



City of Lake Oswego Sustainability Advisory Board Minutes

March 8, 2010 Special Meeting

CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

Co-Chair Bruce Brown called the March 8, 2010 meeting of the Sustainability Advisory Board to order at approximately 6:30 p.m. in the Main Fire Station Conference Room, 300 B Avenue, Lake Oswego, Oregon. Members present: Co-Chair Brown, Co-Chair Grant Watkinson, Dorothy Atwood, Matt Briggs, Ron Gronowski, Paul Lyons, Gregory Monahan and Amin Wahab. Absent: Marshall Kosloff. Council Liaison Sally Moncrieff participated in the meeting. Guest: Daniel Gottlieb, Lake Oswego resident. Staff: Susan Millhauser, Sustainability Coordinator.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SAB members were invited to attend the first meeting of Lake Oswego Sustainability Professionals on April 28th. Millhauser noted that Marshall Kosloff had submitted his resignation from the Board. Brown and Watkinson were to participate in a community development code review meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT (None)

REGULAR BUSINESS

Develop Work Plan / Identify Action Areas

The reason for the meeting was to brainstorm actionable items the SAB could accomplish during 2010. Many did not feel the SAB had accomplished enough since it was formed. Brown invited the members to recount what SAB had done that fit their Mission and Duties. The members recalled most of the things they had done related to promoting education and awareness, including Sustainability Action Month activities; introducing the Council and staff to the Natural Step Framework; and presenting to other City boards and commissions.

Brown asked what new ideas they had that fit their Mission and Duties. Members suggested making the Comprehensive Plan a model of embedded sustainability, including a goal to be fossil carbon free by 2030. Millhauser advised the City planned to use Energy Block Grant funds to conduct a community-wide greenhouse gas emissions inventory this summer that could serve as a baseline for electric and natural gas use. Members suggested de-carbonizing energy through water conservation; transportation changes; land use; neighborhood action and code changes. One implementation measure could be a weatherization program. Some other cities used bond funds to make weatherization loans that property owners paid back with energy savings. Perhaps Lake Oswego could use some of the block grant funds for that. A Portland group used group purchasing power to buy solar photovoltaic equipment at a discount. Neighborhood associations might consider doing that. The City might need to review solar access policies or allow owners of shady property to put their solar devices on a nearby school building or property. It was suggested that the City require those seeking a building permit to construct to net zero or LEED standards. Vancouver, Washington had done that. Another

suggestion was to encourage neighborhoods to become their own eco-districts. Members wanted to continue green power signups. The group discussed transportation. Millhauser advised that the City had adopted the Trails and Pathways Master Plan and TAB was working to promote a better bike system. Brown advocated working toward a public mini-bus system that would connect with the Streetcar. The School District might want to use the mini-bus system too. Moncrieff confirmed the streetcar alternatives study included bicycle and pedestrian access. The City had just received a safe routes to school grant to install the Pilkington pathway. The Lake Grove Village Center Plan recommended connecting the bike lane on Boones Ferry Road.

Brown asked the group to suggest ways to implement their ideas. Briggs predicted LED lights would be better and cheaper by the end of the year. Millhauser reported the DEQ was interested in developing a Clean Diesel City program that would come with technical assistance. Members suggested the City put solar panels on the new maintenance facility. Atwood suggested addressing toxins and chemical use, with zero toxicity as the goal. Brown saw promoting more organic gardening as another implementation measure.

Millhauser related the 2008-09 report on the progress made under the City Sustainability Plan would be ready soon. She reported the staff had developed a screening tool to use to prioritize CIP projects by comparing the triple bottom lines. Planning Department staff planned a green homes tour in October. Brown advocated encouraging neighborhood associations to create sustainable neighborhood action plans. Moncrieff advised that when the SAB recommended something they should also let the Council know what it would cost. Board members suggested the City dedicate a staff person to the effort to win grants. Moncrieff explained she would like to have SAB input before the Council made a decision about things like code updates; building new City facilities; and the kind of water filtration system to put in the new plant. They could suggest the best strategies to get to net zero impact. She confirmed she would use an overarching sustainability policy as a litmus test for Council decisions, just as she used the Comprehensive Plan and Quality of Life Indicators. The Board agreed that drafting an overarching sustainability policy was their role as an advisory group and they should flesh it out into a framework that addressed every goal in the Comprehensive Plan. It would guide the community as well as City operations. Measurable goals, a baseline and an annual incremental progress matrix would be necessary. They felt they needed to communicate a sense of urgency, too. Monahan volunteered to draft the overarching sustainability policy. The Board agreed to continue this discussion at the next SAB meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

The next meeting was scheduled on March 15, 2010. There being no other business Co-Chair Brown adjourned the meeting at 8:28 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Millhauser
Sustainability Coordinator

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