



Tualatin Hills Park & Recreation District
Parks & Facilities Advisory Committee Minutes
Dryland Conference Room

September 11, 2019

Attendees:

PFAC members: Ken Ratterree (chair), Tricia Lance, Galit Pinker, Michael Riedel, Pat Sheleny
THPRD Staff: Jon Campbell, Wendy Kroger (Board of Director liaison) and Brenda Peterson, recording secretary
Not Present: Jane Athanasakos, Nanda Siddaiah, Shannon Wilson

Guests: Holly Thompson, Communications Director; Keith Watson, Community Programs Manager; Mike Cero, Park Maintenance Supervisor North; Chris Arnold, Park Maintenance Specialist; Alaka Sarangdhar, member of our community

Call Meeting to Order: Ken called the meeting to order @ 6:35 PM.

Minutes of the July 17, 2019 were approved as written.

Presentations:

Turf Management at HMT: Mike Cero introduced Chris Arnold to the committee, told the committee how we were fortunate to hire Chris because he has a wealth of knowledge and experience managing sports fields over the past 13 years. Chris was hired the end of April, he manages the HMT sports fields (softball and soccer fields) and most of the non-programmed turf as well. Chris has brought knowledge from his previous employment with the Arizona Diamondbacks and other baseball & parks programs. Chris explained the seasonal maintenance schedule, said the services they provide keep the turf healthy and ahead of the game (aerating, top dressing, watering and fertilizing natural grass areas-spring/fall, as well as compacting the mounds and batters boxes, dragging dirt areas-daily, blowing out lips with water on a weekly basis). Chris received and answered several questions from the committee. A few of the committee members use the HMT softball fields and complimented Chris on the care, maintenance and how nice the fields are to use/play on. Holly mentioned that her department is considering "sharing" stories/activities of THPRD staff with the public on social media; Chris would be an excellent candidate. The committee would support this endeavor.

Dog Park/Run Update: Keith and Holly updated the committee on the recent pop-up dog parks and a listening session. Keith will be continuing to send/provide updates through Ken and filer to the committee.

- The listening session at **Jackie Husen** Park was met with mixed opinions from approximately 65 - 70 neighbors about installing a temporary dog run as a pilot program. Keith thanked Pat, Holly and Jon for attending, and the committee for all the time they have put into their research, their recommendations that were accepted by the board and are part of the new Parks Functional Plan. Keith provided some details about the Listening Session; some of the members had questions. Keith, Holly and Pat answered each question. Keith asked the committee if they would support the installation of a temporary dog run being installed at Jackie Husen Park, each member said they are supportive. Keith thanked them, let them know their support is very important, will be relayed to the

management team and the board of directors. Further discussion continued as it relates to the dog run:

- Discussion on signage and location of signage
- Discussion to invite advisory committee members to the Board meeting to help with support of project
- Discussion to survey the users after the dog run is set up and in use; possibly use volunteers
 - Ask about parking issues, noise issues, increase of park use/visitors and to use data for future discussions
- Keith updated the committee that they heard a lot of neighbors at the Listening Session ask if Cedar Mill Park will also get a dog run. Because that was a common question, he may work on getting a pop-up dog park at **Cedar Mill Park** later this fall for a couple of reasons:
 - To help alleviate tensions
 - Cedar Mill has a lot of off-leash activity near the tennis courts
 - It could reduce the number of users at Jackie Husen Park
 - If we decide to move forward staff will provide outreach with Cedar Mill Park neighbors.
- Staff engaged in discussions with the neighbors of **Schiffler Park** at an event in August. The discussion began with how to try to deter vandalism and other negative behaviors in the park. Neighbors suggested a dog park/run. At the event, staff installed temporary dog park fencing and there were only positive feedback & comments during this event.
 - Barrier: currently the City of Beaverton code doesn't allow for dog parks within the city boundaries. Staff and THPRD attorneys are working with the city to interpret the code to allow dog runs and/or to ask that city code be changed. Both the City of Beaverton and THPRD want to increase the number of dog parks/runs for our patrons.
- In late August, **Raleigh Park** pool had their end of season closure and a doggie paddle event was scheduled. Along with that event, a dog run was set up (for just that event).
 - The park district has a concept plan for Raleigh Park (approved 2010) and the area that the dog run was installed is designated for "future recreational activity." This park and this area will be considered in the future as a successful site for a dog run.
- There is continued discussion by staff on a site at **Rock Creek Powerline Park**. Staff are working with Clean Water Services on a few details prohibiting staff from moving forward at that site.

