



NATURAL RESOURCES ADVISORY BOARD MINUTES

Wednesday, February 5, 2014

Co-Chair Todd Van Rysselberghe called the meeting to order at 6:33 p.m. in the Council Chambers of City Hall, 380 A Avenue.

Present: Co-Chairs Heidi Schrimsher and Todd Van Rysselberghe, James Kandell, Nick Berardi, Craig Stephens and Kavya Sreedhar (Youth Member). Gregory McMurray and Frank Junga were absent. Council Liaison Lauren Hughes was present.

Staff Present: Andrea Christenson, Natural Resources Planner/Staff Liaison; Scot Siegel, Planning and Building Services Director; Morgan Holen, Contract Arborist; and Shannan Stoll, Assistant Natural Resources Planner.

Guest: Sally Weersing

CITIZEN COMMENT

None.

CITY COUNCIL UPDATE

Councilor Hughes related the Council had approved the new friends groups for Luscher Farm and East Waluga Park; remanded the WEB decision to the Planning Commission; adopted 2014 goals and policies; and interviewed candidates for open NRAB positions. She highlighted that the Council planned to start articulating policies to help guide staff; the goal to improve the effectiveness of City government; and the Council affirmation that they would protect property rights while complying with state and regional land use and environmental standards.

Board members' comments included that they supported the creation of a volunteer coordinator position; the coordinator could also write grant applications for projects; and they anticipated the position could be funded in the longer term through grants. They asked about the Council's perception of the Tree Code and how they had determined that it was too restrictive, as opposed to not restrictive enough. They suggested the Tigard tree code as a model. They asked for more information in regard to the Council's goal to look at the charge and scope of advisory boards.

Councilor Hughes supported creating the volunteer coordinator position because it would be great for parks; it showed the City's commitment to caring for and improving their resources; and it would show Metro they were trying to comply with Title 13 in particular. The Council had heard from owners of large parcels that the Tree Code did not work well for them; the consultant who had conducted the community attitude survey had advised them that one of his take-a-ways was the community was feeling over-regulated; and the community dialogue about the tree code was for the purpose of finding out what people thought about it. She related the Council was concerned about overlap of boards and commissions.

Ms. Christenson announced the Council's goals meeting with boards and commissions on February 11; and that the Council was to adopt the updated Comprehensive Plan on February 18. The natural resources chapter would remain as it was now until they had revised the Sensitive Lands program.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Action on the Minutes of August 14, 2013 & September 11, 2013 was continued to allow time for staff review.

REGULAR BUSINESS

Arbor Week / Other urban forestry events

Ms. Stoll related she was working on the Urban & Community Forestry Program. Lake Oswego was celebrating its 25th year as Tree City USA. She distributed a handout with a proposed schedule of events for Arbor Week and throughout the rest of the year and asked for feedback.

Actions: The board committed to the Farmers' Market and suggested the nature walk and restoration event could be at Iron Mountain Natural Area to showcase the work of Friends of Iron Mountain. Ms. Sreedhar volunteered to help develop the art contest for older teens.

Designate Heritage Trees

Online link to the staff report and nominations: https://www.ci.oswego.or.us/boc_nrab/natural-resources-advisory-board-12

Ms. Holen discussed each of the four Heritage Tree nominations and offered her recommendation. The nominees were: 2211 Fernwood Circle (saucer magnolia); 38 Da Vinci Street (Oregon White Oak); 3rd Street between 568 and 590 (gingko biloba) and 10th Street/Berwick Road (four madrones). Staff clarified that the City Manager had not nominated three Douglas firs in FAN so the neighborhood would have a chance to weigh in on what should happen on that property. Staff planned to order plaques and plan the Heritage Tree ceremony. Most of the discussion focused on the madrones' nomination. Ms. Holen suggested looking for some other madrone(s) for Heritage Trees because of the size, condition and location of the nominee grove. Mr. Stephens advised there were not many other accessible madrones in the City and these would survive if left alone and not removed to widen the right-of-way.

Action: The Board voted to accept all of the nominations except for the madrones. They planned to look for other, better, specimens of madrones in preparation for next year, including some reported to be in Pioneer Cemetery.

Advocate for development of new community gardens

The Board discussed Ms. Schrimsher's suggestion to send a formal request to the Parks and Recreation Department to move forward with development of new community gardens. The first one could serve as a model for the rest. The group talked about the possibility of locating the first one at Woodmont Park. Mr. Berardi reported the application for a Friends of Woodmont Park group was almost complete. Ms. Schrimsher suggested keeping the request for gardens separate from Woodmont Park because they did not know what the Friends group would want to do. Mr. Stephens suggested the project was a good candidate for a Metro grant.

Actions: The Board voted to have staff draft a letter to Parks and Recreation in support of moving ahead with the gardens element of the Parks 2025 Plan and communicating that the NRAB was eager to help in any way possible. The Board agreed to add an update on the status of Friends of Woodmont Park to the next meeting agenda.

Information from Board members and staff

Ms. Christenson offered some updates. In regard to the isolated tree groves legislation, after the LUBA remand the City Council decided to remove the one grove that did not comply with Metro Title 13. The Council was to consider the Planning Commission recommendation of approval on April 1. No further objections had been received from the state or Metro. The Council had set the direction of the Sensitive Lands program. Staff was working it and was scheduled to check in with the Planning Commission in May. The revised Sensitive Lands program was going to be incorporated into the Comprehensive Plan

Healthy Ecosystems chapter. Mr. Stephens had provided staff with information about a “Beyond Toxics” event in Portland that she would forward to anyone who wanted to attend. Co-Chair Van Rysselberghe and Kara Warner’s terms of service had expired and Co-Chair Van Rysselberghe had reapplied. The Distinguished Service Award was to be presented to Ms. Warner.

ADJOURNMENT

The next regular meeting was scheduled on March 5, 2014. Co-Chair Van Rysselberghe adjourned the meeting at 8:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Shannan Lenke Stoll
Assistant Natural Resources Planner

Link to meeting documents and meeting audio file: https://www.ci.oswego.or.us/boc_nrab/natural-resources-advisory-board-12