



## **Tualatin Hills Park & Recreation District Nature & Trails Advisory Committee Minutes**

**Date: 4/28/2021**

**Time: 6:00 PM – Joint Session**

**7:00 PM NTAC Session**

**Location: Zoom**

### **In Attendance**

Committee Members: Margaret Hite, Laura Porter, Sam Scheerens, Alison Rhea, Sheri Wantland (chair), James Wright, Katy Brumbelow (joined 7:14)

Board Liaison: none

Staff: Bruce Barbarasch, Hanna Doernhofer

Guests: none

### **I. Call to Order 7:00pm**

**II. Approval of Minutes:** Sam moved to approve the minutes, Alison seconded; minutes approved.

### **III. Check-in**

Marty visited the Tualatin Hills Nature Park – she loved the one-way trail system and went for a very nice walk. Laura has been riding her bike around Portland and noted that THPRD trails are not in the many bicycle guidebooks. She advocated for mileage maps for the trail system. Sam has also been bicycling with his granddaughter to district parks and appreciates the variety of park amenities. Alison visited Lowami Hart Woods and made a new friend at the park. James loves Recuerdo Park; his children showed up in another staff presentation. Sheri attended the Tualatin Valley Hwy trail stakeholder advisory committee meeting, which will offer additional public input in May (current preferred alignment is Blanton Street).

### **IV. New Business**

#### **A. Hanna Doernhofer – Community Engagement Ranger:**

Hanna is the community engagement ranger for the district. She works on volunteer coordination including park stewardship and ambassador programs, educational programs and park adoption. She also supports the nature and trails team. Since her tenure began Hanna has focused on involving and engaging the Latinx community. She is currently working on the City Nature Challenge program which she described. She encourages the community to head out and join the challenge.

#### **B. Crystal Durbecq – Habitat Assessment Survey**

Crystal described the habitat assessment program. The Natural Resources Functional Plan (NRFP) sets guidelines for some required data collection using a rubric NRFP that helps decide where and what data to collect. Staff recently completed a three-season long habitat delineation and vegetation study. The study surveyed 93 sites out of 129 with a focused on the highest functioning sites. James asked about sample method, validation, and what Crystal would change looking forward to climate change. Crystal clarified that this was a rapid assessment and not a statistical analysis, a qualitative approach with a validation period that followed. During the next survey Crystal would also like to look at tree health, as she has already seen a decline in stand health related to climate change. Allison asked if the site assessments were available for the

public. Crystal is working on maps over the next year with the information they collected. Allison asked about educational opportunities with youth and citizen scientists, and restoration practices lessons learned. Crystal was excited to use this data for future educational programs. Sam asked if the report is used for budgeting. Crystal said that it has informed management decisions on resource allocation. Katy asked if there was a process for data collection after a significant event (e.g. fire or flood.) Crystal said there is not a specific process, but in practice those sites are surveyed after the event. Katy emphasized the difference between human and natural stewardship. Bruce reminded the committee that while they don't specifically measure human vs natural stewardship, some human intervention is necessary to keep nature areas free from invasives. Sam asked about invasives in South Cooper Mountain coming from residential areas; Bruce acknowledged it is a concern.

V. Closing: Sheri asked if the group would like to take a field trip; Bruce will help plan it. Katy would like to discuss grant proposal ideas in the next session.

**Next Meeting will be held on 5/19/2021 at 6:30 PM**

Meeting adjourned at 8:05 PM

Respectfully submitted,  
James Wright

Recording Secretary