



NATURAL RESOURCES ADVISORY BOARD

MINUTES

September 3, 2014

Co-Chair Nick Berardi called the meeting to order at 6:33 p.m. in the Conference Room of the Main Fire Station, 300 B Avenue.

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

Staff: Shannan Stoll, Assistant Natural Resources Planner/Staff Liaison.

Guests: None.

CITIZEN COMMENT

None.

CITY COUNCIL UPDATE

Councilor Hughes provided the Council update. With the Council on recess for August, Councilor Hughes provided the update from the Council's first meeting back in September. She noted that the agreement for the sale of the WEB building was revised to accept \$200,000 as a non-refundable deposit and extend the closing date to October 31. Council also approved to budget committee reappointments, and one new appointment. An interim DRC appointment was also approved. The TSP findings and conclusion were adopted. Council also approved an IGA for the Lake Grove Parking Plan, sidewalks on Laurel Way, and a road widening on Knaus Road. Council also began a hearing on annexation of a property at 14061 Goodall Road, which was continued. The briefing for the Sensitive Lands 2014 Code Amendments was continued to September 16.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Action: Mr. Van Rysselberghe **moved** to approve the minutes of February 5, 2014; November 5, 2014; April 2, 2014; and May 7, 2014. Mr. McMurray **seconded** the motions. The motions all **passed** as follows: 4:0:1 (February 5, 2014), and 5:0:0 for the other three sets of minutes. Mr. McMurray abstained from the vote to approve the February 5, 2014 minutes. Mr. Junga and Ms. Schrimsher were absent for the motions.

REGULAR BUSINESS

Sensitive Lands field trips: public natural areas and private lands

The Board checked-in on organizing the tours to Sensitive Lands on private property. Councilor Hughes offered to take members on a car tour of Sensitive Lands on private property, three at a time. Members agreed to get in touch with Councilor Hughes via email to arrange the tour.

The Board also checked-in on organizing a tour of Sensitive Lands on Public Property, to be led by Parks and Recreation staff Ryan Stee and Megan Big John. Ms. Stoll asked the Board what they would like to

get out of the tour. Mr. Stephens requested a tour similar to the tour of public lands held for the PRAB. All members present expressed interest in the tour. Ms. Stoll said the tour would need to be noticed as an official meeting of the NRAB. She said she would coordinate the tour with Mr. Stee and Ms. Big John, and get back to the NRAB over email with some proposed dates.

Briefing on 2014 Sensitive Lands Code Amendments

Mr. Stephens asked what the process will be for updating the Comprehensive Plan: Healthy Ecosystems Chapter. He noted that it is important to update the Comprehensive Plan at the same time as the Sensitive Lands program is updated. Ms. Stoll said that the plan is to review both the Comprehensive Plan and the overall revisions to the Sensitive Lands program together, though this has been put on hold until 2015. The current set of amendments being considered are not comprehensive, and are interim revisions while the larger program revisions are on hold. Mr. Stephens expressed concern that the work the NRAB has done so far on the Healthy Ecosystems Chapter get revisited.

Councilor Hughes gave a brief report on 1. Next steps in the overall program revisions for Sensitive Lands, and 2. The Interim 2014 Sensitive Lands Code Amendments. First, she shared recent staff research on two aspects of the overall program revisions: tax incentives for resource stewardship, and grants for restoration and enhancement. She noted that City Council has set aside \$250 thousand for habitat preservation, and that use of this money can move forward – in the form of matching funds for grant applications, for example – even as the overall program revisions are on hold.

Second, Councilor Hughes provided background on the 2014 interim Sensitive Lands Code Amendments. She noted that these amendments are minor tweaks rather than major changes because, in order to be adopted this year, they should not trigger a review by Metro or DLCD. The goal of these amendments is to provide increased flexibility and relaxed regulations for private property owners without triggering compliance review.

Mr. Van Rysselberghe asked for more information about the Tax Incentive Programs. Ms. Stoll shared that two programs are already provided for by state administrative rules; cities just need to adopt enabling ordinances to opt into the two programs, which provide tax benefits for people with qualifying wildlife habitat or riparian resources. Ms. Stoll said that the County would need to be a partner in adopting the programs, as County taxing districts would be impacted by the lost tax revenue from property owners who might opt into the program. She also noted that programs are not new, though no other city has yet opted into these programs. In order to qualify for the tax benefit, property owners would need to commit to a resource management plan, which would be monitored and reported on. Councilor Hughes asked how these programs, which were designed for rural resource management, would apply to Lake Oswego. Ms. Stoll said that in order to ensure that significant resources were being protected, rather than smaller slivers on individual taxlots, an acreage limit might be set by the city to encourage multiple property owners to collaborate to manage a resource in exchange for a tax incentive.

Mr. Van Rysselberghe said that he generally supports incentive programs because as a part of an effective policy package for resource management.

*Ms. Sreedhar left at 7:00pm.

Review of NRAB's 2014 goals and work plan

Mr. Berardi announced that he was offered a job promotion that will move him out of the state, so he will sadly be resigning from the NRAB. He said that Mr. Stephens will be taking over the Friends of Woodmont Park group.

Mr. Berardi led the group in a review of the 2014 goals and work plan. The entire list of goals was reviewed. Progress has been made on most goals, while others, such as the advocating for an update to

the State of the Urban Forest Report, the Iron Mountain Management Plan, and the Urban and Community Forestry Plan, will need to be continued to next year. Additionally, the group said that they liked the NRAB member education pieces that occurred in 2014, and would be interested in more educational presentations to learn about Lake Oswego's air, water, and land resources.

* Mr. Van Rysselberghe and Councilor Hughes left at 7:55pm.

Planning for September NRAB tabling events

Ms. Stoll led the group in coordinating upcoming NRAB tabling events for the month of September. The events upcoming are, as part of the Eco Film Fest, a movie on water on September 7 and a movie on bees on September 28. The NRAB also checked in on tabling the Farmers' Market on September 13. Ms. Stoll said she would bring outreach materials to the Farmers' Market, and will provide a materials box to Mr. McMurray for September 7 and to Mr. Stephens for September 28.

ADJOURNMENT

The next regular meeting was scheduled on October 1, 2014, back at the usual location in the City Council Chambers. Co-Chair Berardi adjourned the meeting at approximately 8:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Shannan Stoll
Assistant Natural Resources Planner

Link to audio recording of meeting: http://www.ci.oswego.or.us/boc_nrab/natural-resources-advisory-board-30