



Tualatin Hills Park & Recreation District ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Nature & Trails Advisory Committee (NTAC) meeting

Date: 11/29/2017

Time: 6:30 p.m.

Location: Fanno Creek Service Center

In Attendance

Committee Members: John Ratliff (Chair), Laura Porter, Bernadette Le, Cory Samia, Gerri Scheerens, Jack Shorr, Sam Scheerens, Matthew Shepherd, Mitch Cruzan
Absent: None
Board liaison: John Griffiths (THPRD Board Member)
Staff: Bruce Barbarasch (Superintendent of Natural Resources), Steve Gulgren (Senior Park Planner), Kyle Spinks (Park Ranger)
Guests: Steve Pearson, Pam Thompson, Briana Bayer

Ia. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:32 p.m.

Ib. Approval of Minutes

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

Laura moved to accept the minutes.

The motion was seconded by Jack.

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

II. Guest Comments

Pam Thompson wants to set up an acoustic bat monitoring project in the district. Bruce offered to connect her with appropriate district staff.

III. Old Business

Prioritize projects

- We discussed which uncompleted projects and goals from the 2017 project list we should continue working in 2018.
 1. Contribute N&T perspective on at least two master plan processes.
 - This goal was exceeded in 2017. We contributed feedback on Crowell Woods, Raleigh Park, and Bluffs (Bonny Slope) Trail projects.
 - Four projects on our 2017 list were not ready for comment. The committee consensus was to keep this goal for 2018 and carry these items over as our initial list:
 - a. Jenkins Estate
 - b. Beaverton Creek Trail
 - c. Cedar Mill/N Johnson Study
 - d. Greenway Park
 - Additional projects may be added to the list as they come to our attention.
 2. Review and comment on NRFP public survey
 - The survey is now completed, and the staff would like committee feedback in 2018.
 - The committee consensus was to keep this goal for 2018.
 3. Natural Resources Annual Report input
 - The NRFP update is on hold. It may become available for comment in 2018.

- The committee consensus was to keep this goal for 2018.
- 4. Completing version 1.0 of the Toolkit
 - John Ratliff moved that we approve the latest version of the toolkit as ready for use. Sam seconded the motion.
 - Discussion: Some members were not ready to vote on approval of the toolkit, as they had not had time to review it properly. John stipulated that the toolkit is expected to be a living document, and future changes will most likely be needed.
 - There were 6 yes votes and 3 abstentions. Version 1.0 of the toolkit is approved for use.
 - Further discussion of the toolkit, including possible revisions to v1.0, will be on the agenda of an upcoming meeting. At that point, we can decide whether further work on the toolkit should be on the project list for 2018.
- 5. Identify how to know early, about impacting projects (specifically The City of Beaverton Active Transportation Plan)
 - The Beaverton ATP is completed. Further work on this goal would be out of the committee's scope.
 - See item 6 for disposition.
- 6. ADA transition plan review.
 - This goal was not achieved.
 - John moved, and Jack seconded, that we do not include item 5 or 6 in the 2018 project list.
 - There were 6 yes votes and 3 abstentions.

III. New Business

Review of Bonny Slope Trail

- Steve Gulgren gave a presentation on the Bonny Slope Trail project at The Bluffs Park.
 1. The project is to construct a paved trail conforming to the “neighborhood trail” standard in the Trails Functional Plan (6 ft. wide with 1 ft. shoulders). The trail will run through The Bluffs Park, and connect NW South Drive, NW 117th Drive, and Bonny Slope Elementary School. The trail will be about 600 ft. in length, and there is about a 50 ft. elevation rise from the north end at 117th Drive and the south end at Bonny Slope Elementary School. The steepest rise is between the western terminus at South Drive and the school. The site is heavily wooded. The committee’s input was requested for choosing between two options for handling that steep section:
 - A fully ADA compliant option with a 4.8% grade, no landings, and one switchback. Existing stairs in this section would be removed for ADA accessibility.
 - A 7.8% grade option with one landing and no switchbacks, which meets design guidelines known as the ADA Accessibility Guidelines (ADAAG).
 2. Committee members asked questions. The 7.8% option would be about \$70,000 less expensive. The total project cost is estimated to be around \$500,000. There would not be a significant difference between the two options regarding the number of large trees that would need to be removed.
 3. In addition, Steve asked for the committee’s opinion on whether to keep the portion of the existing soft surface trail that will not be replaced by the new trail. This trail is steep – about 10-15% grade, with stairs in some places.
 4. Jack moved for votes, Mitch seconded. There were 5 votes for the 7.8% trail option, and 4 votes for the 4.8% option. The committee unanimously recommended keeping the existing soft surface trail.

View from Bruce’s Desk

- Land Acquisition: John Griffiths asked for inputs regarding acquisition of green spaces and natural areas. The Board has \$3.2 million remaining in funds allocated for natural areas from the 2008 bond measure. Cory asked if geographic equity is taken into account in land acquisition decisions. John Griffiths replied that there is very little natural area left in the urban core, so it’s much harder to achieve geographic equity for natural areas than it is for parks in general. Laura shared a large map of the district with potential natural area sites marked. Bruce gave a presentation on the criteria staff use to assess properties inside or outside the district. Based on these criteria, the main target areas would be the Bronson Creek corridor in the northern part of the district, and the Cooper Mountain area in the southern part.

The board would like further input from the committee. This discussion will be continued in a future meeting.

Amphibian Monitoring

- Kyle Spinks gave a presentation on wildlife surveys conducted through the Citizen Science volunteer program.
 1. The surveys focused on 2 native and sensitive turtle species, and one native and sensitive frog species:
 - Western Painted Turtle
 - Western Pond Turtle
 - Northern Red Legged Frog
 2. Benefits of the survey include:
 - Improved habitat management
 - Data sharing with Clean Water Services, Metro, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, and other regional entities
 - Educational opportunities for district residents

IV. Other

Officer elections

- Elections for 2018 committee officers were held. Laura was unanimously chosen to serve as chair in 2018. Sam was unanimously chosen to serve as secretary in 2018.

Announcements

None

Next Meeting

- The next Joint Advisory Committee meeting is scheduled for Jan 17, 2018.
- Committee members expressed interest in scheduling one more meeting in 2017, to continue work on open items and begin assessing new candidates for committee membership.
- Bruce will poll members via the Internet to determine the date and time of the next meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Sam Scheerens