



## **Tualatin Hills Park & Recreation District ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**

### **Natural Resources Advisory Committee Meeting**

**Date: September 1, 2015**

**Time: 6:30 pm**

**Location: Fanno Creek Service Center & Site Visits**

#### **In Attendance**

Committee Members: Mitch Cruzan, Laura Porter (chair), Cory Samia, Matthew Shepherd, Jack Shorr  
Staff: Bruce Barbarasch

#### **I. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order by Laura Porter at 6:38 pm.

#### **II. Approval of Minutes**

Motion to approve proposed by Mitch Cruzan; seconded by Matthew Shepherd. There was no discussion; approved unanimously.

#### **III. Financial Report**

Bruce told the committee that the natural resources department had received a significant donation (\$900–\$1,200, to be confirmed) from Comcast Cares. He requested matching funds from the NRAC fund to support the purchase of chainsaws, pruning saws, and other site maintenance equipment.

Cory asked if there were any restrictions on how the donation could be spent, and if not, whether it could be directed toward funding scholarships for education programs. The NRAC fund has sufficient funds to pay for the entire equipment purchase. Bruce will look into transferring the Comcast Funds to the Friends of the Tualatin Hills Nature Park, who have worked with scholarships in the past.

Motion: The committee approves expenditure of the remaining balance in NRAC fund (ca. \$3,800) for the purchase of equipment at the discretion of Bruce Barbarasch.

Proposed: Cory Samia

Seconded: Mitch Cruzan

Vote: unanimous.

#### **IV. Old Business**

- a. Trails Functional Plan: Bruce told the committee that the TFP was now in a final draft. It will be presented to THPRD Board for approval in October.
- b. Advisory Committee structure change: This meeting is the final gathering of NRAC. Bruce thanked the members for their work and contribution to THPRD efforts. There will be a several months gap until the new 3-committee system starts in the new year. The work of NRAC will be taken on by the Nature & Trails Committee. THPRD staff will contact all existing NRAC members in the coming weeks to invite them to rejoin the new committee.

#### **V. New Business**

- a. Wrap-up items from close down of NRAC: There were no outstanding items.
- b. Site Visits: This was the part of the evening that everyone had been waiting for, a chance to throw off the shackles of the conference table and get out into the parks which committee members so love. Bruce had planned an informative pair of site visits to two segments of the Fanno Creek Trail.

First stop was in Greenway Park, to see where beaver activity has led to the closure of a subsidiary loop trail. The beaver dam was quite impressive, a substantial structure that incorporated a willow tree and, as noted by some committee members, had a lovely, classic beaver-dam curve. The large pond pooled up behind the dam had flooded a minor trail. Bruce outlined to the committee the recent history of the trail and the public consultation into its future. After consulting the community, it was decided to close the trail. Diverting it to avoid the pond had permitting issues because it was in a wetland and the cost of a boardwalk spanning the wetland was prohibitive.

The second visit was to a trail segment north of SW Denney Road, leading away from the end of SW 105<sup>th</sup> Avenue. This is a fairly new trail segment, incorporating a long bridge over the creek's floodplain. North of the bridge, behind the school bus barn, is a recently constructed section, built to the latest regional trail specs (10' of asphalt, flanked by 2' of crushed rock). The scale of construction left an impression on committee members. There was a discussion about the impacts of such construction on habitat and wildlife in an already confined creek corridor.

**VI. Other**  
None

**VII. Action Items**  
None

**VIII. Next Meeting will be held on ... well, it won't. This was the final meeting of NRAC.**

Upon returning to Fanno Creek Service Center after the site visits, Bruce thanked the committee members again for their service.

The meeting adjourned at 8:32 pm, and members dispersed into the encroaching darkness.

Respectfully submitted, for the last time,

Matthew Shepherd  
Recording Secretary