

OSWEGO LAKE WATERSHED COUNCIL

MEETING MINUTES

Friday, February 7, 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, Tom Bland, Jim Fisher, Barbara Fisher, Mike Buck, Mary Ratcliffe, Mark Rosenkranz, Denny Barnes, Thomas Benson, Tom Berridge, Dwight Sangrey and Jack Halsey, our Watershed Project Coordinator. Joining the Board for the first time was Kat Maloney, our newly hired Community Outreach Specialist. Stephanie welcomed Kat first thing, and Kat gave us her educational and experiential scientific background which included a degree from PSU in Environmental Science and work at Johnson Creek Watershed Council, the Oregon Zoo and Friends with Trees. She is anxious to work with us!

2. Operations

• Minutes:

Resolved: Minutes for January 10, 2019 were unanimously approved.

• Finance Report: Our treasurer, Tom, reported a balance of \$27,184.09. A check for liability insurance with new coverage provisions has been issued. The books have been reconciled through January.

• Volunteer hour tracking: Jack has been sending out the link for individual reporting. He said a board member can go through the given time periods and update one by one or perform multiple entries.

3. Reports

• Watershed Coordinator: Jack briefly went over the two MLK events sponsored by the Council: Invasive removal at Lake Oswego High School with around 90 students volunteering; and a native planting at Gans. Two events are scheduled in February: Lakeridge High School with their green team supervised by Kat on February 15th; and on the same day, a Westlake invasive species removal headed up by Jack. Regarding the OWEB-approved Village on the Lake HOA site, removal was continuing according to the work plan and Wisdom of the Elders was scheduled this month. Jack will send a request for the agreed upon funding arrangement to the HOA. Tom said he could do the invoice if needed. Jack said he was waiting upon signed access agreements by adjacent neighbors. On the Westlake Project site, the tree inventory has been completed with native trees tagged for removal, girdling or falling. Jack plans on a volunteer leader training in March and this program is designed for anyone who leads volunteers for our Council. He will open this to the public for any leader working to benefit natural open

spaces. The session will be geared for field work but also cover aspects of vulnerability training. Jack is looking at the Hope Community Church to take advantage of indoor and outdoor space Accommodation. The ACC would be a secondary recommendation site.

- **Stewardship Committee:** Tom Bland gave a description of the Wembley Park Project which began in 2018. Having learned more specific property line boundaries, he noted how many invasives had been removed on a neighboring parcel whose owner was appreciative! This project site is also contiguous with Springbrook Park whose Friends group has a work party on February 22nd. The focus for this work party will be ivy removal along the trail from Diane Drive. The grant period for the Wembley Park Project ends June, 2021. More work parties will be needed to complete the restoration. Tom noted that the property owner and renter situation is in flux so new communication and agreements are expected.

Barbara, in one of her last actions as Chair of the Watershed Committee, sent out meeting minutes for January 23rd. Tom Berridge agreed to accept the chair in lieu of Barbara's stepping down. Barbara said that currently our Council has no policy in our by-laws for committees. The Stewardship Committee recommended to Council a vote on this issue. Tom proposed and Dwight recommended bringing it to the Council. Stephanie thought we could develop it as a policy. She also asked what other committees might be envisioned for approval—like Governance and Finance, Development, Education, Outreach, etc. The Council took a vote with a unanimous approval for our Stewardship Committee organization. In conclusion of Stewardship report, Jack talked about the necessity for updating landowner communication which becomes difficult with just one Board Coordinator for project sites. And Kat mentioned her appreciation for our GoogleDrive site with its access and data.

- **Tree Summit:** Stephanie gave an update on the follow-up from this City-wide summit. Kat has rescheduled a meeting with the Summit organizing committee focusing on the formation of urban forest committees. This will be her introduction to the Committee and finding out what individual neighborhood associations perceive as their top priorities. Mike, with the Lake Grove NA, drafted a mission and objective draft that was approved for their association. He has sent it to Tom for Upland NA purview as well as to Hallinan through Jim and Barbara. Urban Forest Committees could also be utilized for HOA's and Jack thought some of these groups could be grouped together. Jack would assume responsibility for the HOA grouping. Stephanie said that City Manager, Martha Bennett, was excited about this concept and wanted to know more about how the City will intercept with this. Some Councilors also share hopes in this reality. NA's can be a good resource for those property owners interested in restoration potential. The urban forest committees can also be a conduit for accountability.

- **Yates Property:** Jim gave an update on this two acre site, long sought after for inclusion into natural open space. He said Mike originally outlined our Council's project contract area which has been expanded into adjacent wetlands. Jim has made a lot of progress with holly removal, and once laurel has been eliminated, the site should be near a maintenance status. The site is still conceived as a six residential parcel development. Mike talked with the past realtor who said that the owners (Khameni's) planned on doing the development. Stephanie talked with Parks regarding the bond money for acquisition purposes. Though the City has an appraisal and offered a lower amount with some tax benefit, that offer never went anywhere. Stephanie proposed to Ivan Anderholm from Parks and Recreation that the City purchase the property near the appraised value but after procurement sell two lots to get them back to what they originally

offered. This would certainly be received more positively in the neighborhood. At least it presents another approach to move forward with the Yates property. Jim wanted members to also read Debbie Craig's letter in *The Lake Oswego Review*. Lastly, for removing invasive trees at Hallinan School, Jim mentioned the possibility of having a "resource conservation project" that would follow under the umbrella of the forest management provision in our City Tree Code. Barbara is attempting to get permission for chainsaw work and chipper equipment. This is the site where the regional River to River Trail is slated.

- **City of LO Charter X Amendment:** Stephanie went to the PARKS Board along with other Council members to speak against this amendment. As it turns out, though PARKS Board members were unanimously opposed, they could not make a public oppositional statement due to the political nature and their status as extended employees when serving in this capacity. Stephanie did cordially meet with Scott Handley. She is working with a group to provide an alternative amendment language that he might agree with and suspend this Charter X proposal. Nancy Gronowski is drafting that alternative and four Councilors are supportive for some better direction than the Charter X Amendment. Since Scott did not receive the necessary signatures for a May ballot, he is continuing to gather the required amount for a November ballot placement. Stephanie received assurances from Martha Bennett that a deed amendment will go forward that does not allow a communication tower on Cooke's Butte.

4. New Business

- **Insurance—Background Checks:** Jack is in contact with Portland Parks and Recreation on information for policy relating to background checks. Mary also suggested checking with the Audubon Society to learn their own procedures. Oregon Watershed Association requires councils to deal with this issue of safety and care for children. Hopefully, Friends group can deal with it in their March meeting. Our insurance policy was changed to include this coverage as well as herbicide treatment.

- **State of the Watershed Event Tuesday March 31:** Kat said the date is solidified and it will be held at the Hawthorne Room of Mountain Park Homeowners Association. She will be attending to donors for food, supplies, raffle surprises, etc. The hours are from 6:00-8:00pm. Given the organization required for a successful event, a committee formation was mentioned and Mary willingly responded with others needing to check availability. Jack will reach out to the Stewardship Committee for participating at tables. Kat solicited for feedback at her email address: kat@oswegowatershed.org

5. Public Comments and Announcements: Denny talked about the Chinese Cultural monument and Barb gave out four watershed safety vests.

Meeting Adjourned at 9:30am.

Next Meeting: Friday, March 13, 2020 at 8:00am.

