

OSWEGO LAKE WATERSHED COUNCIL

MEETING MINUTES

Friday, September 13, 2019

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, Tom Bland, Jim Fisher, Barbara Fisher, Mike Buck, Sarah Asby, Mary Ratcliff, Mark Rosenkranz, Tom Berridge, and Thomas Benson. Jack Halsey, our new Watershed Coordinator was present. Sarah Ellison from Hallinan Heights Woods, Zsolt Lehoczky from Mountain Park, and Denny Barnes from Village on the Lake were also present. Jack is “super excited” to get started and get familiar with our watershed projects. Embodying a native Oregonian upbringing, Jack briefly shared his academic history which included Pitzer College (a member of the Claremont colleges) with a degree in environmental science; his job experiences which brought him back to the state for work at Tryon State Park and then to Johnson Creek as an AmeriCorps volunteer. The Board gave him a hearty welcome!

2. Operations

• Minutes:

Resolved: August 9, 2019 minutes were unanimously approved.

• Finance Report: Tom reported that we had \$17,288.00 in our Banner Bank and PayPal accounts. He said we had a three year contract for the Westlake Project amounting to \$78,000 in HEP funding. This would help fulfill the restoration goals of tree removal for oak woodland there. One quarter of the finances will be up front and then one quarter paid over the years of the grant.

3. Reports

• Personnel—new Watershed Coordinator: Jack had been introduced at the beginning of the Board meeting.

• Stewardship Committee:

*** Village on the Lake Project:** Mike had sent out to Stephanie for distribution to the Board our OLWC Potential Restoration Site form. This two acre HOA natural open space has suffered from lack of maintenance and needs restorative work to prevent further degrading loss of habitat and riparian functional values. Both Mike and Denny briefed the Board on current conditions and helped answer queries from board members regarding process. Jim Fisher had also been present at the initial orientation tour and assisted in this initial site inspection evaluation. Mike said we had enough knowledge to assess need and feasibility but would want more data to

determine a three year scope of project. Stephanie perceived this site as an excellent candidate for an OWEB grant which comes out in September and could enable \$15,000 if criteria were met. The OLWC would need a signed cooperative agreement and Stephanie and Mike could attend the Village on the Lake HOA board meeting September 17th to introduce and orient board members regarding exploratory plans that stemmed from Denny Barnes' invitation. The board recognized some time urgency to "get all these ducks in a row" for grant request. This HOA open space area contains the Lily Bay Tributary and a member inquired about the larger area including Lily Bay itself. Mike said a Friends group exists and works with Parks and Recreation to help remove invasives and plant natives in that area. He advised we take this one step at a time and yet seeing expansive potential lends even more rationale to move forward on this site. After Tom made a motion to present this project to the HOA Board and Mark seconded the motion, the Board voted.

Resolved: The OLWC unanimously votes to bring forward this potential project to Village on the Lake HOA Board.

Denny asked to be on the Watershed Council to serve as liaison for this project. Stephanie emphasized the need to listen and let the HOA Board be in the "driver's seat" on our proceeding. Denny had briefed Mike and Jim about the sensitivities of this site for the neighbors, so everything undertaken would be respectful of this awareness by mitigating any felt intrusions.

* **Westlake Oaks:** Tom said Native Ecosystems Northwest is reviewing the native trees and invasives needing removal to help enhance the oak woodland. The operative strategy is to remove trees overshadowing oaks and open up the canopy for understory regeneration. Non-native hawthorne seedbank is a problem still to contend with. Tom said that the tree removal will take place over two years and a chipper will be used to break up the branches. Emphasis is placed on organic treatment and monitoring capability is built into the grants. Some related discussion topics concerned traditional use of oak woodlands by native tribes and potential expansion of this project to contiguous areas.

* **Photo point monitoring:** Barbara oriented members on taking and recording photo points. She said eight of our ten projects now have photo points in our database. Stephanie said she was waiting for Jack being with us to do the pictures of Boutwell site. We now have photo point folders in the Stewardship Folder on Google Drive. Barbara closed this Stewardship portion of the meeting with the announcement that the Committee will be meeting directly after this meeting with the hope that our recommended changes can be presented to the Board in a month or two. One area of needed facileness is member use of Google drive for which a training session is being planned.

• **Climate Action Plan:** Mary wants to schedule a time to help orient members on how to use the selected tree database technology. She briefly explained how trees picked up by GPS coordinator could be dropped into a spreadsheet. This can be very helpful for projects like Westlake where trees need to be identified for

removal.

- **Tree Summit:** Stephanie reported on the continued planning for this October 5th morning interactive forum where she will lead a presentation on tree benefits with Zsolt concentrating on tree stewardship. Though only twelve people had signed up, LOSN will be sending out a blast and posters are now up in many locations. With the emphasis on the summit capturing ideas of attendees, Stephanie said that guidance instructions will be written out for table captains or facilitators. She asked if anyone present would like to volunteer for helping at table discussions during this event. Denny, Barb, Jim and Mike affirmed they could. A suggestion to try and get students for recorders was also mentioned. An announcement of the Tree Summit will be posted on NextDoor and an Evite link is available to sign up.

- **Hallinan Woods:** Sarah lamented that a lot has not changed regarding the Yates property acquisition. She recounted that the City made an offer lower than the asking price a couple of months ago. What the City has as an appraisal amount is not public knowledge. Developers apparently have said that the property is not worth the current sales price inferring that the owners have too high an expectation. Some decision-makers seem to be willing to let the property and sale situation just sit while the market softens. Sarah wants to keep the issue alive during this interlude so Parks bond money for acquisition does not get forgotten or side-tracked. She thought about \$5 million had been the recommended amount reserved for acquisition. Jeff Gudman had a local newspaper article published regarding this but mentioned property in the Stafford basin, not Hallinan. Since a Metro bond is coming out, she thought that might be a better funding opportunity for outlying regional properties like Stafford. She seeks an approach to keep the Yates property at the top of the list for City purchase during this quiet time when negotiations seem curtailed.

4. New Business

- **Process for orientation and training of the new Watershed Coordinator:** Stephanie is working with Jack who will be getting familiar with all of our project sites as well as introduced to grant funding processes. He will be meeting with board coordinators to review site particulars and ongoing work plans. His work contract as Watershed Coordinator was signed on September 11, 2019. A Google calendar that he set up will record his labor hours. Jim showed documentation materials he has for hosting work parties and inquired about organizing all necessary fundamentals like first aid kit and tools in one place—besides inventoring them in a computer file. The need for identification badges was also mentioned.

5. Old Business

- **IRCO Internship review:** Stephanie thanked those who supported this summertime process. Admittedly, some aspects were deemed successful and others “painful.” She said we definitely needed a coordinator and advises we give a proposal to IRCO with expectations. She has completed evaluations for two of the interns. One of the three, Chase, is still working with Zsolt in Mountain Park.

- **Safety Procedures:** No comment.

- **Location for next meeting:** **Since Stewardship Committee’s orientation to the Board will be postponed until November’s meeting, there will be no change in October’s meeting site.**

6. Public Comments and Announcements:

- **September 27th, Saturday, 10:00am-12:00pm, Westlake project**
- **September 21st, Electric Car Open House at the Oswego Heritage House at 10:00am**

Next Meeting: Friday, October 11, 2019

