

OSWEGO LAKE WATERSHED COUNCIL

MEETING MINUTES

Friday, November 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: (Online attendance) Stephanie Wagner, Larry Zurcher, Mike Buck, Mary Ratcliff, Jim Fisher, Barbara Fisher, with Jack Halsey, Watershed Coordinator and with Kat Maloney, Community Outreach Specialist.

2. Operations

- **Minutes:** A lack of quorum prevented approval of Minutes for October 9, 2020. (Members can suggest edits in future minutes on Google Docs, and Mike can make those recommendations permanent.)
- **Finance Report:** Stephanie attached the 3rd Quarter Financial Statement to the agenda and highlighted our mission work being in sync with our budget. We are right in line with our income. In the last quarter of the year, we will again include an earnest look at year-end fundraising.

3. Staff Reports

Watershed Coordinator--Jack

- **Westlake HOA Update:** The unique tree removal permit has been approved by the City for this oak release project. Four days are scheduled this winter for implementing removal work, and Jack informed members that nesting season will be avoided. The Westlake volunteer event for this Saturday has been cancelled due to the two week Covid-19 restrictions.
- **Village on the Lake Update:** Jack and Mike are working hard on planting native plugs, sowing grass seed and planted about a hundred native species on site yesterday. This work is ongoing weekly.
- **Giving Season:** The fund-raising season is close and Jack is gathering materials to contact both old and potentially new donors. If anyone on the Board can help or give on-line introductions to Jack, that would help build the existing donor base. Open solicitation time!
- **Wells Project Site Update:** Barb said the Wells Project scope is finalized, and she and Jack have started removing ivy off the trees. She said the ivy was dense and thick on very steep slopes which makes footing difficult. Jack said that the ivy had completely dominated the site. Spraying with herbicide is planned when conditions permit this. Erosion control will be considered when hand removal of ivy takes place on the riparian slopes.
- **Green Teams:** Jack reported that two volunteer events have been hosted with the LO High School Green Team. However, one event this week was cancelled due to viral prevention care. Progress continues on the forested area above the Boones Ferry Road corridor at Lake Oswego High School. Jack has talked with the Street Maintenance Department since some of this property is right-of-way. The steep slope will limit some hand removal and prompt herbicide treatment. Some questions regarding whether mitigation can happen on this site will need answering when our community comes up with an urban forest management plan that actually addresses this kind of planning and implementation.

- **Outreach Specialist--Kat**
- **iTree City Collaboration: NA**
- **iTree Training: NA**
- **Tree Summit Update:** (Stephanie gave this report since Kat was reassigned the last two weeks for grant writing responsibilities.) This planned Tree Summit will occur on Saturday, November 21st. Stephanie said we had 59 people already signed up. We have a wonderful speaker in Kristin Ramstad, the program liaison with Urban and Community Forestry for the Oregon Department of Forestry. She will address the driver of climate change on our urban forest stewardship concerns. A request was made that the agenda be placed on the website so people can see it when signing up. The planned break-out sessions will allow for community input on pertinent issues. Nate Foster of the LO Green Team has helped get students signed up for this event. This Summit will determine how we formalize a long term plan on our urban forest maintenance level and iTree program. Hopefully, the Summit will inspire people to become more engaged and involved. Break out leaders are needed and Stephanie asked Board members to help with facilitation on the break-out sessions on various topics. The LOSN defers to our Watershed Council when “on the ground” information regarding natural resources comes up. We have a strong partnership with them as well as with people coming from NextDoor. Stephanie will reach out to Scott Handley about his thoughts as well as our newly elected Councilors and Mayor in pursuit of directions for preservation of natural resources. We should plan input to give City Council’s goal setting session in January regarding an overarching Urban Forest Management Plan. Post-Summit assessments will provide data and input regarding this. Jim requested that the Yates property purchase be included in one of these venues with City Council. Stephanie thought this could be included in our outreach list of concerns to Council.
- **Grey Grant for Soil Your Undies campaign.** Kat reported that the application was due by the end of this day. She said how helpful were good letters of recommendation that will accompany the application materials. Decisions on acceptance by the review committee will be communicated in February.

4. Committee Reports

- **Stewardship Committee Report--Tom Berridge:** Committee Minutes were posted on the website. At the Twin Fir site which was not selected by the City, Jack reported that an OWEB grant was cited as a possibility; and he will apply for it since there is a December deadline. Barb mentioned criteria for future site selection. We can work on City property with natural resources in need of restoration. This would need coordination with Parks and Recreation (Megan Big John) who has primary responsibility at some of the PNA sites.
- **Education and Outreach Committee--Stephanie:** This Committee has been looking at how to best support the Tree Summit especially in the technical organization required.
- **Equity Action Team--Jack:** The first meeting was in October and Committee members are looking forward to a December meeting. Initially, they discussed priorities and the planning scope of this action team and whom to invite for ongoing participation. They are seeking input from community members. They arrived at a consensus for a fourth goal to add on the Strategic Plan. Mary thought a good beginning had transpired. Stephanie said that keeping notes would be beneficial. Jack has notes and can go back and retrieve essential considerations.

5. Old Business

- **Strategic Planning--Review Goals:** The refined Plan will be sent to members by Stephanie for a virtual vote so we have by January a document. Stephanie shared her screen, and these were the next steps for coming up with a more comprehensive draft. Members were complimentary regarding progress made on each goal but further work was obviously needed as conversations indicated. Individual goals will be reconsidered by respective OLWC Committees: Stewardship Committee to address Goal 2; Education and Outreach is responsible for Goal 3; and the newly formed Equity Action Team will submit a new Goal 4. Mike mentioned that though we may “finalize” the goals’ wording, when we tackle objectives under each goal, that exploration may elucidate how we verbalize the goals so we should retain some tentativeness. Stephanie agreed. Members

would like Committees to do this in December for a vote by January. Whether we can do the integration of the Strategic Plan goals at a Board meeting or at a another specially set Board meeting time will be addressed by

Stephanie in consultation with us.

6. Public Comments and Announcements: Mary announced activities associated with the Wild Arts Festival happening this weekend: sustainable food practices, climate change, food arts, etc. She will send out an invitation to members by email. Mike mentioned Friends of Iron Mountain work parties, Sunday, November 15th at 1:00pm.

7. Meeting Adjourns: 9:50am

Next Meeting: December 11, 2020; 8:00am - 9:30am