



**City of Lake Oswego**  
**Sustainability Advisory Board Minutes**  
SPECIAL MEETING

**December 8, 2008**

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**CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL**

Vice Chair Dorothy Atwood called the Sustainability Advisory Board meeting of December 8, 2008 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: Vice Chair Dorothy Atwood, Matt (Craig) Briggs, Bruce Brown (alternate), Craig Diamond, Amin Wahab, Grant Watkinson, Jacob Shimkus and Jeff DeWitt (via telephone). Chair Jean Baumann, Ron Gronowski, Lisa Murphy and Patrick Rowe were not present. Staff present: Susan Millhauser, Sustainability Planner; and Stephen Lashbrook, Community Development Director.

**2009 WORK PLAN DISCUSSION AND DECISION**

Ms. Atwood explained the purpose of the meeting was to refine the SAB goal to host a high visibility community awareness-building event to kick off sustainability outreach initiatives. The City Council wanted more specifics about that event. She said she had discussed the Council request with the Mayor that day and she noted the staff had provided a related report to the SAB. She asked the board to decide which initiative should have top priority and what specific actions would be related to it. She anticipated that the SAB could work on several other action items if they had time left for them in 2009.

Some members wanted to prioritize water conservation and tie it to the City Council's recent adoption of a tiered rate water-billing schedule. Some said climate change should be the priority topic. They suggested distributing compact fluorescent light bulbs (CLFs) at the event. Members observed that water use was tied to energy use because it took electricity to pump water from the river to the treatment plant to the reservoirs. In addition, it took electricity to pump used water away. In some cities, the water system was the biggest consumer of electricity. To reduce water use would reduce the carbon footprint and address climate change. They suggested a water conservation challenge. Mr. Lashbrook recalled the City Council had learned that tiered water rates had been effective in conserving water in other cities. He recalled the Mayor had asked the SAB to be more specific about the community initiative because she was concerned that the SAB could spend most of their time working on planning actions and she wanted to ensure they decided on a doable and visible community event and accomplished it in 2009. Some members wondered if "climate change" was a politically charged term, and they thought the entire community could rally around a water conservation initiative. They said the timing would be opportune because the City Council just adopted the water conservation plan and the new rate program would go into effect in July. They suggested helping people learn about things they could do at home to stay in the lower rate tier, such as using low-flush toilets, turning off the faucet while brushing teeth, and reducing vehicle washing. They said people should know that the city could send auditors to help them assess their water consumption

patterns. They said some cities sponsored a toilet replacement program. Some worried that reducing water use might reduce city revenue that helped pay for the upgraded water facilities. However, Mr. Lashbrook explained that the Lake Oswego/Tigard agreement was that the city that used the most water paid the largest part of the cost of upgrading the water treatment plant and pumps. When asked, he confirmed that the city water crew constantly looked for leaks in the system, but the city had not engaged a consulting company to inspect the entire system. He added that the engineer in charge of the water system had responded to testimony that the tiered rate system would be too hard on a large family by circulating a memorandum among the staff that explained things a large family could do to stay in the lower rate tier.

Ms. Atwood related the Mayor had suggested a community initiative similar to the Lake Oswego Reads program that was a month-long initiative with several related events. The climate change advocates suggested asking Bill Bradbury to make a presentation. They stressed such an initiative would reflect the national initiative because the Obama administration had made climate change a very high priority. Other suggestions were to connect the event to the Farmers Market and to bring the initiative to schools to make kids aware of lifestyle changes to address climate change. They could distribute water saving devices and light bulbs to people who signed a water or energy conservation pledge. There would be a buildup to a big kickoff community event and perhaps a grand finale event.

A straw vote was conducted on whether to focus on a climate change or a water conservation initiative, with the vote in favor of a climate change initiative (5 to 2). Then the members fashioned the details of the initiative. They agreed to designate May as Climate Change Action Month. At the main event, they would focus on water and energy conservation. Water bottles and CFLs would be given to those who signed up for water and energy audits. They would ask Mr. Bradbury to speak. They would hold the event in connection with the opening of the Farmers Market. They would hand out educational material, including information about how to stay in the lower tier of water rates, and people could sign up for energy and water audits and pledges. They wanted to have a Lake Oswego Sustainability logo to put on all their materials. They might have a contest to design the logo and present in schools during the buildup to May. They might offer a reward to people who could prove they had both a water and energy audit done. They discussed education opportunities leading up to the month through the Hello LO and water utility bill inserts.

A motion was made and seconded: develop a Climate Change Action Pledge Month. All members present voted in favor.

The staff agreed to prepare the report to the City Council the next day, and they would have the information in their packet for the Council meeting the following Tuesday, December 16.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

The next meeting was scheduled for December 15, 2008. There being no further business Vice Chair Atwood adjourned the meeting at approximately 7:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Millhauser, Sustainability Planner