authority to designate Heritage Trees. She explained that when the Heritage Tree Program was adopted that program gave NRAB authority to designate Heritage Trees, but the Mission Statement had not been changed to reflect that. Ms. Papaefthimiou planned to notify Board members when the City Council scheduled consideration of their recommendation.

Election of Vice Chair

The NRAB elected William Gaar to serve as Vice Chair by **unanimous** vote.

NRAB at Farmers Market

Chair Holen announced that she, Ms. Wagner, and David Odom, Associate Planner/Certified Arborist, were scheduled to man the NRAB booth at the Farmers Market the following Saturday. Mr. Odom was to set up the booth and answer “Ask the Arborist” questions. Chair Holen presented a poster she had created that described the Heritage Tree Program and explained how people could get involved. She said the booth would offer visitors a Heritage Tree nomination form, a Heritage Tree guide, water-wise landscaping ideas, and a Canines for Clean Water pledge. Councilor Groznik suggested they also offer information about the Clean Streams Program. Chair Holen encouraged all NRAB members to visit the booth.

Natural Areas Vision

NRAB members examined the Natural Areas Vision statement that had been drafted by Ms. Gronowski. Members anticipated it would be used to convey the intent to have better planning and management of all City natural areas in the future. It would serve to distinguish between active use parks and natural areas. They planned to fashion related goals and work objectives next. During the discussion members agreed the vision statement should acknowledge that City-owned natural areas were linked to other green space in the region. They decided to keep it a broad statement and be more specific about things like what was “appropriate” or “responsible” use of natural areas in a separate goals and objectives document.

Vice Chair Gaar **moved** to add the sentence, “The current system, as well as new acquisitions, fit into a broader regional network of parks and natural areas” and then adopt the NRAB Vision. Ms. Daily **seconded** the motion and it **passed** by unanimous vote.

The group considered ways to make the NRAB Vision a community vision. They decided to ask the City Council to adopt it as a Council vision in 2009. They anticipated it would guide the Council when landowners offered the City the opportunity to purchase their properties.

City Wildlife Policy

Board members examined a draft Wildlife Policy that Ms. Papaefthimiou and Vice Chair Gaar had crafted. Ms. Papaefthimiou described the City’s current, informal, approach as “peaceful coexistence” with wild animals. She said the City did not have an animal control department and relied on the counties and other organizations, such as the Audobon Society, to help residents deal with animal problems. She explained that staff spent a lot of time dealing with calls from residents who reported that people or pets were being harassed or threatened by wild animals. She said staff explained to them that the City did not trap animals or take them away and they referred callers to the counties or other organizations. She related that the City Council was scheduled to consider the proposed ordinance at their September 16th meeting. She noted it

acknowledged that wild animals can be inconvenient at times but they also enhanced Lake Oswego's quality of life and performed ecological functions. Ms. Papaefthimiou asked the NRAB to consider recommending the proposed Wildlife Policy to the City Council. She said that once adopted, the formal policy and a list of county and other organizations to call would be distributed to all City departments and interested residents, and published on the City website. Councilor Groznik recalled that the City Council had to discuss and write letters explaining the City's "peaceful coexistence" approach to wild animals about once every two years.

Vice Chair Gaar stressed the importance of conveying that safety and protection of residents and property was a priority for the City, but there was value in having urban wildlife, and there were "best practices" to follow to coexist with them. One practice was to keep cats indoors where they were not vulnerable to coyotes. Board members suggested it should read, "Keep cats and small pets indoors." They recalled the Audobon Society reported that predator cats had a significant adverse impact on the bird population. When the group considered recommending that the policy define "wildlife" as "native species," staff said they had purposely not done that because there could be instances when native species were problematic, and non-native species were not a problem. Members agreed it was important to stress that people could not release trapped animals on City property, but they agreed to remove the statement that advised that wild food was more nutritious than good dog food. Instead, it should advise that feeding wild animals could lead to disruption in natural areas. They observed the draft policy suggested complainants "consult appropriate authorities," so they suggested the policy should specifically tell readers where to find the referral list.

Vice Chair Gaar **moved** to recommend that the City Council adopt the Wildlife Policy, with the revisions suggested by the NRAB members during their discussion. Ms. Wagner **seconded** the motion and it **passed** by unanimous agreement.

VI. OTHER BUSINESS

Vice Chair Gaar suggested that the Board research the positions of candidates for City Council and endorse those whose ideas agreed with NRAB goals. Ms. Papaefthimiou offered to ask the City attorney if a City board was allowed to do that. Councilor Groznik suggested they consider inviting all the candidates to talk to the NRAB about their positions.

The Board planned to prepare to lobby for appropriate funding of natural resources management in the next City budget. Staff advised that department heads were beginning to prepare department budgets and the next biannual budget cycle was to begin on July 1, 2009. Board officers were to discuss funding strategy with Parks and Recreation Department head Kim Gilmer and report back to the Board at the next meeting.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

The next meeting was scheduled for Wednesday, September 17, 2008. There being no further business Chair Holen adjourned the meeting at 8:37 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jonna Papaefthimiou /s/
Jonna Papaefthimiou
Natural Resources Planner