



**APPROVED**

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

**October 15, 2008**

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**I. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL**

Chair Morgan Holen called the Natural Resources Advisory Board meeting of Wednesday, October 15, 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, Vice Chair William Gaar, Denise Dailey, Nancy Gronowski, Douglas Rich and Stephanie Wagner. Shawn Howard and Rishi Rajani (student member) were absent.

Staff present were Natalie Strom, Parks Natural Resources Coordinator; and Lori Summers, AmeriCorps.

**II. MINUTES**

The Minutes of June 18 and September 17, 2008, were edited and **approved** by unanimous agreement.

**III. PUBLIC COMMENT**

None.

**IV. REGULAR BUSINESS**

**Introduction to Periodic Review**

Sidaro Sin, Senior Planner, Long Range Planning Division, anticipated that the process of updating the Comprehensive Plan would start with periodic review and then go on to a visioning phase. In periodic review, the City would compare five components of the Comprehensive Plan (housing, economic development, transportation, public facilities and urbanization) with State goals and programs to ensure they were consistent. The City Council and the State Department of Land Conservation and Development (DLCD) had to approve the staff-drafted periodic review work plan. The public would then envision what they wanted the City to become over the next few decades in the visioning phase. Individual citizens and groups would have an opportunity to suggest new or revised Comprehensive Plan aspects during this phase.

Mr. Sin announced two public open houses were to be held on October 23rd and November 6<sup>th</sup> to help people understand what periodic review was and what each

chapter of the Comprehensive Plan meant, so they could be more prepared for the visioning process. He provided a timeline for the entire process, which would likely take several years. He said staff was preparing the work plan and updating important information, such as the buildable lands inventory, the natural resources inventory and the transportation system plan. He offered to forward a copy of the draft work plan to the Natural Resources Advisory Board (NRAB) so the Board could comment on it. Mr. Sin said he hoped it would be approved in early 2009. He said staff would likely propose utilizing a citizens' task force in the visioning phase and an implementation committee in the final phase. However, it would be up to the new City Council to decide the extent of and budget for the visioning process. He suggested the NRAB consider how the Comprehensive Plan currently addressed natural resources and how it might be changed to fit their vision for the City.

During the questioning period, Board members wondered how sustainability concepts would be incorporated into the Comprehensive Plan. Mr. Sin related that the Sustainability Advisory Board (SAB) planned to send representatives to other City boards and commissions to discuss that and talk about how the groups could work together. He said staff anticipated the task force would include representatives from each board and commission. He acknowledged the visioning process and the underlying studies would be costly and require allocation or reallocation of City resources, and the City Council might decide to just accomplish the State-mandated part of the process right away and take longer to accomplish the visioning component. He said staff would vet periodic review information with City boards and commissions and staff would not do that in a "vacuum." He clarified that periodic review aspects subject to State mandate did not include a natural resources inventory, but staff had already accomplished a lot of that work, so they planned to propose inserting the updated inventory map during periodic review. Mr. Sin confirmed that periodic review was "overdue" and should have been done several years ago. Mr. Rich suggested the City could save money by drawing visioning input from Palisades' and other neighborhoods' plans. Mr. Sin advised those plans were part of the Comprehensive Plan and they also needed to be in compliance. Chair Holen anticipated the Board would incorporate a discussion of periodic review when they fashioned NRAB 2009 goals. Mr. Sin then left the meeting

### **Community Forestry Coordinator Introduction**

Lori Summers, AmeriCorps worker, explained she had received her degree in Natural Resources from the Oregon State University College of Forestry, and she was starting an eleven-month term of service to the City. She reported how she was helping implement the Urban and Community Forestry Plan. She was conducting a street tree inventory by recording the status of all street trees on a random sample of 5% of City streets. She planned to be done with that project in a month. She said that inventory and aerial photographs showing the City's tree canopy would provide supporting data for a "State of the Forest" report she would help write. Ms. Summers planned to continue to promote the Heritage Tree program, starting with a November 13<sup>th</sup> Heritage Tree ceremony at Lake Grove Elementary School. Chair Holen volunteered to be one of the speakers at that event. Ms. Summers reported that an owner of a large oak tree with Heritage Tree potential was reluctant to designate it. The Board wondered why

and speculated it might be because a legal covenant would be applied to protect it, or because the owner's address was published.

Ms. Summers reported that she was updating the Heritage Tree brochure and map. Chair Holen observed those items and the Heritage Tree poster she had created could be used during Arbor Week and Oswego Centennial events next year to promote the program. Ms. Summers said she was talking with other staff about creating a display showing trees in the City that were at least 100 years old. She said she was continuing her predecessor's educational outreach to neighborhood associations and had talked to the water conservation program staff about a joint effort to fashion and distribute school lesson plans. She said she planned a stewardship project of some kind for Arbor Week. She reported that the current City Arborist was leaving City employment, so she would rely on two other staffers who were arborists to evaluate heritage tree candidates.

Board members asked her what data was collected during the tree inventory and if the inventory and the aerial photographs would be the only basis for the State of the Forest report. Ms. Summers clarified that she collected information about the physical dimensions of each street tree as well as its general health and an assessment of the surrounding environment. Chair Holen observed the street tree inventory was a "starting point," and the ultimate goal was to inventory all trees in the City. Ms. Summers suggested the report should be updated at least every two years so changes in the urban forest could be monitored over time. She agreed with Board members that the City needed to ensure it had a good distribution of age classes to sustain the forest over time. Chair Holen and Mr. Rich volunteered to help Ms. Summers with Heritage Tree and community outreach activities and they encouraged her to attend future NRAB meetings to share information.

