



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

### **Parks & Facilities Advisory Committee Meeting**

**Date: November 18, 2020**

**Time: 6:00 PM**

**Location: Virtual Meeting**

#### **In Attendance**

Committee Members: Ken Ratterree (Chair), Nanda Siddaiah (Secretary), Galit Pinker, Carl Nelson, Tricia Lance, Michael Reidel

Staff: Keith Watson (Community Programs Manager), Tim Bonnin (Senior Park Planner), Gery Keck (Design & Development Manager)

Board Liaison: Wendy Kroger

Absent: Kristen Abele, Alaka Sarangdhar, Tiago Zuccari, Pat Sheleny (resigned)

- I. **Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at: 6:00PM
- II. **Approval of Minutes:** The minutes from the October 2020 meeting were presented to the committee. Minutes were approved unanimously.
- III. **Public Comment:** No public comments were received
- IV. **New Business**
  - Governor's Two-Week Pause: Keith provided an update to the committee on the status of THPRD facilities and programs as a result of the Governor's two-week pause announcement related to the COVID-19 pandemic.
  - Main Street Park - South Cooper Mountain Park Development: Tim Bonnin shared a presentation on an urban plaza park design concept adjacent to Mountainside High School off of Scholls Ferry Road. The proposed park is on a commercial-use site, surrounded by a commercial building and adjacent to affordable housing and senior living. Following the presentation, the committee members asked several questions. Mike asked Tim to explain SDC credits, which are System Development Charge credits a developer can apply for to build a park in lieu of paying SDC's to the district. Tricia asked about a large flat concrete surface for fitness classes... Tim noted there is a large space nearby that the developer is considering as a plaza (possibly space for a farmer's market) that could complement events in the park. Ken asked about furnishings and accessible seating... Tim replied that the master plan is high-level, but there would be a drinking fountain and bike racks... and he would look into bench seating beyond the concrete seat walls. Galit noted that pathways, lighting and benches were needed for accessibility and senior safety... she also suggested built-in games for social interaction and is going to send an example to Keith to share with Tim... she also asked about SDC's and how do we know how much the project costs if we leave it up to the developer... Gery explained a 3<sup>rd</sup> party contractor is used to determine the costs. Wendy had three comments: the plaza should have lighting, is there any way to shield the breezeway from too much wind, and have we contacted the nearby high school about this project and considered safe access across the street... Tim said park hours are dawn to dusk but this one will be different because it's in a commercial area that may have night use, he indicated he would look into these questions... Wendy noted that she would follow up on these questions at the board meeting. A brief discussion ensued about skate boarding

and Tim noted the need for skate stops in the plaza. Mike, Ken, Nanda, Galit, and Wendy approved the design to move forward for board review and looked forward to reviewing the park plans after their comments were taken into consideration.

***Note: At 6:45pm we joined the Nature & Trails Advisory Committee meeting for the following two staff presentations. Minutes were taken from NTAC Recording Secretary.***

- New Park/Trail Naming Presentation: Liana Harden presented an update on the project, which she had presented to NTAC in February. THPRD is aiming for site names that focus on under-represented communities and equity. Liana outlined the workflow:  
Internal naming committee > Community input > Advisory committee input > Board Decision.  
The naming group asked for input from the NTAC committee on feeling, engagement, and resonance within the community today and in the future. The first round of proposed names:

Pío Pio Park at SW 187th Ave & Bonnie Meadow Ln

Unity Park near SW 178th Ave & Alexander St

Recuerdo Park at SW 174th & Biles Ln

Reflections Plaza at NW Cornell Rd & Joy Ave

Yoshihara Trail, Sato Trail, and Bethany Creek Greenway in the Bethany Area

There was an open Q&A session with many questions. Heidi asked if people's names were considered for any of the parks. Liana responded that these were the names that the community most associated with these places and described balancing the history of families and groups in the community with evoking emotions; for now, the Japanese community most consistently came up with family names. Tricia asked if there is a process to handle names that become infamous? Liana will check on a process for if a name becomes problematic. (James noted this was asked in February, and asked Liana to follow up with an answer.) Wendy Kroger noted that names for current parks started around the 1847 land grants, and asked what the policy will be going forward to address the indigenous legacy of the area. Liana is working on a land acknowledgment procedure. They think that connecting with the tribal council through this process will help with renaming. The Grande Ronde tribal council has contributed names but THPRD wants to work in tandem with them and other indigenous groups to develop a park or space from the beginning that recognizes them instead of renaming an existing park. She re-emphasized the importance of bringing those partners on from the very beginning. James asked which community was engaged in developing Reflection Plaza. Liana said that, because no one had moved into the new community, they started by interviewing the Muslim community in that neighborhood. Liana directed the two committees to the online surveys at: (<http://www.thprd.org/connect/news/introducing-new-park-trail-names>) Liana will update the committee in the future.

- Nature Play Standards Update: Matt Kilmartin presented a slide show regarding draft language for new Nature Play standards. Prior nature play area guidelines were released in 2012, and need to be updated due to a review by our insurer Special Districts Association of Oregon which identified risk management gaps. In May of 2020 a task force began to develop new guidelines, changing the name from "guidelines" to "standards" with a strong focus on developing clear definitions and standards. Among the questions, Talia asked about standards of use for bicycles and skateboards. Bruce suggested leaving space to add other types of play areas to the document. James asked about inspection standards (page 8). He was concerned about the vague language in the "Maintenance & Inspection" section specifically as it related to the timing of inspections.

Matt agreed that the inspection frequencies were left a bit vague but also noted that more detail on inspection frequencies could be found in other district documents. Therefore, rather than duplicating that info in this section, references to those other documents would be added to this section for better clarity. Sam followed up on this with a comment on the lack of a definition for “hazards”. Wendy Kroger was pleased to see the document and suggested consideration of a fourth goal that identifies the importance to protect natural areas. Bruce responded that the rules do not prevent people from going off trail, and there is a fine line between open space and these spaces. Wendy replied that she would like to see that better clarified in the document. Also, on page 2 in the “design elements and principles,” in addition to plants, Wendy would like this section to include considerations for animals/wildlife as well. Matt said the original document did have language about this, and it can be reviewed and added as appropriate.

## **V. Old Business**

- Ridgewood Park Dog Run Update: Keith updated the committee on the status of the pop-up dog run at Ridgewood Park. He explained that with last weekend’s cancellation of the dog event, we were extending the date of the pop-up fencing until November 30. This was due in part to gather additional feedback from local neighbors. To date, we have received over 50 comments on the website.
- Jackie Husen Dog Run Update: Keith informed the committee that the management team had reviewed staff’s recommendation and the General Manager approved the dog run as a permanent amenity at the park following the one-year pilot project. Keith thanked the committee for their support over the last year and indicated there were several takeaways learned throughout the process that will guide decision making for future dog run projects.

## **VI. Wrap Up**

- The committee discussed and opted to skip the December meeting.
- Committee roles for 2021 were discussed briefly. Given the pause in meetings in 2020 due to COVID-19, members indicated they would be comfortable continuing with the current chairperson and secretary. This will be discussed further at the January 2021 meeting.

## **VII. Next Meeting**

- Joint Advisory Committee Meeting on Wednesday, January 27, 6pm
- Parks & Facilities Advisory Committee will meet following the joint meeting

Meeting adjourned at: 7:50PM

Minutes submitted by,

Keith Watson, THPRD staff