

OSWEGO LAKE WATERSHED COUNCIL

MEETING MINUTES

Friday, January 10, 2020

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: Stephanie Wagner, Larry Zurcher, Tom Bland, Jim Fisher, Barbara Fisher, Mike Buck, Mary Ratcliffe, Mark Rosenkranz, Thomas Benson and Jack Halsey, our Watershed Project Coordinator.

2. Operations

• Minutes:

Resolved: Minutes for November 22, 2019 were unanimously approved.

• Finance Report: As Tom passed out reports, he immediately paid credit to our bookkeeper, Stephanie, for her immense help with annual financial compilation for 2019. The OLWC bank balance sheet stands at \$24,712.96. Tom noted that the income statement of \$80,292.76 included around \$3,000 in donations. Stephanie related this to growing community awareness and support of our mission and activity. Our net income stands at \$11,444.08 which will help continue work on current projects. Stephanie said that we have not yet been totally reimbursed from Mountain Park HOA. Also, we are expecting a check from CCSWD. OWEB has approved our grant for work at Village on the Lake Project. In conclusion, Tom addressed the Board seeking their cooperation for reading and signing a “conflict of interest” form. He will send out a link for members to print and sign in two places.

3. Reports

• Watershed Coordinator: Jack will send out link for tracking volunteer hours. In response to a question, Jack confirmed that LOSN hours can be counted since they are a partnering group and Board members were representing OLWC in their capacity at this event.

Westlake: Jack is working with contractors there one of whom is an arborist. Selection of trees for removal through tagging and mapping continues. Most are ash trees and Jack updated members on the methodology and process for removal including decision-making on how much downed wood can remain on site with fire risk assessment. With a management plan in place, mitigation is by-passed since this thinning is designed for woodland oak health and continued maturation. We are reducing biomass but not overall canopy. Between 200-400 trees will be targeted in various ways. Jack will be utilizing Wisdom of the Elders crews in the wetter sections prior to tree removal so invasive species extraction can be more completed without

downed timber impacting this goal. Stephanie encouraged members to visit their website and learn more about Wisdom Workforce LLC but also about their other programs as well.

VOL: Jack has resubmitted the grant agreement and though we have reassurance that OWEB will be approving our request, he awaits official confirmation. Mike, this Project Board Coordinator, is doing invasive removal according to the annual plan he submitted to Jack and the Watershed Committee.

Lake Oswego High School Green Team: Jack said one invasive removal was held on December 14, 2019 and another is set for January 24th in coordination with the National Honor Society. Since we could have over 70 students attending, he asked for volunteer crew leaders. The work party will run between 11:00am-1:00pm. Jack wants to give leaders instructions regarding recognition of native plants. This is a day off for the students since they are between semesters.

Other work parties on MLK, Jr weekend: Jack has set up two weekend events: January 18th at Gans project site for planting native species, 10:00am-noon; and at Westlake on January 20th in cooperation with Hands On Greater Portland from 10:00am-noon.

- **Community Outreach Specialist Recruiting:** Stephanie said we have sixteen applicants and a meeting will take place right after this board meeting to go over interview process. Jim and Mike have volunteered to help Jack and Stephanie. The resumes received show a diverse group. Stephanie said we are leaning heavily on a person who can help build and coordinate neighborhood urban forest committees (a huge outreach to private property!) while also developing a parallel outreach to schools' Trees on Campus program. This employment starts as a half time position, but hopefully can grow with successful implementation of programs.

- **Stewardship Committee Gans Report:** Barbara displayed the new safety vests to wear when we are out in the field. She passed out OLWC logo patches along with four vests. Members took patches for their own uses on clothing while discussion centered on the roles for vest, their cleaning, and best fabrics. Though OLWC can provide a few leader vests, we will be looking for a donor to provide more. And members can use them on their own procured vests also. Jack would like project coordinators to report on one project each board meeting. Barbara was selected to do the first one on Gans, her site. She had a map to orient everyone with this site's geography and history. The board was briefed on this riparian area and its proximity to Hallinan Woods, the Yates property, and Wells, a private access street. The Gans property will have a planting event on January 18th--as stated above. The site is mostly cleared of invasives and Barb, after re-establishing contacts with the owners, said she expects them to attend this planting work party.

