

OSWEGO LAKE WATERSHED COUNCIL

MEETING MINUTES

Friday, March 13, 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, Mike Buck, Mark Rosenkranz, Larry Zurcher were present on site as well as Jack Halsey, Watershed Coordinator, and Kat Maloney, Community Outreach Specialist. On-line director participants were Jim Fisher, Barbara Fisher, Mary Ratcliff, Sarah Asby, Dwight Sangrey, Thomas Benson, Tom Berridge (JoinMe app)

2. Operations

• Minutes:

Resolved: Minutes for February 7, 2020 were unanimously approved.

• Finance Report: With Tom absent, this report will be delayed until April.

• Volunteer hour tracking: Jack will send out link after meeting as usual. Please report any issues you might have to him.

3. Reports

• Stewardship Committee Highlight: (Moved up on the Agenda to accommodate Dwight's schedule) To the Directors, Dwight, the Project Coordinator for Mountain Park, reported on past and present activities with a highlight on Tanglewood Park. He gave detailed background information and showed photos of "before" and "after" conditions of this open space which provides some of the headwaters to Springbrook Creek. Dwight mentioned the stormwater discharge problems which include flashing affects and incisement of the corridors. The 2012 Master Plan has been updated and revised with Zsolt Lehoczky's competent leadership. The focus is now on enhancing wildlife habitat, removing invasive species, managing stormwater, reconstructing trails and adding interpretive signage. OWEB funded projects were implemented between 2016-2019. The pictures of lush restorative vegetation in aquarian and wetland areas illustrate how well planned and implemented Tanglewood Park Project was. Captured waters, now allowed to infiltrate rather than run-off and contribute to the negative impacts of flash waters, fulfill a vital, functional role for habitat restoration while also providing aesthetic enjoyment. Dwight ended his report concentrating on what is next on the environmental agenda and the hope of integrating the Mountain Park group with Westlake plans. Dwight opened the floor for questions and discussion. Stephanie recognized the vital, responsive role played by Mountain Park HOA. With characteristic enthusiasm, Dwight provided gratefulness to the work accomplished by so many partners. He credits community work days, recruiting, and mature partner development. The PowerPoint will be placed on GoogleDocs by Jack.

- **Watershed Coordinator:**

- Projects: Jack gave a few updates: This Saturday, March 14th, a planting event headed by the LOHS Green Team will take place. Jack thought that this would be a smaller group with growing concerns over gathering events with the viral threat. Tom and Kat will be assisting Jack to help give 200 native plants a new home. The Green Team raised the entire \$400 for plant purchases. The Westlake Project area is scheduled for next weekend but pending--contingent on viral concerns. Tryon Creek Watershed had seven sites initially scheduled; but four cancelled with this one still going on. Precautions for volunteer safety will be taken and bathroom facilities will be available.
- Background Check Policy: With increased OLWC cooperative restorative work with high school students, a policy of background checks is being worked out to help ensure safe interactions. A draft submitted by Stephanie and Jack will be sent out for critical evaluation so we may decide on a finished draft to adopt next meeting.
- Volunteer Events: Two dates are scheduled next week with Wisdom of the Elders at Village on the Lake Project site. Laurent has done herbicide application at the Westlake Site and at VOL targeting lesser celandine (*Ranunculus ficaria*). Jack is working on relationship building begun by Denny Barnes to procure agreement with property owners to remove shining geranium (*Geranium lucidum*) threatening the project site since it has spread over an upper rock escarpment. Jack had procured some high-quality custom vinyl stickers with our logo to put on things like tabling events or prizes. Volunteer training program is scheduled for April 4th though Jack thinks that he may have to change and reschedule due to virus threat. The Green Team has made training record videos on tree ivy removal. This could be added to the resource section of our website and may invite more informational videos.

- **Outreach Specialist:**

- State of the Watershed Event: Kat updated Directors on the upcoming “virtual” State of Watershed that had been scheduled April 8th. A video of partnership successes is underway with a social media outreach planned prior to release. Please send pictures and photos to Kat of people and wildlife in the environs.
- Arbor Week: Kat gave the theme as a Community Tree Ivy Removal with people vying for “Tree Hero” status. People will be directed to remove ivy from trees on their property or with permission granted on other venues. Pictures will be sent to Kat by “heroes” through a hashtag on social media outlets. This should help raise more awareness of the threat ivy poses to tree health.
- Trees on Campus: Kat has met with some teachers and is establishing relationships at Lakeridge High School and Oak Creek Elementary; and has helped calendar a two day ivy pull at Uplands Elementary.
- Tree Summit – Urban Forest Committee follow-up: Kat has notes from this meeting which she will email and post on GoogleDrive for Directors to review. She will be contacting the chairs of various Neighborhood Associations for presentations.

- **City of LO Charter X Amendment:** Stephanie updated the monthly progress. She has met with City Staff who were supportive of an alternative amendment. Stephanie listened to their concerns about drafted language and listened to expressed concerns. Yet she emphasizes the need to name natural areas applicable for this amendment. She asked for help in filling out a spreadsheet on our PNA zones that would give criteria for prioritizing and selecting. The draft is with the City Attorney, David Powell. But with the City dealing with the virus and the contentious issue of a community swimming pool, she

thinks it may take time. Stephanie's desire is to have identified problems addressed before conferring again with Scott Handley. City Council seems positive, in her mind, for a vote. But she hopes Scott would rescind his proposed amendment. Mike had a meeting with Parks staff people on the need for prioritization of our community's natural resources which relates to how we minimize impact and development in these sensitive areas. Stephanie believes that the draft should be finalized in a month. Ballot measures need a two-thirds vote for passage.

New Business

- **Events and Religious Holidays:** Stephanie said that major religious events are actually looked at for potential conflicts by OLWC leadership. She asked that Directors notify Jack if they are aware of communally sensitive times. He already has a list of major ones from Google calendar. Jack is willing to make a calendar adapted to our individualized needs.

- **Cancellation for health concerns:** During this viral threat time, Jack talked about policies on visitation, cancellation, need for taking health precautions and mitigating outdoor work concerns. He said we will always let people choose not to attend scheduled events.

Mike mentioned the need for a discussion on what species are we willing to tolerate as we envision restoration. We are basically removing mostly groundcovers yet a host of new ones keep getting reintroduced. How do we handle this kind of ongoing maintenance? How do we support a process realizing capacity and funding? Clackamas County Weedwise Program classifies based on realistic management approaches. Jack said they follow a procedure of observation and treating followed by a containment phase and maintenance. What is our end-product vision? We see the need to set realistic management goals. This seems like a good agenda topic for our Stewardship Committee. Finally, Jack asked for feedback on the newsletter content. He and Kat are trying to increase the frequency of these public newsletter outreaches. They also look forward to featuring events like Earth Day.

6. Meeting Adjourned at 9:19am

Next Meeting: April 10, 2020

