



Tualatin Hills Park & Recreation District ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Nature & Trails Advisory Committee (NTAC) meeting

Date: 6/27/2017

Time: 6:30 p.m.

Location: Fanno Creek Service Center

In Attendance

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

Absent: Matthew Shepherd, Mitch Cruzan

Board liaison: None

Staff: Bruce Barbarasch (Superintendent of Natural Resources)

Guests: None

Ia. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:37 p.m.

Ib. Approval of Minutes

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

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

The minutes were **accepted by unanimous vote**.

The April 2017 meeting did not have a quorum present, so there were no official minutes taken. We discussed the informal notes from the April meeting briefly. The change in plans for the proposed ropes course at Jenkins Estate (now on indefinite hold) did not require any remediation.

There was no meeting in May 2017.

II. Guest Comments

None

III. Old Business

Beaverton Bicycle Advisory Committee.

- Naomi Fast wrote an article in the Bike PDX blog that was critical of a safety presentation that was provided at the last BBAC meeting:

<https://bikeportland.org/2017/05/17/the-impact-of-fear-on-bike-safety-in-car-centric-beaverton-228808>

A particular concern in the article that John commented about was that Oregon law says a rider can be cited for riding on the sidewalk when there is a bike lane available. John pointed out that nobody actually gets cited under this statute unless they are riding unsafely. Also, there was some concern about THPRD trails being closed at night. The unofficial practice is not to cite people who are passing along the trails at night. The nighttime closure policy is meant to discourage camping in the trail corridors.

- Bruce asked if the BBAC was involved in a charette about how to fix the gap in the Fanno Creek Trail between Scholl's Ferry Road and 92nd Ave. John replied no, but said he will check if this issue is covered in the active transportation plan. Sam mentioned that the former Trails Advisory Committee had discussed this gap in 2015, when prioritizing trail segments. The gap is about 1/10th of a mile in length, but runs along Allen Blvd and trail users must cross both Allen and Scholls Ferry to continue on the trail.
- The BBAC is working toward improving Beaverton's rating with the League of American Bicyclists from "Silver" to "Gold".

Trail Chicanes

On the Rock Creek Trail west of where it intersects with the Westside Trail, it crosses a privately maintained street – NW Kyle Place. Residents complained that cyclists do not stop at the stop sign, but instead continue at full speed. Several options were discussed by staff, and they determined that a chicane was the solution that resolves the issue and meets ADA standards. Following installation of the chicane, some trail users complained. There are about 6 such chicanes in the district, the most restrictive ones being on the FCT at 90th Ave. Further discussion may be required to decide if the NTAC wants to make a recommendation.

III. New Business

View from Bruce's Desk

- THPRD is designing a paved trail to replace the current soft surface trail between NW South Drive near "The Bluffs" Park, and Bonny Slope Elementary School. The goal is to encourage more students to bike and walk to school. The trail will be built to neighborhood trail standards.
- At Willow Creek Greenway, THPRD is testing materials for boardwalk decking. The best choice is a pultruded (extruded by pulling) plastic that affords good traction. It will take time to replace existing boardwalks.
- Bruce talked about summertime Nature and Parks outreach, camps, the "Nature Mobile", concerts in the parks, classes. There were numerous questions and answers.
 - Both number of people accessing the programs and (where possible) duration of visits are being tracked.
 - Nature and Trails is not involved in yoga and walks. The Recreation department handles those programs.
 - Bruce will check into how programs can be better synchronized to allow cross generational activities.
- Cory asked about the status of the Portland Bureau of Environmental Services work on the pump station located next to the Fanno Creek Trail near 86th Ave. The work has been extended to September. BES is paying penalties for being behind schedule.
- A segment of the Westside Trail along 158th St. near Jenkins Rd. is being developed by Washington County as part of the 158th Ave improvement project.

Toolkit Development

We discussed various aspects of a toolkit for assessing projects related to nature and trails. The purpose of the tool kit is to enable the committee to ask the right questions at the right time, in order to anticipate potential problems.

- The consensus of the group was that the toolkit should take the form of a set of questions to ask, rather than a flowchart or decision tree.

- We discussed at what point(s) in the process the toolkit may be employed. Currently, THPRD engages the general public during the initial scoping phase of a project. A draft plan may go to an advisory committee for feedback. Then the final plan is created with additional input from the public and the THPRD board. Laura suggested that the toolkit may be more useful if the committee can get involved earlier in the process, at the initial scoping stage, and then again at the draft stage. Bernadette suggested we could share the toolkit with staff, so they would know what kinds of issues the committee considers important to ask.
- Various stakeholders may exist for any given project proposal:
 - Trail users including pedestrians, cyclists, wheelchairs and strollers
 - Motorists
 - Neighbors in the immediate vicinity
 - The wider community
 - Taxpayers
 - Wildlife
- The toolkit should attempt to look at potential effects over at least a 10-year period, and allow for population changes, etc.
- Numerous topics and tradeoffs were discussed for possible inclusion in the toolkit.
- Some upcoming projects were mentioned as possible applications of the toolkit:
 - Raleigh Park improvements
 - Greenway Park Master Plan
 - Beaverton Creek Trail
- Sam was delegated to attempt a draft of the toolkit, with assistance from John.

Announcements

- Jack and Bernadette conducted about 50 user surveys on the FCT at Greenway Park. Scott Wagner is collating hundreds of survey responses.
- Jack mentioned an "Explore Cooper Mountain" event scheduled for July 1st at Cooper Mountain Nature Park.

IV. Next Meeting will be held on

Next Meeting: July 18th 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