



**APPROVED**

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

**March 19, 2008**

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

Chair Sarah Asby called the Natural Resources Advisory Board meeting of March 19, 2008 to order at approximately 6:30 p.m. in the West End Building, 4010 Kruse Way, Lake Oswego, Oregon.

Members present were Chair Sarah Asby, Vice Chair Morgan Holen and Nancy Gronowski, Douglas Rich, Stephanie Wagner and Craig Diamond. William Gaar and Rishi Rajani were not present.

Jonathan Snell attended as a guest.

Staff present included Jonna Papaefthimiou, Natural Resources Planner; David Odom, Associate Planner; Chelsea Smith, AmeriCorps Community Forestry Coordinator; Alia Johnson, AmeriCorps Natural Resources Technician; and Natalie Strom, Natural Resources Coordinator.

**II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Ms. Gronowski **moved** for approval of the December 19, 2007 minutes. Ms. Wagner **seconded** the motion, and they were **unanimously approved** with the following correction:

There is no "h" in "Natalie."

Ms. Gronowski **moved** for approval of the January 16, 2008 minutes. Ms. Wagner **seconded** the motion, and they were **unanimously approved** with the following correction:

Reference to "HRAB" on page 4 should be changed to "NRAB."

**III. PUBLIC COMMENT**

None.

**IV. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Chair Asby announced that she and Vice-Chair Holen had met with Parks and Recreation Advisory Board (PRAB) Chair John Marandas in February, in keeping with their agreement to meet together about every 3 months. At their February meeting, they discussed the issue of the Belluschi House being placed in George Rogers Park, and PRAB Chair Marandas noted a high level of public interest and participation in the PRAB meetings where this topic was addressed. Chair Asby posed a question to the group as to whether the Natural Resources Advisory Board (NRAB) should seek greater public attendance at NRAB meetings. Vice Chair Holen suggested that board members could take initiative to invite members of the public to their meetings. Ms. Gronowski noted that the Board had taken

their issues to the public when necessary, such as at the 2007 Community Forestry Open House events. Ms. Wagner noted that some members of the public had commented to her that they wished the Board would do more to raise issues with the Council, such as the Millennium Park Dock. Ms. Wagner also noted that staff must keep the Board apprised of opportunities for involvement in such issues.

Vice Chair Holen shared a scrapbook of NRAB press coverage and asked other Board members to contribute press clippings for the book. She indicated that she already had clippings related to the Sustainability Advisory Board and the Community Forestry classes.

Chelsea Smith (staff) reported that 13-15 people have registered for each forestry class, and that 13 people are registered for Vice Chair Holen's class on tree biology, the first class.

## V. **REGULAR BUSINESS**

### **Review of Heritage Tree Applications**

Ms. Smith briefly presented her recommendation for designation of a new Heritage Tree at Lake Grove Elementary School. She noted that the tree was a landmark on the site, had survived a fire that destroyed the school building in 1948, and was enjoyed by children playing in the schoolyard. David Odom (staff) commented that the tree was clearly a landmark. Vice Chair Holen noted that it provided an opportunity to connect with students at the school. Ms. Smith agreed that students should be involved with the Heritage Tree Dedication Ceremony.

Vice Chair Holen noted that the tree would benefit from mulch and a larger grass-free ring around its trunk. Mr. Odom added that the school district would likely appreciate this advice, as they did not have an arborist on staff. Ms. Wagner suggested that children plant native shrubs around the tree, which would be attractive and also discourage compaction of the soil around the tree roots. Ms. Smith noted that children now play around the tree and seem to enjoy it.

There was a brief discussion of the dedication ceremony; the group agreed that NRAB members would try to attend, and the mayor would be asked to speak.

Vice Chair Holen **moved** to designate the Douglas-fir tree at Lake Grove Elementary School as a Heritage Tree. Mr. Diamond seconded, and the motion was **unanimously approved**.

Ms. Smith then raised the question of the Heritage Tree applications carried over from the previous meeting.