- **Yates Property:** Jim reported that he has been out lately and consistently—making progress on holly and laurel removal. He also is picking up trash from the original home but on his last visit noticed the front door open. He observed racist graffiti on the inside wall. He notified Mike who let the owners know. Jim also said that Jackie Manz had reported that the property is no longer on the market. He does not know the status. Mike said he will write Steve Kaer, the realtor, to see if he has any updated information. Even if sold, Jim said he would urge preservation and enhancement work for the riparian area. Monetary pledges have been made toward procurement and this now is all in a limbo status until we learn of any change of status.

- **Tree Summit:** Stephanie is setting up a meeting with Martha Bennett to go over an Urban Forest Management Plan as directed by the Committee formed in lieu of the Summit. Other pursuits moving forward are the School District's Trees on Campus program and sustainable

practices through LOSN.

- **Stewardship Technician:** Jack said Laurent will be sending his report for activity in 2019 and he will be taking Jack on a tour of the lake soon.

4. New Business

- **Insurance Background Checks:** Stephanie regretted higher premiums but related that they were due to our work extending to more youth and for herbicide usage. She emphasized the need for transparency and care in working with youth and we follow, as stewards, recognized behavioral norms and always attend to our responsive role within the community.

- **City of LO Charter Amendment: LoveLOParks Petition:** This proposed Amendment to the City Charter would apply the same development restrictions enjoined on Springbrook Park to fifteen natural open space areas. Stephanie said the idea sounds attractive since preservation is a goal all can identify with. Yet when applied to specific realities, this may have negative unintended consequences. Unfortunately, there has not been a forum to have an adequate discussion before the community. People opposed to this measure desire a bigger conversation. Members talked about the breakdown in community over the Cooke's Butte communications facility development attempt and how much fear and animosity resulted. Some residents apparently feel the City staff and representatives aligned themselves in a way and process detrimental to natural open spaces. Stephanie led members in a discussion on the pros and cons of this Chapter X amendment and its protective status. After quite a lengthy exchange of perspectives from board members' own experiences as watershed members and in other capacities like Friends' groups, the following resolution was adopted unanimously. Prior to this vote, Tom clarified what our obligations and boundaries were as a 501C3 group.

Resolution: OLWC Board will draft a statement in opposition focusing on long term and comprehensive directives for a working solution and give talking points for a broader community discussion on how to best preserve our natural areas.

The board decided to have our concerns drafted by Monday, January 13th and be submitted on-line to the full Board.

N.B. Following this resolution, Mike and Mark drafted the following verbiage that the Chair submitted to the full board for endorsement:

Though laudable in intent, the current petition proposal circulating in the community to adopt Charter X and apply it to fifteen natural open spaces has been noted by the OLWC Board to suffer limitations when applied to specific sites. Our approach and objective would be to seek a more comprehensive, contemporary, foresighted approach to protective measures. The OLWC Board recognizes the need for heightened preservation on our natural open spaces as has been highlighted in previous park planning documents. We agree with citizens who advocate for a formulation of goals, and we recognize the collaboration to reach those goals should emanate from a broader base--especially in consultation with our City organizations that have made significant strides to enhance natural areas and who have promoted the care and stewardship by engaged citizenry. Language matters when it places limitations on work that helps restore natural open spaces so they can provide habitat vitality and public enjoyment. Let's all work together on a unified, comprehensive open space preservation plan that will ensure these valuable assets are available for future generations.

- **State of the Watershed Event:** Stephanie said a date needs to be decided upon as soon as possible and a committee formed to plan it. This may be one other expectation to place on the outreach specialist job description.

5. Public Comments and Announcements: None

6. Meeting Adjourned: 9:45am

Next Meeting: Friday, February 7, 2020 at 8:00am