

OLD TOWN NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

Minutes of the Old Town Neighborhood Association General Meeting Thursday, October 19, 2023

The meeting was in person at the Lakewood Center in the Arts Room. Chair Betsy Wosko called to order at 7:04 PM (with a motion by Carrie Kaufman, second and unanimous vote). Board members attending were Chair Betsy Wosko, Secretary Craig Stephens, Treasurer Laurie Carlson and Directors Carrie Kaufman, Jeannie McGuire, Bruce Glabau and Derrith Lambka. Also participating were Kyra Haggart (Parks and Rec), Robin Krakauer (Parks and Rec), Ines Bojlesen, Colleen Van Houten, Larry Bruun, Nancy Osborne, Michael Schmidt, Collene Glabau, Kathleen Wiens, Allie Molen (Oswego Lake Watershed Council), Jeff Wiens and Doug Thomas. Guest speakers were Rick Hatfield, a conservation biologist with the Xerces Society and Leah Puhlman, a Master Gardener and a champion for native bees and sustainable practices for landscaping and natural areas.

Carrie made a motion to approve the Minutes from the previous (Oct. 2022) General Meeting. The motion was seconded and the Minutes were approved by unanimous vote of Board Members.

The Treasurer's Report by Laurie indicated the account for the OTNA is \$389..

Guest speaker Rich Hatfield provided a video "slide show" focused on his work with bumble bees specifically and invertebrates in general. He indicated that his interest in talking to groups about the habitat damage by insecticides was triggered by receiving assurances from a pesticide applicator that the chemicals applied were not toxic when in fact they were. He mentioned the disruption and mass eradication events that humans have been doing regarding the population of bees and other invertebrate species by insecticides and herbicides. For butterflies the plant species can be very specific and that, other the adaptation needed to adjust to climate change, native plants are more well adapted to the area they are native to and the invertebrates to them. The lack of preservation of habitat led to the extinction of the Xerces Blue Butterfly in the Bay Area of California. The high persistence of toxicity of certain insecticides was mentioned with neonicotinoids having a toxic effect for seven years and at very low concentrations for example. Glyphosate (Round Up) was mentioned as widely used and over-used and damaging effects on humans and pets have been documented. Several questions and comments were answered and discussed about details especially regarding bumblebees, Mr. Hatfield's particular area of expertise. One strategy for giving a home to insects is to "Leave the Leaves", at least some of them and in general to have a somewhat "messy" yard that allows for the particular species needed by invertebrates to complete their life cycle which is sometimes very specific as to a host species. The sad decline of numbers of all species was noted.

Guest speaker Leah Puhlman is a Master Gardener, Co-Owner of Humble Habitat Garden and is a champion for sustainability with particular interest in saving native Mason Bees. She has demonstrated landscaping that provides diversity of habitat and biodiversity that involve several pillars of action that can be described as "Compassionate Gardening". Emphasis is placed on avoiding pesticides and the damage that complete weeding and mowing and removal of all green species with further exposure of hard bare dirt using high

speed yard blowers can and does do. The bare areas in our neighborhood where lush growth used to be before removed for easy landscaping was pointed out by Leah who toured the neighborhood with Betsy in advance of the meeting. Leah answered a number of questions and discussed details further. Leah mentioned two books that are inspirational: "Nature's Justice" by William O. Douglas and "Nature's Best Hope – A New Approach to Conservation" by Douglas W. Tallamy. Invertebrates were estimated to have 80% of the animal species on earth 20 years ago. Now the estimate is 97% and are basic to life on the planet in many ways.

Thanks to the passion of Rich and Leah for providing insight into the status and value of invertebrates and how we can practice good stewardship with their presentation and commitment.

Allie Molen, who is with Oswego Lake Watershed Council, invited all to the 5th Annual Tree Summit. It is presented by the Oswego Lake Watershed Council in partnership with the Lake Oswego Sustainability Network and is titled "Our Urban Forest: Rooted In Care and Commitment" and will be at the Hawthorne Room at the Mountain Park Clubhouse, 2 Mt. Jefferson Terrace in Lake Oswego, Saturday, Nov. 4th from 9 AM to Noon. The keynote speaker this year will be Scot Allenhoff who is the Urban and Community Forester with the Oregon Department of Forestry. Registration is to be done on-line to register your attendance. A form is provided in google docs by going to oswegowatershed.org and clicking on "Register for Lake Oswego Tree Summit 2023".

Kyra Haggert and Robin Krakauer, who are with Lake Oswego Parks and Recreation (and thanks were proffered to Kyra for facilitating the scheduling and completion of the tennis court back-conversion and of the lower George Rogers Park picnic shelter with the improved architecture), showed an exhibit of how comments on the Parks Plan 2040, which is now being written to replace older Master Plans for Parks and Natural Areas, would be received using red sticky dots that can be pasted into pre-assigned priority slots by groups who will be asked to comment and indicate preferred preferences. The City is currently collecting input from residents, local community groups and boards, business owners, and subject matter experts. For more information contact Kyra, attend a scheduled meeting, and review the information on the Lake Oswego City website. In light of the presentation by Rich Hatfield and Leah Puhlman, there could be a discussion about including protection of pollinators and people being a part of the Parks Plan 2040 and a place for red dots for that.

Announcements:

Callene Glabau talked about a couple of cars that were usually parked each night on Ladd Street in front of her house and across from George Rogers Park. There is no obvious answer as to how to help or reduce the homelessness.

Annual Board Election for Officers and Directors:

Nominations for Board Positions were solicited and self-nominations were made by the present Officers and Directors. The Chair, Betsy, indicated that new leadership would bring a new outlook that might be desirable but those present expressed strong support for Betsy to continue. Acceptance of the Slate of Officers and Directors in the same position as last time was motioned by Carrie and seconded and passed by unanimous vote. Chair Betsy was given a gift card from the Board in appreciation of all the excellent work she has tirelessly put in to providing the forum and the speakers for the OTNA Board Meetings and Activities.

The traditional drawing was held for the flowers that Carrie brought. Thanks to Carrie for bringing the flowers. Thanks to Betsy for yummy noshes and beverages that were supplied by Petunia's Pies and Pastries.

A motion to adjourn was made by by Derrith, seconded and accepted by a unanimous vote of those attending at 9;00 PM.

Minutes respectively submitted by Craig Stephens, Secretary

Please visit our website and spread the word that it is a wonderful representation of our neighborhood and of Lake Oswego in general, recently enhanced and actively maintained by Doug Thomas (thank you Doug!) with photos and welcoming more: oldtownlakeoswego.org