The group discussed the trees in the order presented in the staff report.

Exhibit A, a Giant Sequoia, was raised first. Vice Chair Holen noted that the tree had low soil volume and much damage to surface roots, and a thin crown. She said that it was a nice tree but not exceptional, and not a landmark. She remarked that other nearby trees were more notable. Wagner commented that if the tree had a connection to Lake Oswego history, then it would be more notable. Members agreed to table discussion of the tree until and unless more information about its history was available.

Exhibit B, a Coast Redwood on Glenmorrie Drive, was designated via an email vote on March 10<sup>th</sup>.

Exhibit C, a Florida Dogwood planted at the Lake Oswego Fire Department to commemorate September 11<sup>th</sup>, was next. Mr. Odom commented that the tree did not have enough soil volume, and was not likely to grow to its normal mature size. Wagner suggested that since it was already designated as a Freedom Tree, and had a plaque to that effect, it did not require further recognition as a Heritage Tree. Members agreed to table the application indefinitely.

Exhibit D, an Oregon White Oak on Peters Road, was next on the list. Vice Chair Holen commented that the tree was significant, but unfortunately appeared to be in decline and was likely hazardous. Mr. Diamond asked if we would decline to honor a tree near the end of its natural life, would we likewise decline to honor an elderly person because they might die soon. Ms. Papaefthimiou explained that if the tree was near the end of its life, it would need to be removed, and the heritage designation would likely make the tree removal permit process more difficult. Members agreed to table the application until and unless the tree's health improved.

Exhibit E, an Oregon White Oak at Cornell and Spruce, was designated at the February meeting.

Exhibit F, a European White Birch on Spruce Street, was next. Vice Chair Holen commented that the tree had an interesting appearance and is large, but that the species was not long-lived and was susceptible to disease. She also said that the tree was hard to access. Mr. Odom commented that the tree, while unique and beautiful, had no known historical significance, and that it was open as to whether it could be considered a "landmark." There were general comments among other members of the group that the tree was attractive and had no particular health problems. Ms. Wagner commented she would rather designate more trees than less.

Ms. Wagner **moved** to designate the tree and Mr. Rich **seconded**. Chair Asby and Ms. Gronowski, Ms. Wagner and Mr. Diamond voted in favor, Vice Chair Holen opposed. The motion to designate the European White Birch as a Heritage Tree **passed**.

Exhibit G, a Douglas Fir on Upper Drive, was nominated by neighbors who noted that it was a tremendously large tree that often had owls in it. Ms. Wagner noted that the tree was not as old as the property owner had estimated. Mr. Odom noted that the frequent presence of owls might indicate cavities in the tree, a sign of decline. There was a general consensus that the tree was biologically sustainable, but not sufficiently notable in any sense. Members agreed to table the discussion of this tree indefinitely.

### **Volunteer Stewardship Project**

Mr. Odom said that he had inquired about an appropriate location for a restoration project with Parks Director Kim Gilmer, and that Ms. Gilmer had deferred to Natalie Strom. Ms. Strom explained that she would like the Board to adopt a plot at George Rogers Park if the group was amenable, because the work dovetailed with the effort of other groups, and with a recent grant application. Ms. Wagner agreed and said that the group had already tentatively agreed to work in George Rogers Park. Members reached a consensus that the date of Sunday, May 4<sup>th</sup> would be the group's first work day for invasive plant eradication.

Mr. Rich asked about the grant related to the area. Ms. Strom explained she had applied for a grant from Metro to remove ivy on steep slopes, and received a plant donation from the Clackamas County Department of Forestry, and that a Cub Scout Pack and the Old Town Neighborhood Association had also agreed to with in this park area, and that educational events related to NeighborWoods would also be held in conjunction with this effort. Vice Chair Holen asked if the grant would provide for signage, and if there was a plan to document the efforts with photos. Ms. Strom replied that Clean Water Services would provide a sign and that in the future the Parks Department would likely put up signs as well.

