



## CITY OF LAKE OSWEGO Natural Resources Advisory Board Minutes

February 16, 2011

**Note:** Tape recorder failed, so no recording is available.

### CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

Acting Chair Denise Dailey called the Natural Resources Advisory Board meeting to order at 6:36PM in the Yamhill Room of the West End Building, 4101 Kruse Way, Lake Oswego, Oregon.

Members present: Denise Dailey, Kara Warner, Ben Clark, Stephanie Wagner, Craig Stephens  
Members excused/absent: Excused absent: Doug Rich. Absent: Bill Gaar, Steph Wax  
Guest(s) present: Carolyne Jones  
Council Liaison: Bill Tierney  
Staff: Jonna Papaefthimiou, Staff Liaison/Natural Resource Planner;  
Denise Frisbee, Planning and Building Services Director, Brant Williams, Economic & Capital Development Director

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

Acting Chair Dailey welcomed new Council liaison Bill Tierney. Councilor Tierney shared his support for the City Council goal of a watershed-based approach to environmental programs, and mentioned ivy removal as a personal interest as well.

Planning and Building Services Director Denise Frisbee introduced herself. She stated that the City Council would soon be discussing budget cuts, and that might be issue for the NRAB to track.

Acting Chair Denise Dailey stated that budget cuts would likely affect the Parks Department.

Denise Frisbee agreed that budget cuts will come to Parks and mentioned that they would also likely affect other departments funded by the General Fund.

Councilor Tierney stated that the list of budget cuts was not out, and when the list was released the following day, the Council would study it but not immediately commit to on any specific cuts. He said that the total proposed cuts would amount to 5% of the General Fund, and noted that the City will face its own shortfall in coming years.

Craig Stephens asked whether the City could legally give money to the school district, and asked whether cuts to Planning and Parks and Recreation were already planned.

Councilor Tierney stated that the City could legally give funds from some sources to the school district, but not property tax revenues.

Brant Williams mentioned that the City would also study revenue options.

Councilor Tierney mentioned Franchise fees.

Brant Williams mentioned Reserves.

Councilor Tierney stated that the process was fluid.

Staff member Denise Frisbee left the meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT (None)

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Stephens moved, Wagner seconded, and the board voted unanimously to accept the minutes from December 15, 2010 with no changes.

REGULAR BUSINESS

### **Portland to Lake Oswego Transit Project**

Brant Williams, Director of Capital Projects, presented an update on the Portland to Lake Oswego transit project. He stated that the Citizens Advisory Committee (made up of citizen representatives) had recommended the streetcar alternative to the Project Steering Committee (made up of elected officials). On February 28 the Steering Committee was schedule to make a recommendation to its partner jurisdictions for locally preferred alternatives. He stated that Metro would be the final decision-maker at this step. The next steps would be the preparation of preliminary engineering documents and a final Environmental Impact Report.

Brant reviewed a Metro fact sheet on the transit project, a printed project timeline, and the letter from the CAC to Metro recommending the streetcar (attachments 1-3).

### **Lake Oswego Watershed Informational Presentation**

Jonna Papaefthimiou stated that Andy Harris was not available to present that evening and apologized for the miscommunication.

Stephanie Wagner announced that the Oswego Lake Watershed Council had been officially recognized by Clackamas County.

## **Heritage Tree Designation**

Papaefthimiou presented the Heritage Tree Staff report (attachment 4). Stephens moved, Ben Clark seconded, and members voted unanimously to designate the Douglas-fir tree in George Rogers Park near the lower restrooms as a Lake Oswego Heritage Tree.

Craig Stephens noted the problem of ivy in George Rogers Park, and stated that Parks had so far not given him permission to remove ivy in the park as a volunteer. Papaefthimiou offered to help him follow up on this.

## **Comprehensive Plan Update**

Bill Gaar was absent, so this item was not presented.

Denise Dailey stated that NRAB needed more knowledge about City policies and adopted plans, a toolbox or briefing book to assist members in advocating for natural areas and natural resources generally. Wagner suggested more information should be available on the NRAB website. Dailey stated that SAB had a good website. She then asked whether the group would be willing to hold a special meeting in April to review its "toolbox." Wagner and Warner expressed some concern that the presentations would be dry and written materials might be more useful. Dailey stated that the decision was up to the group. There was a general consensus that a separate meeting might be useful. The group settled on April 27 as a tentative date.

## **Parks Plan Update**

Acting Chair Dailey noted some tension at the previous joint NRAB/PRAB meeting as members of both groups sensed that not enough data or content was presented for the groups to provide meaningful feedback. Dailey shared and she and NRAB Chair Doug Rich had met with the PRAB chair and co-chair, with Parks and Recreation Director Kim Gilmer, Parks staff member Ryan Stee, and with the Parks Plan consulting group, MIG. She felt this was a good discussion. She clarified that while the board members tended to be pragmatic and want to get to data, the consultants had seen the discussion as primarily conceptual. She also stated that she saw strong support for parks and natural areas within the data the consultants had provided. She stated that 6 of the top 12 activity areas preferred by residents in the surveys were nature-based, and that this data emphasized the value of natural areas and natural area maintenance. She also stated that natural areas are generally relatively less expensive to maintain than intensive recreation facilities such as the tennis center or golf course.

Dailey then distributed the major deliverables memo and reviewed it (attachment 5).

Kara Warner asked when the data collection would be complete.

Dailey stated that the data collection is mostly done, but that there was a need for some additional data not provided by the general surveys.

She stated that the Citizens Advisory Committee to the Parks Plan met on February tenth, reviewed the survey results, and that the meeting was helpful and resulted in additional back-and-forth with the consultants. She said that PRAB seemed surprised with the community support for passive recreation, compared to the demand for active recreation. She also stated that the timeline for Plan completion had been pushed to the fall, with a projected October adoption.

Stephens noted that safe accessibility of parks is key. For example, he stated that Waluga Park is hard to get to safely, and that the most-used parks are easy to access safely.

Dailey concurred that connectivity was a major theme in the planning process.

Stephens elaborated that trails, accessibility, and bike parking are all major issues related to parks planning.

Dailey then reviewed the schedule of upcoming joint NRAB-PRAB meetings.

### **Natural Step Workshop Report**

Dailey stated that she and Chair Rich would present The Natural Step (TNS) training at the following NRAB meeting. She stated that the TNS framework is useful, the City has formally adopted it, and some departments are using it.

Stephens stated that planting more trees would be one outcome of applying TNS principals (referring to earlier discussion re: heritage trees).

Dailey stated that the first principal is to avoid waste, which is appealing to businesses interests.

Stephens stated that the framework alone was not enough.

Dailey concurred that the framework could shape decisions, but should lead to actions

### **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, Dailey adjourned the meeting at 8:31 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Jonna Papaefthimiou  
Natural Resource Planner