

Nature & Trails Meeting Agenda: 10/17/17

Agenda Item		Background	Intended outcome	Minutes Needed
	Call to order & minutes approval		Approve August minutes.	5
	Guest Comments	If there are visitors who wish to speak on a topic not on the agenda, they may have three minutes to do so.	Allow public to share ideas with the committee.	5
Old business				
	Toolkit	Review and wrap up toolkit.		15
New business	Prioritize projects	Committee has completed some, but not all goals for the year.	Decide what to pursue.	25
	View from Bruce's desk	Greenway Park Master Plan	Information only.	5
	Amphibian Monitoring	Staff will share results of volunteer amphibian egg monitoring program.	Information only.	10
Other	December elections	Consider if you would like to serve as chair or secretary in 2018.	Information only.	5
	Upcoming Meetings	We need to decide when to meet for the rest of the year.		5
Action items: a) None.				



Tualatin Hills Park & Recreation District ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Nature & Trails Advisory Committee (NTAC) meeting

Date: 7/18/2017

Time: 7:55 p.m.

Location: Fanno Creek Service Center

In Attendance

Committee Members: John Ratliff (Chair), Bernadette Le, Laura Porter, Cory Samia, Gerri Scheerens, Jack Shorr, Matthew Shepherd, Mitch Cruzan, Sam Scheerens

Absent: None

Board liaison: None

Staff: Bruce Barbarasch (Superintendent of Natural Resources)

Guests: None

Ia. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:55 p.m.

Ib. Approval of Minutes

The minutes from the June 2017 meeting were presented to the committee.

Move to accept was proposed by Jack and seconded by Laura.

Sam pointed out a typographical error. Under View from Bruce's desk, 158th St should read 158th Ave.

The minutes (with the above correction) were **accepted by unanimous vote**.

II. Guest Comments

None

III. Old Business

Trail Chicanes

Bruce reintroduced the issue regarding trail chicanes in general, and the particular chicane at issue on the Rock Creek Trail near NW Kyle Place. (see the minutes of the June 2017 NTAC meeting for a summary).

There was a discussion covering several points:

- The existing chicane is challenging for long bikes, bikes with trailers. Some trail users find it off-putting.
- John spent some time observing usage patterns. A significant percentage of cyclists are going around the chicane on the gravel shoulder of the trail. Moreover, it doesn't seem to encourage cyclists to stop for the stop sign at Kyle Place.
- There are no known national standards for when to use chicanes or for their design. They are generally not preferred if some other option is available.
- John observed some design problems with the chicane under discussion. The distance between gates and the overlap require cyclists to negotiate the gates using excessively sharp turns.

Two categories of committee recommendation were discussed.

- Remediation of the design of the particular chicane under discussion, to include possibly moving the chicane further from the stop sign, eliminating the overlap of the gates, placing the gates farther apart, and extending them onto the shoulder to discourage circumventing the chicane.

- Changes to THPRD process and policy regarding introduction of chicanes on trails, including increased opportunity for public involvement and comments, possibly consulting other entities such as Tri-Met about their policies regarding chicane placement and design, adding a section on chicane placement and design to the Trails Functional Plan, and performing more fulsome traffic studies before placing chicanes.

No formal motion was acted upon. The consensus of the committee was to ask staff to consider possible alterations to the chicane near Kyle Place, and to consider changes to the decision process for introduction and design of chicanes in the future. No further data gathering of usage and traffic at the chicane near Kyle Place will be undertaken by THPRD. Committee members may make observations on a volunteer basis if desired.

III. **New Business**

View from Bruce's Desk

- This agenda item was waived, due to a lack of time.

Toolkit Development

- Sam passed out copies of his draft of the toolkit, and asked for comments and help filling in missing data before the next meeting.

Announcements

- None.

IV. **Next Meeting will be held on**

Next Meeting: August 22nd at 6:30 p.m.; Fanno Creek Service Center.

Meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Sam Scheerens



Tualatin Hills Park & Recreation District ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Nature & Trails Advisory Committee (NTAC) meeting

Date: 8/22/2017

Time: 6:30 p.m.

Location: Fanno Creek Service Center

In Attendance

Committee Members: John Ratliff (Chair), Bernadette Le, Cory Samia, Gerri Scheerens, Jack Shorr, Mitch Cruzan, Sam Scheerens

Absent: Laura Porter, Matthew Shepherd

Board liaison: None

Staff: Bruce Barbarasch (Superintendent of Natural Resources)

Guests: None

Ia. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:33 p.m.

Ib. Approval of Minutes

The minutes from the July 2017 meeting were presented to the committee.

Multiple members had questions about the last paragraph of section III – old business.

John moved to accept the minutes with a rewrite of that paragraph for greater clarity on what the committee has requested staff to do.

The motion was seconded by Bernadette.

The minutes (with the above correction) were **accepted by unanimous vote**. Sam was tasked to make the correction and submit it to Bruce and John.

II. Guest Comments

None

III. Old Business

Toolkit Development

- The committee discussed the latest draft of the toolkit. A number of changes and new questions were proposed and discussed. We agreed to make two changes to the organization of the data. The column "Stage of proposal when we should ask" will be removed, and a new section of "Top Level" questions will be added.
- Sam will create a new draft with the agreed changes and send it to the committee for further discussion.

III. New Business

View from Bruce's Desk

- Bruce gave a presentation on invasive plant management at THPRD.
 - The Natural Resources Functional Plan sets standards and priorities for control of noxious weeds and non-native plants in THPRD natural areas. High functioning areas should maintain 80% native plants, moderate functioning areas 60%, and low functioning areas 40%.
 - THPRD has an integrated pest management program that prescribes the methods of control. Physical/Mechanical control (including controlled burning) is usually preferred, but Biological or Chemical means of control are sometimes indicated.
 - THPRD also strives to foster control of invasive species culturally. This cultural element applies both externally, in the form of native plant sales, workshops, etc., and internally, by educating and encouraging THPRD employees to avoid planting plants that can become invasive.
 - THPRD follows well defined procedures when implementing chemical weed control in natural areas. These include assessing the weather conditions, posting signage, and following up to remove signage.
 - Restoration of specific natural areas is typically done on about a 5 year plan.
- Jack described the Backyard Habitat Certification program. This is a national program where experts work with homeowners to assess their yards in terms of storm water runoff, invasive plants, native plants, etc. After fixing any issues identified, the homeowner can receive certification. There is currently no sponsoring agency in Washington County.

Announcements

- John announced that the Active Transportation Plan for Beaverton is currently gathering public comments, via the link he emailed to committee members.
- Bernadette announced that a Metro quarterly trails forum will be held Sept 20 from 1:00-3:15 pm at 600 NE Grand in Portland.

IV. Next Meeting will be held on

Next Meeting: October 17 at 6:30 p.m.; Fanno Creek Service Center. This will be a joint advisory committee meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Sam Scheerens