



Tualatin Hills Park & Recreation District ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Nature & Trails Advisory Committee (NTAC) meeting

Date: 9/19/2018

Time: 6:40 p.m.

Location: Fanno Creek Service Center

In Attendance

Committee Members: Laura Porter (Chair), Gerri Scheerens, Cory Samia, John Ratliff, Sam Scheerens
Absent: Sheri Wantland, Jack Shorr, Matthew Shepherd, Mitch Cruzan
Board liaison: none
Staff: Kristin Smith (Interpretive Programs Supervisor)
Jeannine Rustad (Planning Manager)
Guests: Lynetta and Chuck Weswig

Ia. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:40 p.m.

Ib. Approval of Minutes

The minutes from the July 2018 meeting were presented to the committee.

- One typographical error was noted, and will be fixed.
- A recapitulation of the August field trip was requested. This will be added to the September 2018 meeting minutes. See below.

John Ratliff moved to accept the minutes.

The motion was seconded by Gerri.

The minutes were accepted by unanimous vote.

II. Guest Comments

Lynetta and Chuck presented a proposal for an additional trail in Foothills Park, along the south side of the park, joining the existing trail on the north side to create a loop. At least one bridge would be needed. To facilitate further discussion of this suggestion in a future meeting, members were requested to try to make time before the October 17 NTAC to visit Foothills Park. At a future meeting, we will discuss the impacts to park usage and natural resources to determine whether the committee should make any recommendation to staff.

III. Old Business

Bethany Creek #2 Trail Segment 3

- Jeannine briefed the committee on a presentation that staff made at the Washington County Community Participation Organization 7 (CPO7) meeting on September 10. Staff presented a project update and the latest updated master plan, showing the alignment and design of the proposed trail extension. There were some hostile reactions from the Forest Heights Neighborhood association and a local farmer. Most of the concerns are related to a possible increase in trespassing on private land. The owner of the farm land that the trail alignment crosses, and the person who farms that piece of land remain in favor of the trail. THPRD will continue with planning and public outreach. The master plan is available online at <http://cdn1.thprd.org/pdfs2/document3927.pdf>.

Greenway Park

- The Greenway Park Concept Plan was presented to the THPRD Board at the August 7 meeting.

- The final draft of the plan is available online at <http://cdn1.thprd.org/pdfs2/document3928.pdf>.
- The plan regarding the tunnel under Scholl's Ferry Road and the proposed new Fanno Creek Trail (FCT) alignment and mid-block crossing of Scholl's Ferry Road is still unresolved. Priority has increased to resolve this part of the plan. THPRD is continuing to discuss options with Washington County and the City of Tigard.
- Trail cleaning and maintenance commitments were made to address flooding concerns.

Field Trip Recap

- Bruce facilitated a field trip August 8
- We visited the 30-acre restoration area where the Waterhouse Trail crosses Bronson Creek, the proposed new segment 3 of Bethany Creek #2 Trail, and recently opened segments of the Westside Trail.
- Feedback on the Bronson Creek restoration was very positive.
- A few questions and suggestions were offered regarding the Bethany Creek #2 Trail, mostly focused on making sure the trail is accessible year-round and avoiding encroachment into the adjacent forest edge layer habitat.

IV. New Business

Fanno Creek Trail Segment 5

- Jeannine informed the committee that planning is underway by the City of Beaverton to construct this approximately 500-foot-long segment of the FCT, between Scholl's Ferry Road and 92nd Ave., along Allen Blvd.
 - Completing this segment would fill an important gap in the FCT. This project is listed in the 2016 Trails Functional Plan as a medium priority project.
 - Funding for the project will come primarily from Washington County's Major Streets Transportation Improvement Program (MSTIP). THPRD might need to supplement the project budget using funds generated from System Development Charges (SDCs).
 - Estimated project cost is \$1.4 million. FY2018-19 is the first year budgeted.
 - Estimated project completion is FY2021-22.

Westside Trail Sunset Highway Crossing

- Jeannine informed the committee that THPRD has received a grant of \$400,000 to design the segment of the Westside Trail crossing US Highway 26. The eventual construction cost of the project will be much higher, but having the design in place will be helpful when seeking future grants.

Nature Programs

- Kristin gave a presentation entitled Serving the Whole Community, focused on the nature programs and activities available through THPRD. The main focus was programming at the Tualatin Hills Nature Center.
 - Nature programs attract 42,000 participants annually.
 - The THPRD Guide has a section devoted to nature programs.
 - The most popular event at the Nature Center is the annual Newt Day. This year, Newt Day is Nov 3.
 - Numerous youth programs are offered, including preschool, day camps, group programs for schools and scouting organizations, and individual classes and events.
 - Adult and family programs are offered.
 - There are numerous volunteer opportunities.
 - Free programs are offered, including the Nature Mobile, which travels to various parks around the district.
 - A new grant supported program called Nature Education and Workforce Training (NEWT) is starting.
 - NEWT partners with local groups to add an environmental science component to camps, after school programs, and school field trips, with a goal of connecting Latino youth and families with nature.

- NEWT is starting a 2 year program of summer youth development for Latino teens, building leadership and workforce skills in the natural resources field.
- Looking ahead, THPRD has the following goals regarding nature programs:
 - Improve outreach to underserved target audiences, especially 55 and older, and Spanish speaking communities.
 - Expand partnerships with other groups in the community with shared goals.
 - Increase programming space.

Natural Resources Functional Plan (NRFP)

- The current NRFP was approved in 2014. An update is due next year.
- NTAC contributions and feedback will be solicited on an ongoing basis during the update process.
- The purpose of the NRFP is to:
 - Guide staff in decision making and priorities regarding natural resource issues.
 - Provide a framework for community engagement.
 - Establish guidelines for habitat management.
- Committee members had some initial thoughts on possible updates to the current NRFP.
 - More focus on equity and diversity is desirable.
 - There is an increasing fire hazard due to dryer summers – a briefing on fire management and prevention would be a good topic for a future meeting.

Incident Response and Notification

- Cory recounted an incident that occurred on the Fanno Creek Trail near the Garden Home Recreation Center. A woman was assaulted during daylight hours. Most users of the trail were unaware of the incident until it was reported on local television news one month later.
- What is the district's responsibility regarding notifying users of its facilities of such incidents?
- What is the severity and frequency of incidents on THPRD property?
- What modes of public notification are currently employed? Contemplated?
- Kristen will get more information from the Park Patrol.
- This issue will be followed up at a future meeting.

Beaverton Creek Trail Segment 5

- Sam shared some photos of construction underway on the BCT segment 5, between Lombard Ave. near Beaverton Transit Center and across Hall Blvd near Beaverton Central Max Station.
 - The City of Beaverton is the main driver of this work.
 - THPRD is currently planning work on BCT Segments 3 and 4, between Tualatin Hills Nature Park and Hocken Ave.
 - When completed, these segments will connect downtown Beaverton with the Westside and Waterhouse trails, except for a gap between Beaverton Central Max Station and Hocken Ave.

V. Other

Next Meeting

- The next NTAC meeting is scheduled for Wednesday October 17, 2018, following the Joint AC meeting at 6:30 PM.
 - Laura will not be able to attend. Sam will substitute as chair.
- The November NTAC meeting is currently scheduled very close to Thanksgiving Day. Members were asked to consider days and times when they can attend a meeting in November.

Meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Sam Scheerens