



Tualatin Hills Park & Recreation District ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Parks & Facilities Advisory Committee Meeting

Date: January 27, 2021

Time: Following Joint AC Meeting @ 6:00 PM

Location: Virtual Meeting

In Attendance

Committee Members: Ken Ratterree (Chair), Nanda Siddaiah (Secretary), Kristen Abele, Alaka Sarangdhar, Carl Nelson, Tricia Lance, Michael Reidel

Staff: Keith Watson (Community Programs Manager)

Board Liaison: Wendy Kroger

Absent: Tiago Zuccari

- I. **Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at: 6:50PM
- II. **Approval of Minutes:** The minutes from the November 2020 meeting were presented to the committee. Minutes were approved unanimously.
- III. **Public Comment:** No public comments were received
- IV. **New Business**
 - Committee Roles for 2021: A motion was made by Tricia to retain Ken Ratterree (Chairperson) and Nanda Siddaiah (Secretary) for 2021. Tricia seconded the motion. All in favor.
 - Goals of the Committee for 2021: The committee discussed goals for 2021. There was a desire to identify goals and/or projects that were actionable, measurable, and tangible. Several ideas were suggested, including: sponsoring a movie in the park, organizing/planning an event, researching outdoor exercise equipment options, collaborating with the other advisory committees to develop nature and trail/maintenance standards, adding curb cutouts on the Waterhouse Trail, taking park tours, and developing strategies for enhanced promotion of our parks. The group agreed that continuing our work with dog parks and expanding off-leash areas would remain a goal moving forward, and they also were interested in being a part of integrating the community vision work and park naming process into future master planning of new parks.

Keith indicated he would provide additional information on the THPRD Vision Action Plan to determine how the committee might be able to assist in efforts to implement action items. The discussion on goals will continue at the February meeting.
 - Dog Park/Run Improvements Update: Keith provided a PowerPoint presentation with updates on improvements to the Winkleman Dog Park and the Schiffler Park Dog Run. At Winkleman Park, staff have converted the small dog area from grass to wood chips to help reduce overcrowding in the all-season area during the winter months. With bark chips, the small dog area can now remain open all year. At Schiffler Park, Keith explained that the dog run is being converted from grass to wood chips and a small dog area is being established. Once converted, the dog run will remain open all year.

- Future Pop-up Dog Run Site Review: Keith provided a PowerPoint presentation with updates on sites for future pop-up dog runs. Keith explained that there were concerns with the field conditions at Garden Home Park and staff were not comfortable hosting a pop-up dog run at the park. As an alternative, he suggested AM Kennedy Park as the next site to host a pop-up. The committee reviewed overhead images of the park and agreed it would be a good candidate for this activity. Keith indicated he would move forward with the planning for this spring. The committee also reviewed the master site list for future dog runs and agreed to review an updated list after staff get a chance to recommend new or alternative sites. The group agreed that we should look at trail-side open spaces as an option. Wendy mentioned Greenway Park as a possible site and suggested that Keith ask staff if there are any areas along our trail system that could benefit from the increased activity that a dog run would provide (activation of problem areas).

V. Old Business

- Jackie Husen Dog Run Update: Keith informed the committee that he has emailed local neighbors about the park becoming permanent. He relayed that most feedback had been positive and that he was in communication with a neighbor who lives adjacent to the park to discuss how THPRD could ensure that the dog run and the local neighbors can continue to coexist peacefully. It was also noted that the social media site, Nextdoor, had several comments recently about community members discovering the dog run.
- Ridgewood Park Dog Run Update: Keith provided a summary of the feedback gathered during the Ridgewood Park pop-up dog run and asked the committee for their input. Members commented that with over 90% of the feedback in favor, it seemed like it was an ideal site for this activity. Keith commented that he was able to find four common themes in the feedback: sense of community, favorable location, park activation, and ease of walkability, and that these are all strong indicators of a good location. After a brief discussion, the committee provided their recommendation that Keith seek management approval to pursue making the dog run a permanent amenity at the park.

Carl mentioned that perhaps a good project for the group would be to coordinate the installation of dog agility equipment in our existing dog parks. He also thought it might make for a good Eagle Scout project. Mike and Ken both supported the idea and Kristin volunteered to do some research prior to the February meeting. Keith mentioned perhaps the group could work to identify standardized equipment and make a request for challenge grant funding to purchase. The group agreed to discuss further at our next meeting.

- Park/Trail Naming Update: Keith thanked the committee members for their input on the recent park & trail naming process that Liana presented to the group in November. He provided a map of the new sites and reviewed the new park names with the group.

VI. Wrap Up

- Nanda mentioned that he has driven past a new mountain bike park off of I-84 and I-205. It is often full of users and seems very popular. THPRD should consider something similar. He also suggested THPRD look at adding an additional racquet facility for tennis, racquetball, and squash. Keith indicated the THPRD Vision Action Plan would provide future guidance on these types of requests.

VII. Next Meeting

- Next Parks & Facilities Advisory Committee Meeting on Wednesday, February 17, 6pm

Meeting adjourned at: 8:10PM

Minutes submitted by,
Keith Watson, THPRD staff