Lessons Learned: staff would like to continue with pilot projects throughout the district, leading with pop-up, fenced areas; and staff would like to recommend multiple sites and set them up/install them at the same time.

Next Steps: the committee supports the installation of a dog run at both Jackie Husen Park and Schiffler Park. Staff will inform the committee when upcoming public meetings will be scheduled.

Guest Time: Alaka Sarangdhar introduced herself to the committee. She told the committee she was on a former advisory committee several years ago as it related to the facilities and programs. Alaka told the committee her family used several of the facilities for many years, she is now a recent retiree of Intel and is still a common user of the park district. She asked about the PFAC and its charge, she asked about the process in getting on the committee. Jon continued the discussion with an update on the recruitment process, the number of positions that will be open, the application process/timing, and the interview process. Alaka was appreciative, thanked the committee for letting her come to the meeting.

2020 PFAC / New Member Recruitment Process:

Jon notified the committee that there will be four openings for the 2020 Parks & Facilities Advisory Committee:

- Jane Athanasakos term expires in December, 2019. Jane will not reapply.
- Shannon Wilson resigned on September 10, 2019 for personal reasons.
- Kristin Preston resigned on May 21, 2019 because she got a PT position with the THPRD Community Programs/Events Department
- New youth committee member: A youth member will be added to each of the three advisory committees in 2020.

Old Business:

Update: Pesticide free park

Jon met with Tamer for the second time since the Pesticide Free Park Pilot Project started in April. They met on site in mid-August; Jon took some photos of the park to share. The park looks good, however, Jon noted that Tamer is really the only neighbor spending time in the park (noted the volunteer log). The committee is happy that the park looks good, but wonders if this model, moving forward, would be sustainable if only one person is caring for the park. Discussion continued noting “adopt a park” scenarios and to monitor what parts of volunteering on this site are successful and expand those successes.

- Tamer contacted Jon regarding what he felt was an issue about fertilizing the athletic field. Jon told Tamer the MOU is to keep the park pesticides free, states we will not spray pesticides. Since the MOU was agreed upon our staff has not sprayed pesticides. Jon also told Tamer the soccer field is managed at a very high level because it is programmed; users pay to use the field. The sports field users expect their fields to be managed and maintained at a very high level; we will not change our turf management practices. Tamer understood, asked if we can use an organic fertilizer instead. I said we will not change our practices; we can revisit that after the pilot program is complete. Jon said he will ask Tamer to report back to the PFAC next spring, he can request it to the PFAC. Tamer thought that was reasonable, agreed to do that.

Update: Vandalism

Vandalism is happening throughout the district, but the two worst parks continue to be Schiffler Park and Mountain View Champions Park. With school starting (and possible other reasons), the graffiti is slowing at Schiffler Park, but continuing weekly at Mtn View Champions. The committee suggested the site supervisor to monitor the facility with a longer shift, not just when activities are programmed.

Jon noted that this level of vandalism has spiked at it's highest peak in about 15 years. THPRD security staff are working with Beaverton School District security in a wider capacity than in the past which is helping.

Update: Safe Parking

Holly described the program in a bit more detail than previous meeting notes. Holly thanked Jon for his presence and care to those that are using the parking spaces at Fanno Creek Service Center. Holly mentioned that this program is a national model for helping those that experience homelessness. Those “clients” accepted into the program are working with community organizations to assist in placing them in housing. There have been about four cars (number of people in the cars is not always known) in the past 6 months using FCSC. This is a pilot project, which will most likely continue and/or may be expanded. Management is cautious on adding locations.

New Business:**Expansion in North Bethany**

With Gery Keck's assistance (Design and Development Manager), Jon presented a map noting the growth of parks planned in the north Bethany area. There are five future parks planned and will be designed and developed in the next three years.

Committee Time:

- Galit is still working on a list of intersections that may be defined more dangerous as families navigate from their homes to the closest park.
- Wendy inquired with the committee to ask if they would be interested in presenting to the Board of Directors any updates on their projects. The committee would be very interested in the opportunity to be on an upcoming agenda.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:30 pm

Next meeting: October 16; 6:30pm at Joint Advisory Committee at Fanno Creek Service Center