



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

Date: 1/19/22
Time: 7:00-8:00pm
Location: Zoom

In Attendance

Committee Members: Heather AbuSneineh, Katy Brumbelow, Margaret “Marty” Hite (chair), Shirley Hoffmann, Sridevi Kothandapani, Erik Lehr, Sam Scheerens

Board Liaison: Felicita Monteblanco

Staff: Bruce Barbarasch

Guests: None.

I. Call to Order

Marty call the meeting to order at 7:02pm.

II. Approval of Minutes

The group reviewed the minutes for the October 2021 and December 2021 meetings. Sam moved to approve the minutes. Katy seconded. There was no discussion, and the minutes were unanimously approved.

IV. Old Business

None.

V. New Business

The group did introductions. Welcome from the chair: Each person present responded to the following two questions

- What do you want to get from your involvement on this committee?
- What is a favorite place or experience in THPRD?

Bruce provided an overview of the park district’s Nature & Trails program and a general overview of the committee.

- The mission of THPRD Nature & Trails is connecting people to nature through education, stewardship, and trails.
- The NTAC takes a district-wide perspective when providing feedback to the board and staff.
- Our role is as representatives of the community that the district serves. The staff informs, the committee advises, the board decides, and the staff executes.
- The committee discussed various avenues for gathering feedback and perspectives from the wider community:
 - Peer groups
 - Our own lived experience
 - Park ambassador program
 - Chatting with random people you meet, either on the trails or in daily life
 - Next Door web application
 - Volunteer to staff a booth at a THPRD event

Marty led a discussion of possible goals for the year. Marty discussed some ongoing topics that the committee has been working on, and members offered a few thoughts:

- a. Providing input to staff and board on plans. This may include updates to big picture plans such as the Vision Action Plan, Comprehensive and Functional Plans, as well as specific project plans for trails and natural area improvements.
- b. Inclusivity issues. Diversity, equity, and inclusion are a major focus of THPRD. The committee may be called on to comment on various outreach initiatives, data gathering, and so forth.
- c. Climate change issues. The committee may be asked for feedback on climate resiliency plans, disaster preparedness (for example: addressing increased wildfire risk), initiatives to reduce THPRD's carbon footprint (for example: adoption of electric vehicles), and more.
- d. Connectivity issues. The committee may be asked for input on priorities and specific projects to address trail gaps, land acquisition and other initiatives to improve connectivity of natural areas, wildlife corridors, waterways, habitat, and more.

The goals discussion will continue in the February meeting. The plan is to finalize a menu of topics that will guide meeting agenda for the remainder of 2022.

VI. Other

None.

VII. Next Meeting will be held on February 16, 6:30pm via Zoom.

Meeting adjourned at 8:00pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Sam Scheerens