



## MEMORANDUM

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**TO:** CAC Work Group on Oswego Lake Access Public Comment

**FROM:** Laura Weigel, Associate Planner  
Sarah Selden, Associate Planner

**DATE:** January 13, 2012

**SUBJECT:** Review of Lake Access Comments and Process Recommendation to CAC

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### **ACTION**

Review the attached public comments related to Oswego Lake access that have been received through December 14, 2011. Develop a recommendation to the CAC regarding:

- a) Whether lake access should be addressed through the Comprehensive Plan update process, and
- b) If it is to be addressed, how and on what topics.

The purpose of the work group is not to consider whether lake access should be provided, but to evaluate the public comments made thus far and to determine whether the CAC should address it in the plan or if it should be addressed in another manner.

### **BACKGROUND**

At the September 28, 2011 CAC meeting, the CAC discussed a request by Planning Commissioner Todd Prager to consider a range of policy alternatives regarding Oswego Lake accessibility as part of the Comprehensive Plan update. As a result of trying to work through this request, the CAC outlined a general process for evaluating citizen proposals and requests such as this. The CAC continued to receive comments regarding Oswego Lake access over the next two months and at the Community Culture Summit, which included discussions on recreation. All of the public comment on the topic has now been compiled.

On December 14, the CAC met to review public comment from the summit and draft goals and policies for the Community Culture action area of the plan. Due to the range of comments both supporting and opposing public lake access, the complexity of the issue, and the CAC's full schedule to meet the City's Periodic Review deadline, the CAC decided it was appropriate to form a small work group to evaluate the comments (the CAC charge statement provides for work group formation when necessary). The CAC approved a focused work group charge statement directing the group to review comments related to lake access, and make a recommendation to the full CAC regarding if and how the issue should be addressed through the Comprehensive Plan update process.

## DISCUSSION

Attached to this memo is a copy of all public comment regarding Oswego Lake access that have been received by the City between July 2010 when the plan update project launched, through December 14, 2012 when the work group was formed. Comments were received through the following channels:

- Community Values and Vision Survey (August – September 2010)
- October Community Workshops, group discussions (October 12 and 16, 2010)
- Community Culture Summit, group discussions (November 3, 2011)
- Community Culture Virtual Summit (November 1-13, 2011)
- E-mails to the CAC received via [welovelo@ci.oswego.or.us](mailto:welovelo@ci.oswego.or.us) or via staff (through December 14, 2011)

Due to the volume of comments received through the Virtual Summit, these comments have also been summarized as Attachment C.

The attached work group charge statement outlines the group's purpose and task. The following considerations from the CAC "new issues protocol" are included in the charge for the work group's discussion. To aid the work group in completing their discussion within one or two two-hour meetings, some initial summary information is provided.

The Work Group may consider the following:

- **What level of interest has been received regarding Lake access, both in favor of and opposed to, through the public engagement process?** For those in favor, what type of access is being requested? For those opposed, what is the reason for opposition?
  - Based on the comments being reviewed by the work group, 61 support, 70 oppose, and 12 are neutral about public access to Oswego Lake. See Attachment B for a more detailed breakdown.

- **How is the subject addressed or not addressed in the existing Comprehensive Plan?**
  - Goal 5, Section 7: Oswego Lake addresses the lake primarily from an environmental perspective related to water quality. The goal states:

*"The City shall protect the natural resource, energy, aesthetic and recreation values of Oswego Lake. "*

Plan policies that relate to access and recreation are:

1. *Cooperate with the Lake Oswego Corporation to protect the natural resource, energy, aesthetic and recreation values of Oswego Lake.*
2. *Establish significant public viewpoints to assure that residents of the community can identify with and enjoy Oswego Lake.*
3. *Work with the Lake Oswego School District to preserve its rights to the existing swimming easement in the Lake Grove Area Swim Park.*

- **Does the proposal fall under the tasks required as part of the City's periodic review work program?**
  - The State requires the City to update Plan elements related to Goal 9: Economic Development, Goal 10: Housing, Goal 11: Public Facilities and Services, and Goal 12: Transportation. Updates related to recreation, open space and water quality are not Periodic Review requirements.
- **Is the proposal consistent with, or does it help to implement, the 2035 Vision statement?**
  - A specific lake access proposal has not been defined therefore it cannot yet be determined whether it helps to implement the vision. In discussing the attached public comments, the work group may help to clarify the proposal or decide that it is not clear what is being proposed.
- **The Work Group may also raise other considerations as appropriate.**

## **RECOMMENDATION**

The work group has been asked to make a recommendation on whether the public access to Oswego Lake should be addressed as part of the Comprehensive Plan update, and if so, how and on what topics. Following are a range of general options for the CAC to consider in making their recommendation:

1. Recommend that the CAC does not address public lake access as part of the Comprehensive Plan update.
2. Recommend that a Comprehensive Plan policy be developed to explore the issue further as a follow up Comprehensive Plan action (a specific proposal for access would be explored as part of the Action Plan development).
3. Recommend that a second CAC work group may be formed as part of the Plan update process to develop an understanding of the background related to access to Oswego Lake, including but not limited to:
  - Historic context
  - Legal implications
  - Fiscal Impacts

## **Next Steps**

Once the work group has developed a recommendation, it will be forwarded to the CAC for their consideration on January 25, 2012. The CAC will have an opportunity to discuss and respond to the recommendation. A summary of the considerations and recommendation will be forwarded to the Planning Commission. The Planning Commission has reserved time on their February 12 meeting agenda to discuss the recommendation.

## **Attachments**

- A. Work Group Charge Statement
- B. All comments regarding Oswego Lake Access received through December 14, 2011
- C. Summary of Virtual Open House Comments