



# Tualatin Hills Park & Recreation District

## ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

### Nature & Trails Advisory Committee Meeting

Date: February 19<sup>th</sup>, 2020

Time: 7:45 PM

Location: Fanno Creek Service Center

#### In Attendance

Committee Members: Sam Scheerens (chair), Margaret Hite, Sheri Wantland, Grace Heassler, Sridevi Kothandapani, Katy Brumbelow, Alison Rhea, James Wright, Laura Porter

Staff: Bruce Barbarasch (Nature & Trails manager)

Board Liaison: Heidi Edwards

Absent: Tosin Abiodun

- I. **Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 6:35
- II. **Approval of Minutes:** The minutes from the January 2020 meeting were presented to the committee. Laura moved to accept the minutes, and Sheri seconded the motion. Minutes were approved unanimously.

#### III. **Guest comments/announcements:**

- Heidi advised committee of Metro's upcoming workshop to discuss the transportation bond measure, and noted that trail users were invited to give input. The meeting will be held this coming Friday (2/21) and is open to the public.
- Sam provided a reminder about committee members making public comments, noting that members should make clear that they are offering their input as private citizens, independently from the committee, unless the committee has specifically sent the member to represent an agreed-upon position.

#### IV. **New Business**

- Discussion of Ground Rules: Sam provided a handout and reviewed expectations for committee meetings, including: the expectation of inclusivity, remaining collaborative and collegial, and reviewing the role of the committee as advisors to the board, and the public nature of the meetings.
- Tualatin Hills Nature Park Sewer Project: Bruce provided a brief recap of the anticipated replacement of the sewer pipe running through the nature park, and introduced a proposed re-alignment of a section of the Big Fir Trail where a boardwalk will be disrupted by the construction.
  - The new alignment would shorten the Big Fir Trail by about 400 feet by cutting out an oxbow in the trail.
  - Proposed boardwalk would run adjacent to the Big Pond, and may provide opportunity for additional wildlife observation.
  - New trail would provide improved accessibility by eliminating dips and rises in the current boardwalk, and would have superior nonskid surface.
  - The new trail alignment would likely result in a closure of the trail for 3-6 months, in contrast to a closure of up to 2 years if the current alignment were maintained.
  - Minimal negative habitat impact anticipated with proposed alignment, possibly even improvement over existing impacts.

- A committee member voiced concern over impact on nature summer camps; discussion held about impact/opportunities for utilizing alternative facilities during camps.
- Overall, committee generally favorable to proposed new trail alignment.
- Election of officers: Margaret and Sam described roles of secretary and chair, and after discussion by committee, the floor was opened for nominations.
  - Chair: Margaret nominated Sheri; nomination seconded by Laura. Sridevi nominated Sam, and James seconded.
  - Secretary: Sam nominated Alison (seconded by Margaret); James nominated himself, and Margaret seconded.
  - Vote was held, with **Sheri** chosen as **Chair** and **James** selected as **Secretary**.
- Goals discussion:
  - Sam presented a review of work the committee did in 2019, and possible areas of focus in 2020.
  - Bruce listed several items he will likely bring to the committee in the upcoming year, including visioning project input, review of Natural Resources Functional Plan, climate change adaptation strategy, and strategies and plans for substandard trails.
  - The committee added the following major topics to consider in the upcoming year as time allows: Trails Functional Plan, Beaverton Creek Trail input, and Willow Creek Boardwalk input.
  - The following were considered topics for committee to receive updates on: Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion; Cooper Mountain plan; and homeless policies.
  - The following ideas for committee to address were also named: educational opportunities (e.g., construction in Nature Park, connecting with schools, library, etc., descriptive plant signs/brochures, outreach); trail maintenance (e.g. herbicide use); connectivity of trails and habitat; and disaster preparedness.

**V. Next Meeting will be held on March 18th at 6:30 at Fanno Creek Service Center.**

Meeting adjourned at 8:20 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Margaret Hite

Recording Secretary