



Tualatin Hills Park & Recreation District ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Nature & Trails Advisory Committee (NTAC) meeting

Date: 12/19/2018

Time: 6:30 p.m.

Location: Fanno Creek Service Center

In Attendance

Committee Members: Laura Porter (Chair), Cory Samia, Gerri Scheerens, Sheri Wantland, Jack Shorr, Matthew Shepherd, Sam Scheerens
Absent: John Ratliff, Mitch Cruzan
Board liaison: John Griffiths
Staff: Bruce Barbarasch (Nature & Trails Manager)
Guests: none

Ia. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m.

Ib. Approval of Minutes

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

Gerri moved to accept the minutes.

The motion was seconded by Jack.

The minutes were accepted by unanimous vote.

II. Guest Comments

None.

III. Old Business

Project Updates

- Bruce discussed recent flooding at Greenway Park.
 - Improvements to address seasonal flooding are anticipated as part of the execution of the Greenway Park Concept Plan recently approved by the Board.
 - Staff is reviewing previous projects to determine best practices.
- Improvements to the Fanno Creek Trail crossing at Scholl's Ferry Road are undergoing a multijurisdictional design process.
 - THPRD, Beaverton, Tigard, Washington County and Oregon Department of Transportation will all be involved.
 - Traffic engineers will be engaged to study all feasible options.
 - There's a good chance the project will get around \$60,000 to perform the study in FY19.
- John provided some updates from the THPRD Board.
 - Tom Hjort (former TAC chair) has inquired about the prospects of widening existing trail segments that are below the standards set by the Trails Functional Plan. These types of projects are difficult to advance, as they are very expensive in some cases, and most sources of funding are aimed at building new trails.
 - Metro is starting into a cycle of land acquisition for natural areas in 2019. Metro is developing a parks and nature bond measure for voters to consider in 2019. There is a strategy discussion underway as to how much of the acquisition effort should be directed toward lands outside the current Urban Growth Boundary, in anticipation of future expansion.

- In 2020, Metro is expected to offer voters a multibillion dollar transportation bond measure. It's possible some of the bond funds could be allocated for active transportation improvements.
- THPRD is launching a Vision Process in 2019. The goal is public outreach to determine what kind of park system the community wants. Holly Thompson has been hired as the district's Director of Communications, replacing Bob Wayt. Holly will drive the Vision Process.
- THPRD is actively working with developers to work out plans for trails, parks, and natural areas in the South Cooper Mountain area.
- The City of Beaverton has requested an expansion of the UGB to add the Cooper Mountain Urban Reserve Area for residential use. This expansion may present land acquisition opportunities for THPRD.

Natural Resources Functional Plan update and Survey Results

- Bruce gave a presentation about the planned NRFP update and the results of the THPRD Natural Area Visitor Use Survey conducted in 2017.
 - The goal of the NRFP is to guide THPRD policy with respect to education, stewardship and accessibility of natural areas.
 - The NRFP is due for a periodic update in 2019.
 - The Natural Area Visitor Use Survey was conducted at 10 sites, and attempted to determine:
 - Who uses the natural areas?
 - Do they get the experience they wanted?
 - If not, how could we provide it?
 - Highlights of the survey results:
 - A lot of people use the natural areas for exercise.
 - A lot of people are unaware of available educational programs, especially people of color.
 - In 2019, the committee will spend time reviewing the existing NRFP in light of the survey results.
 - Initial thoughts from committee members:
 - The survey doesn't answer some important questions, such as why some people may stay away from the natural areas.
 - What do people want to learn about?
 - What to people consider to be "nature"?
 - Which minority communities use natural areas, and why? Are there cultural influences? Economic influences?
 - Could adding culturally significant plants increase interest of Native American communities?
 - Would adding a ranger for outreach to minority groups be possible? Helpful?
 - Could cultural events similar to "Fiesta in the Park" spark interest?

IV. New Business

Leadership Roles

- Bruce briefly described the committee leadership roles, Chair and Recording Secretary.
 - Leadership elections will be held in January with the new committee membership.
 - Laura will be stepping down as Chair
 - Sam expressed interest in taking on the Chair role.

Year in Review

- Sam discussed NTAC accomplishments and activities for 2018. See attached list.
- Looking ahead to 2019, the committee discussed some of the topics we would like to address:
 - Wildlife corridors
 - NRFP update
 - Trails Functional Plan update
 - Participate in Vision Process
 - Strategies to get ahead of UGB expansion
 - Cooper Mountain Nature Park expansion, and other opportunities in the Cooper Mountain area
 - Input for project plans, such as Beaverton Creek Trail and others

- Trail safety and communication
- Expansion of backyard habitat program to Washington County and THPRD
- Environmental Education
- Geographic Equity

Recognizing Outgoing Members

- Laura thanked outgoing members Cory and Matthew for their contributions to the committee's work and presented them with souvenirs of their tenure. The whole committee expressed heartfelt gratitude. Bruce will contact John and Mitch to give them their souvenirs.

V. Other

Next Meeting

- The next NTAC meeting is scheduled for Wednesday January 16, 2019, following the Joint AC meeting at 6:30 PM.
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Meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Sam Scheerens