



Tualatin Hills Park & Recreation District ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Nature & Trails Advisory Committee (NTAC) meeting

Date: 2/28/2017

Time: 6:30 p.m.

Location: Fanno Creek Service Center

In Attendance

Committee Members: Bernadette Le, Gerri Scheerens, Sam Scheerens, John Ratliff, Laura Porter, Matthew Shepherd, Jack Shorr, Mitch Cruzan

Absent: Cory Samia

Board Liaison: None

Staff: Bruce Barbarasch (Superintendent of Natural Resources)

Guests: None

Ia. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:36 p.m.

Ib. Approval of Minutes

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

Move to accept was proposed by Sam and seconded by Gerri.

There were no questions from the committee members and no discussion. A typo was pointed out: In III New Business; Accomplishments; Bernadette—"bean" should be "began."

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

II. Guest Comments

None

III. Old Business

Accomplishments

The committee reviewed the list of accomplishments and felt that there were no changes or additions required.

Goals for the coming year

Bernadette outlined criteria for goals: 1) they should support THPRD nature and trails staff, and 2) they should be broad-scale or programmatic (i.e., not focused on individual interests or properties).

Bruce suggested some sample goals: give nature and trails perspective on master plans for properties; review and comment on public survey related to Natural Resources Functional Plan; provide input for natural resources annual report.

After a discussion, the following goals were agreed. They are listed in no particular order, and they may be pursued concurrently:

- Involvement in master planning of at least two properties.
- Develop "toolkit" to help guide review of projects and plans.

- Review Natural Resources FP public survey.
- Provide input into natural resources annual report
- Identify ways in which to stay abreast of projects and activities of outside institutions (such as City of Beaverton).
- Contribute to ADA transition plan

III. New Business

Crowell Woods

Crowell Woods is a new park located in a rapidly developing neighborhood between SW 170th and 185th avenues, south of the MAX line. The park is formed from three interconnected parcels of land consisting of upland Douglas-fir forest flanking a small creek. The NE corner of the park includes a residential property that is currently rented out.

THPRD recently held three open-house design workshops to gather community input on the potential facilities and trail provision. The workshops had been valuable with a number of consistent themes: natural play area, low-impact trails, a footbridge across the creek to unite the two halves of the park and provide a walking connection to the elementary school SE of the property.

This item was for information only.

Election of new officers

Both Bernadette (chair) and Matthew (secretary) tendered their resignations. The committee thanked both for their service. Bernadette and Matthew each took a couple of minutes to outline the responsibilities and likely time commitment for the positions. After some discussion, the following nominations were made:

Sam Scheerens—self-nominated (i.e., volunteered) for either position, though indicated a preference for secretary.

John Ratliff—nominated for chair by Laura P. and Gerri S.

Both nominations were accepted. Voting was done by show of hands, and was unanimous for both positions:

Chair, John Ratliff
Secretary, Sam Scheerens

Staff updates

Bruce outlined for the committee some of the activities and work he and his team have recently undertaken:

- Lots to clear up in the aftermath of winter storms; snow, ice, and winds left a trail of damage.
- It's planting season, especially for bare root trees; many thousands of trees and shrubs are being planted.
- Volunteers had been completing amphibian egg mass surveys.
- Turtle monitoring training is upcoming.
- Bruce is in the thick of budgeting for FY 2018, which begins July 1; public meeting at Elsie Stuhr Center, 4/18 at 6:00 pm.

IV. Next Meeting will be held on

Next Meeting: March 21 at 6:30 p.m.; Fanno Creek Service Center.

April 25 will be the next Joint Advisory Committee meeting, to be followed by a truncated NTAC meeting, again at Fanno Creek Service Center.

Committee Announcements

At the 2017 UERC (Urban Ecosystem Research Consortium of Portland/Vancouver) annual conference there had been an interesting presentation on impacts on wildlife of recreation in parks. The conclusion was that predator animals have a larger and more long-lasting impact than prey animals. The presence of a dog (predator) can be significant.

EcoUnite! holds monthly pub nights in Portland. Go to <http://pdxecologists.tumblr.com/> for information.

Tualatin Riverkeepers are holding an evening presentation about cattle and prairies at Cooper Mountain Nature House, March 17, at 6:00 pm.

Meeting adjourned at 8:33 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Matthew Shepherd
Recording Secretary