### **2008 Accomplishments/Review**

The Board reviewed their list of 2008 Goals in order to assess their accomplishments. One goal was to develop the Natural Area Park Management program. They had developed a natural areas vision statement, but still needed to fashion related management goals. They agreed to wait to read the new invasive plant species eradication policy the City of Portland was finalizing before they fashioned their own policy. They noted they had helped staff accomplish the Cooks Butte Natural Area Management Plan this year, and that plan would serve as a prototype management of other natural areas. They observed that they still needed to advocate for sufficient funding for natural area management. The next 2008 goal was to Promote Water Quality and Conservation. Board members noted they had met the sub-goal to support implementation of the City's Water Conservation Plan. Staff announced the City Council was about to consider the draft Clean Streams Plan. Vice Chair Gaar questioned whether Clean Streams committee members had been offered adequate opportunity to provide input on the plan. He had served on the committee and recalled they had lost momentum and stopped meeting before the draft plan was finalized. He offered to find out what happened and report back to the NRAB.

Another NRAB goal was to develop a Community Education Initiative. Members recalled they had talked with the public at the Farmers Market and other events, but

they saw a need to comprehensively plan outreach events and activities and coordinate their efforts with the natural resource staff's efforts. Since they were not sure how much time staff had for educational outreach efforts or what kind of outreach efforts they were focused on, Board members decided to attend the November natural resources staff meeting to see if there was something they could help them with. The NRAB had established a goal to implement the Urban Forestry program. They had recommended the program, which the City Council had then adopted, and then discussed how to implement it with staff. They noted they had fulfilled sub-goals to raise awareness of the Heritage Tree program, announce new designations on Arbor Day, and change the code to reflect that the NRAB was authorized to select Heritage Trees. However, they had not yet contacted the Historic Resources Advisory Board to learn the special histories of some trees. Chair Holen and Ms. Strom volunteered to discuss that with the Historic Resources Advisory Board (HRAB).

Board members were eager to celebrate their success in encouraging the City Council to create the Sustainability Advisory Board. They planned to invite SAB members to a potluck at Ms. Wagner's house so both boards could meet each other in an informal setting. They planned to set a date for the event at their next meeting.

### **Discuss Goals for 2009**

Chair Holen had drafted a goals document to stimulate discussion. Members recalled that several years ago the City Council had increased the garbage franchise fee in order to fund a part-time natural areas maintenance position. They wondered how that money had been spent. Staff recalled the person in that position had to spend a lot of time collecting trash and on code enforcement on City-owned land. Vice Chair Gaar offered to talk to City officials to learn where the funds were spent. The group agreed their long-term goal was to convince the City to budget for natural areas management in a separate fund.

The Board considered how they might work together with the SAB and the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board (PRAB). They thought they could jointly support a goal to reduce carbon emissions because the NRAB goal to support the Urban Forestry program helped achieve that goal. Mr. Rich offered to discuss that with SAB member, Craig Diamond. Members generally agreed to support PRAB's goal to create a comprehensive Parks and Recreation Plan because it would address natural areas. They suggested a need for a goal to fund a natural areas staff position and to secure funding for implementation of the Cooks Butte Management plan. They agreed to continue to promote the Heritage Tree program and highlight it during Arbor Week. They still wanted to work with the HRAB to collect tree histories. Ms. Strom related that she was updating the Heritage Tree files and would add information regarding the historic significance of a tree. She offered to contact the HRAB about that.

Chair Holen related that the City of Tigard planned to fashion their own urban forestry management plan and they thought the Lake Oswego model was a great example. She had been invited to serve as technical advisor to the Tigard committee discussing the plan. Chair Holen offered to ask Ms. Papaefthimiou to clarify whether the City would utilize AmeriCorps workers during and after 2009. Ms. Wagner stressed there should

be continuity of staffing programs related to natural resources and urban forestry. Ms. Strom related that Ms. Papaefthimiou was working on such a staffing proposal.

Board members acknowledged that revising the Tree Code had been a contentious issue in the past. They indicated they preferred to focus on implementing the Urban Forestry program. They reasoned that data that was collected in that process would help educate the community about what was necessary for a healthy urban forest and help the City make informed decisions about trees. They anticipated the tree inventory would help the City understand whether the age of trees was a potential problem. Ms. Dailey suggested a goal to work with “top polluters” in the area. Board members planned to continue their 2009 goals discussion at the next meeting.

## **V. OTHER BUSINESS**

Mr. Rich invited NRAB members to attend a Palisades Neighborhood Association meeting to meet all the candidates for mayor and City Council. He reported that Palisades had scheduled an ivy pull at Cooks Butte on November 9<sup>th</sup>. Ms. Strom advised that City staff could arrange to compost the material on the site.

Board members asked why Ms. Strom’s compensation was listed under “Management Services” in the Parks and Recreation budget. They thought it would be better to have a separate budget section for a natural resources division and staff. Ms. Strom suggested they talk about that with the Parks and Recreation Department director. She clarified that open space and parks maintenance was listed under the Maintenance Department budget, and actual open space maintenance costs were double the amount budgeted there. The Board planned to discuss this issue at a future meeting.

## **VI. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business Chair Holen adjourned the meeting at 8:36 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jonna Papaefthimiou /s/  
Jonna Papaefthimiou  
Natural Resources Planner