



City of Lake Oswego Sustainability Advisory Board Minutes

March 15, 2010

CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

Co-Chair Bruce Brown called the March 15, 2010 meeting of the Sustainability Advisory Board to order at approximately 6:30 p.m. in the Santiam Room of the West End Building, 4101 Kruse Way, Lake Oswego, Oregon.

Members present: Co-Chair Brown, Co-Chair Grant Watkinson, Dorothy Atwood, Matt Briggs, Ron Gronowski, Paul Lyons and Gregory Monahan. Amin Wahab was not present. Guests: Mayor Jack Hoffman; Council Liaison Sally Moncrieff; Nicole Isle, Brightworks; Dan Gottlieb, Lake Oswego resident; Ray Phelps, Allied Waste and Lake Oswego resident; and Craig Stephens, Lake Oswego resident. Staff present: Susan Millhauser, Sustainability Coordinator; and David Donaldson, Assistant City Manager.

MINUTES

The members examined and corrected the drafts. Lyons **moved** to accept the Minutes of January 25 and February 22, 2010 as corrected. Briggs **seconded** the motion and it **passed** by unanimous vote.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Brown welcomed City Councilor Sally Moncrieff as the new Council liaison. Councilor Moncrieff announced the City Council was about to discuss the franchise agreement with Allied Waste and was thinking about appointing a committee to fashion a plan to reduce solid waste and increase recycling. She introduced Ray Phelps, the representative from Allied Waste and Lake Oswego resident. Atwood and Briggs volunteer to serve as resources for Phelps as he drafted a plan for the community. Donaldson related the City also had been discussing with Allied Waste a pilot program to recover food waste. Millhauser was to check to see if members whose terms were expiring soon could reapply. Lyons volunteered to help out at the April 24th Prescription Drug Take Back event. Brown related the water treatment plant expansion advisory group had learned that Lake Oswego used much more water than Tigard did even though Tigard had a larger population. The staff agreed to provide the board with comparative per capita water use data. Brown, Watkinson, Gronowski and Lyons had just attended a Community Development Code audit meeting where they had made suggestions about how to incorporate sustainability into the code.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Craig Stephens asked the SAB to advocate for pesticide-free parks. The Board wanted more information before they made a recommendation. Donaldson agreed to find out what City policy was; what the Parks and Recreation Department was considering doing; and if there were alternatives to not using pesticides.

REGULAR BUSINESS

Update: City Council

Mayor Jack Hoffman joined the meeting. He thanked SAB members for their work. He explained that the Council wanted to have a closer relationship with City boards and commissions. He highlighted goals and issues the City Council was working on. During the questioning period, Mayor Hoffman explained that the City Council planned to make better use of the West End Building campus. Briggs encouraged them to include green builders in that conversation. Board members observed that none of the Council goals specifically used the word “sustainable” or “sustainability”. At a recent special meeting, SAB members had discussed Monahan’s suggestion to recommend that the City adopt a specific, overarching, sustainability policy instead of assuming the City Council would view everything through the sustainability lens. They recalled they wanted to improve dialogue with the Council about things like whether the City should require new City buildings to be LEED platinum or “living buildings.” One benefit of having an overarching sustainability policy was that would make it very clear to contractors that the community wanted to be carbon neutral with zero waste and zero toxics. Thirty-year goals could be broken into annual incremental goals to bring about a 3% to 4% reduction every year.

The Mayor suggested that the SAB examine each Council goal and recommend how to incorporate sustainability into it. Then he would schedule a Council work session to consider that. The Mayor cautioned the group not to get ahead of the Council and to rely on Council Liaison Moncrieff to give them an idea of whether there would be Council support, such as for an overarching sustainability policy. The SAB members who had attended the code audit meeting were pleased to report that others at that meeting also had ideas about how to incorporate sustainability. TAB was working on a recommendation regarding how to increase bike transportation. Mayor Hoffman planned to schedule a roundtable with board and commission chairs to ensure that each body knew what the others were working on. Moncrieff observed that even though the SAB was frustrated that they had not caused more concrete things to be accomplished; they had done an excellent job of raising the awareness of the Council and staff. The Council’s approach to the contract with Allied Waste was an example of that. The Mayor then left the meeting.

Refine Work Plan / Prioritize Implementation Strategies

Brown had emailed a summary of the ideas suggested at the special meeting on March 8. The SAB discussed and refined them. They agreed that Monahan was to draft an overarching sustainability policy to recommend to the City Council. They agreed to reconnect with other boards and commissions to help them integrate sustainability into their work plans. They talked about how the SAB could be more proactive in advising the City Council and giving them more timely, direct, feedback.

Briggs suggested encouraging Lake Oswego and West Linn homeowners to take advantage of tax credits and the new feed-in tariff and install solar, either on their own roof, or on some other nearby roof or property. He planned to participate in such a program whether or not SAB was involved. When the group wanted to know if the current code prevented putting solar facilities on rooftops, Millhauser advised downtown design standards called for rooftop equipment like HVAC units to be screened. She clarified that state law specified that homeowners association CC&Rs could not prohibit solar panels. Members anticipated that the tree protection regulations might affect solar use too. The group discussed taking action related to water conservation.

Brown suggested the SAB could recommend using part of the revenue from the new increased water rate schedule to underwrite another toilet rebate program.

The Board decided to examine the City Council rolling agenda at every SAB meeting and to offer their input whenever it would help. They would send written comments to Moncrieff the week before the meeting and Watkinson would be ready to speak on behalf of the SAB during the Council meeting. The Council was scheduled to discuss electric vehicle charging stations and consider proposed infill code in the near future. Briggs offered to provide information on what Southern California Edison was doing when the City Council considered electric vehicle charging. The Board planned to examine the proposed infill code, circulate their ideas via email, and discuss it at their next meeting.

A guest, Dan Gottlieb, asked what City administration was doing to reduce consumption of resources. Donaldson explained they had a sustainability coordinator on staff and looked for the most effective approach to providing City services such as street maintenance. Moncrieff observed the City was actively promoting saving water and was looking for ways to promote alternative modes of transportation.

The staff planned to send a link to the "Open City Hall" on the City website to SAB members whenever the site posed a question. That was another way the City Council collected citizen comments about issues. They reported that the *Hello LO* was to feature regular articles about how to improve recycling practice. Board members asked for information about how much contaminated recyclable waste ended up in garbage cans. Millhauser and the Board members then refined the SAB Liaisons list.

ADJOURNMENT

The next meeting was scheduled on April 19, 2010. There being no other business Co-Chair Brown adjourned the meeting at 8:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Millhauser
Sustainability Coordinator

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