Mr. Snell asked if there was a broader restoration plan for the area. Ms. Strom replied that the plan was to remove ivy, laurel, and holly from 4 acres of land in 6 visits. Mr. Snell related that the same area was targeted for ivy removal 5 or more years ago, and that the impact of the effort was very notable, with one local resident commenting that she felt much safer in the area when ivy removal allowed more light to penetrate the pathway there. Mr. Snell emphasized the need for coordinated restoration planning.

Ms. Papaefthimiou agreed to draft a letter of support for Ms. Strom's grant on behalf of the NRAB, and highlight their volunteer commitment.

### **Cooke's Butte Management Planning Effort**

Ms. Strom indicated that planning efforts would be based on vegetation inventory data. She said that the inventory work had established the methodology and permanent sample plots that would also enable them to track the results of their management effort over time. She said the main goal of the project was to gain knowledge about the invasive plant problem and begin to address in a single park where the problem was still manageable and the results could be tracked. She said that other issues such as trails, and park furniture would be addressed in the future during a larger planning process that engaged park users. Coordination with other departments, timing of work activities, tracking of interventions, identification of contractor roles, developing an ability to address invasive plants in an organized fashion with a consistent effort were the main goals of this project.

Ms. Gronowski noted that the plan was really a vegetation management plan, not an overall management plan that would address issues like dogs, signage, and other issues. Mr. Diamond said that an initial focus on natural resources was appropriate given the purpose and goals of the Board. Mr. Snell noted that the park had a fire management program some years ago, and that brush was removed to reduce fire risk; he suggested reviewing that plan.

Ms. Johnson distributed some charts showing the species composition of different areas within the park. She thanked others for their contribution to the inventory work. She then reviewed some data on tree species, size and composition in different areas of the park.

Both Ms. Gronowski and Ms. Wagner remarked that the absence of red alder in the park was unusual. Ms. Wagner suggested grouping information about trees, shrubs, and herbs together in the tables so that the information would be more readable.

Ms. Strom agreed that the data should be reorganized in a more readable way. She also said that the data would be useful over time as park managers would be able to see changes in permanent plots. She said that maintenance staff would also be able to use the habitat maps as a guide to their work.

Mr. Rich noted that the Palisades Sustainability Team is looking for volunteer projects and could help with this.

Mr. Diamond said that when the plan goes to Council, it would be useful to show a cost-benefit comparison for active management costs and results versus a do-nothing option and resulting loss of value. Ms. Wagner noted the need to set long-term goals for the park also, e.g. whether it will become forested or remain open in the future.

Mr. Rich suggested that the plan contain a section on the history of the park. Ms. Wagner suggested it should also mention the ways in which the park was presently used, and what the City's restrictions on future use were (deed restrictions, if any). Ms. Strom informed the Board that in the past the area was a strawberry and cauliflower farm.

Ms. Strom then inquired as to whether the Board had anything to suggest or add to a goal of eradicating invasive plants and achieving a 20% maximum invasive cover in 3 years, and revisiting the plan at that time.

Mr. Snell asked how the invasive cover would be calculated. Ms. Strom replied that the protocol and transects established during the initial inventory would be repeated to update the study. Mr. Snell suggested that the plan use the language, "establish desirable understory plant communities resistive to invasive plant infestations."

#### **Sustainability Advisory Board Recruitment**

Mr. Papaefthimiou said that she, Mr. Diamond, and Sustainability Planner, Susan Millhauser were working on outreach via email, phone, and letter. Vice Chair Holen suggested that outreach to schools was also important and suggested contacting school principals and science classes. Ms. Wagner said that many high schools also had environmental clubs.

#### **Water Conservation Plan Review**

Chair Asby distributed copies of the City's adopted Water Conservation Plan and briefly reviewed the main elements.

### **VI. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jonna Papaefthimiou /s/  
Jonna Papaefthimiou  
Natural Resources Planner