



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

**Nature & Trails Advisory Committee (NTAC) meeting**

**Date: 12/18/2017**

**Time: 6:30 p.m.**

**Location: Fanno Creek Service Center**

### **In Attendance**

Committee Members: Laura Porter (Chair), Bernadette Le, Cory Samia, Gerri Scheerens, John Ratliff, 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 6:34 p.m.

### **Ib. Approval of Minutes**

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

The vote tally on accepting version 1.0 of the toolkit (item 4 under Prioritize Projects in **Old Business**) is not correct. The roman numerals are incorrect for the **New Business** and **Other** sections. A map or hyperlink to a map of the Bluffs Park Trail project should be added to Review of Bonny Slope Trail under New business.

Mitch moved to accept the minutes with edits described above.

The motion was seconded by Bernadette.

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

### **II. Guest Comments**

None

### **III. Old Business**

#### Finalize Toolkit

- A few additional edits to the Toolkit were identified, including one new "Top Level" question.
- Sam will add a header including the approval date and some other formatting changes to Toolkit version 1.0 and deliver it to Bruce.
- Bruce will create a repository on the THPRD internal network where editions of the Toolkit can be saved for future reference, and save version 1.0 there.
- Sam will make the agreed edits to the Toolkit and submit it for approval at the next NTAC meeting as version 1.1.

#### Prioritize projects

- We discussed the process to decide on goals for 2018.
  - Laura suggested that we should first get a forward view from Bruce on what activities and projects are likely to come up in 2018.
  - The goals we set should be flexible.
  - It was generally agreed that if any project plans are anticipated for the South Cooper Mountain development area, we should add them to our list of projects for potential committee feedback.

### Land Acquisition

- We discussed what approach we should take to the Board Liaison's requests in the October and the November 2017 meetings for input into the process of acquiring land for natural areas.
- Sam asked if we should set a goal of suggesting specific parcels or areas.
  - This approach was rejected. There are privacy issues that would prevent staff from sharing information about specific acquisition opportunities to an advisory committee. Without such information, there is no way we could provide meaningful input on specific areas for acquisition.
- Bruce said that an appropriate focus would be to provide feedback on whether the properties purchased by the district up to now seem appropriate.
- Laura pointed out that the Natural Resources Functional Plan provides a process and criteria for deciding whether a property is appropriate for inclusion in a natural area.
- The committee members would like to learn more about the process staff uses to assess candidate properties. It was proposed that staff present a few examples of properties THPRD recently acquired, and explain how they arrived at their decision.
- Laura will draft a letter in support of the existing process in the NRFP.

## **IV. New Business**

### New Applicants for NTAC

- Bernadette is leaving the committee, so we will have one vacancy to fill in 2018. There are 27 applicants.
- We don't have to fill the vacancy immediately, but we need to decide on criteria to use in our decision. Ideally, criteria would be settled by the January Joint Committee meeting, and the vetting process would be completed by the February meeting, so we can make a recommendation to the Board.
- A number of questions, possible criteria and approaches were raised:
  - Could we appoint some alternates or non-voting members?
  - Geographic balance of the committee members is important.
  - We could map the demography of the current committee members to identify deficiencies in diversity that should be addressed.
  - Can we expand the size of the committee?
  - The interests and qualifications expressed on the application could provide a lot of insight.
  - Can we request additional info, or offer a questionnaire? Willingness to provide additional info would be a good indicator of serious interest in the committee's work.
  - It would be helpful to find someone with urban planning education or experience; to replace what we are losing.
  - If possible, we should get a commitment from prospective members to stay with the committee for a reasonable portion of their term.

### Topics of Interest

- We discussed various topics on which staff could inform committee members in 2018.
  - Trail quality and maintenance update
  - Progress reports on South Cooper Mountain planning
  - More detail on how project Master Plans are produced
  - Learn about Regional Conservation Strategy, especially pertaining to connectivity between THPRD and bordering properties
  - Information about power line corridors, and other wildlife corridors
  - Information about the new trails map. How will it be marketed?
  - Information about underserved communities in THPRD
  - Update on education programs

## **V. Other**

### Sharing

- Jack attended a focus group at Tualatin Hills Nature Center
  - There was some discussion about how to better engage older district residents
  - Is there a possibility to get some committee help for the volunteer coordinator?

- Cory complained that the Portland Bureau of Environmental Services (BES) project that has been blocking a portion of the Fanno Creek Trail near 86<sup>th</sup> Ave is still blocking the trail, long after the project was supposed to have been completed. THPRD has no ability to speed up BES' progress, but Bruce noted that the project seems to be in the final stages.
- Gerri likes the section of the Fanno Creek Trail south of Hall Blvd, where beavers have built a dam and flooded a section of Greenway Park.
- Bernadette attended a Highland Neighborhood Association meeting. She passed the word about the Greenway Park planning process underway.
- John asserted that the trail system is a huge asset to people who walk for their health. He related a story about a hawk taking a sparrow under his bird feeder.
- Laura related her experience of a birthday celebration at Ridgewood View Park.
- Jack announced that the Master Gardeners are installing a 1/3 acre garden at PCC Rock Creek.

#### Next Meeting

- Bruce inquired whether committee members would support a change to full two hour Joint Advisory Committee sessions. The current sessions are often not long enough to accommodate all the topics staff would like to cover with the full JAC.
  - There would be no preset NTAC meeting when the quarterly JAC meetings are held.
  - There were no objections to the change.
  - Additional NTAC meetings could be scheduled as needed for time sensitive agenda.
- The next Joint Advisory Committee meeting is scheduled for Wednesday Jan 17, 2018 at 6:30.
- The next NTAC meeting is scheduled for Wednesday Feb 21 at 6:30.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Sam Scheerens