

OSWEGO LAKE WATERSHED COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Friday, November 18, 2016

The *vision* of the Oswego Lake Watershed Council is a healthy properly functioning watershed. This vision is of streams, wetlands, riparian forests, upland forests/trees, Oswego Lake, and other natural resources working together as a sustainable ecological system that supports good water quality, productive habitat for native plant and animal communities, and enhanced quality of life.

The *mission* of the Oswego Lake Watershed Council is to foster stewardship, education, participation, and financial support for the purpose of the conservation, restoration, enhancement, and maintenance of watershed functions that achieve and sustain a healthy watershed.

1. Welcome and Introductions: Directors present were Chair Stephanie Wagner, Mark Rosenkranz, Rob Ambsberry, Dwight Sangrey, Mike Buck, Tom Bland. Staff present was Adra Lobdell, OLWC Project Coordinator. Our guest was Suzie Spenser Mountain Park HOA who is their Landscape Operations Manager.

2. Operations

- **Resolution:** Minutes for September and October, 2016 were unanimously approved.

- **Financial Report:** Treasurer Tom said OLWC's only expenses were for Tryon Creek for Adra's management compensation and for minor work party purchases. He mentioned holiday and year end gifting opportunities for OLWC members and reiterated that contributions for any amount could be anonymous and he would send a receipt for tax purposes. A donor could also utilize our website for on-line gifting. Stephanie stated how nice it would be show donors as well as grants on our website. Suggestion was made to possibly solicit property owners who benefited from OLWC project labors on their natural resources.

- **New Board Member:** Suzie Spenser talked about her relative experience on Lake Oswego Sustainability Advisory Board. And then briefed us on her insightful experience with green industry. Suzie said she "came into Mtn. Park with a storm"—meaning she had the passionate desire and vision to make Mountain Park a national example for restorative conversion. Her own goals resonated with the agenda and goals of our own OLWC. Stephanie referred to her confidently as "a real Pro" who has helped formulate sustainability standards for business. Dwight enthusiastically officially nominated Suzie Spenser for Board membership and Tom seconded.

Resolution: OLWC Board unanimously endorses Suzie Spenser as an official board member and stakeholder of Mountain Park.

3. Reports

- **Staff Report:** Stephanie mentioned she wants to update our website. Adra then updated current work projects. Boutwell project site was targeted for *No Ivy Day*. Adra thinks one or two more work parties will be needed to complete invasive removal, possibly with more planting, and do maintenance on this site. At Springbrook

work site, Mike removed more Himalayan blackberries and planted about fifty native plants in the area adjacent to The Hope Community Church property. Adra gave Mike help on the second excursion to this site and said that Ash Creek was scheduled to do herbicide work there today. Tomorrow, November 19th, was OLWC's next work party at Hallinan Creek with a Cub Scout volunteer group. At the Brighton site, permitting work with relevant entities is moving forward with the HOA. With Suzie's experience in dealing with these kinds of preparatory work, she may be a valuable asset in helping develop a navigational matrix for other HOA's who desire to do wetland and stormwater related restoration. Dwight volunteered to take responsibility for creating this "manual" that would be a guide for present and future watershed restoration as it relates to process. In terms of Mountain Park's Tanglewood project, two work parties were scheduled with Oregon City High School students. Suzie explained the implementation phase that they were involved with that dealt with residents and HOA Board members over visionary issues of common property along with application procedures with DEQ. Suzie and Dwight elaborated on their approach to dealing with trees at Mountain Park and may bring an arborist on board to help with a more comprehensive maintenance and removal plan.

- **CCSWCD:** Adra commented on the response to mailed invitational postcards to residents living on riparian sites. Six different properties with natural resources were given an initial assessment by Adra who was joined by Mike on most visitations. A few of these sites were evaluated as being worthy of our attention at restoration while some were more apt to be areas that would profit from Backyard Habitat scrutiny. In assessing criteria for grant application, Adra and Mike shared the encountered need of many residents to improve their natural resources and noted that the uniqueness of the sites required multiple models for positive response. A property owner on Wembley Park, for example, who lives on drainage adjacent to Springbrook Park received help from Mike and Adra on her private property; and Tom through Friends of Springbrook Park will have a work party in the Spring on the adjacent public open space February 18th from 9:00-11:00am.

- **School and Community Outreach:** Mary met with the Lake Oswego Sustainability Network, and Stephanie commented on public school interest in talking with us regarding curriculum that would address watershed issues. Stephanie accompanied Lecia at Lakeridge Junior High to Bryant Woods for a water quality testing exercise. Testing kits were donated from the Watershed Council. Stephanie said that she felt partnerships with 6th grade teachers were stronger due to continued contact with helpful resources.

- **Park Academy:** At this site where Lost Dog Creek flows on its way to the lake, challenges noted by Adra involved the steep slopes and need to get neighborhood cooperation for invasive removal. One property owner indicated a willingness to donate help. Adra has not yet heard from the school Principal since last August and desires more school cooperation before moving forward. Adra and Stephanie will collaborate on how to integrate our project goals for this site with curriculum inclusion. This site seems like a strong contender for CCSWCD grant funding which would be due this month. Applying in the Fall would hopefully avail us of \$6500 which OLWC received last year. Our Board endorses Adra's submission for this kind of

funding which lends itself to more diverse project management activities.

4. Old Business

- **Permitting process update:** Stephanie is talking with Jessica Numanoglu, City Planning Manager, and will be copying Dwight on correspondence that will help ensure streamlined permitting plans.
- **Strategic Plan Review:** Stephanie could not get copies for us on our strategic plan but noted the need for us to update the document. January will be the targeted month and she will send an electronic version to members.
- **Process for identifying new projects:** OLWC currently has a thoughtful list of criteria but we would do well to revisit it in light of requests received especially since we will have even more competing, diverse offers for project sites. These sites should be listed on our website so that residents can see our criteria, the descriptions of our project work goals, and our completions to date. This would be like our own “CIP.” We might entertain working more with HOA’s that have matching funding potential. Adra will take the lead on this matrix style development of criteria that property owners could look at and see how their property goals cohere. Mark mentioned how important our mission is to educate on our environmental preservation goals and what we have accomplished as we expand our projects and search for funding mechanisms. Tom said that our tax returns will manifest a high percentage of funding going for project fulfillment. He also said that all board members need to sign a Conflict of Interest form—a yearly renewal to disclose organizations we are involved with.
- **Formal process to identify community partners:** Stephanie borrowed this idea from LOSN and sees merit in listing partners on website. Tom thinks it is fine to have “Friends” as partners.

5. New Business

- **Representation for Dec. 8th LOSN meeting:** Adra will be speaking on our behalf for two minutes at this venue on the Marylhurst campus.

6. Public Comments and Announcements: Mike will attend the Urban Forestry Conference, Dec. 14th at the Forestry Center. He also noted the conditional use permit application for redevelopment of Mercantile Village by CenterCal. We would be advised to see how their conceptual design plan deals with natural resources on this site, specifically the Three Sisters’ Creek.

7. Meeting Adjourns 9:30 am.

Next Meeting: Friday, January 13, 2017, 8:00am.