



**Tualatin Hills Park & Recreation District**  
**Nature & Trails Advisory Committee Minutes**

**Date:** May 25, 2022

**Time:** 6:30-8:30pm

**Location:** Zoom virtual meeting

**In Attendance**

Committee Members: Eugenie Adamah-Tassah, Margaret Hite (chair), Shirley Hoffmann, Sridevi Kothandapani, Erik Lehr, Alison Rhea, Sam Scheerens

Guests: Tom Hjort, community member

Staff: Bruce Barbarasch, Nature & Trails Manager

**I. Call to Order:** 6:36pm

**II. Approval of Minutes:** Alison moved to approve April's minutes. Seconded by Erik. Passed unanimously.

**III. Check in Question:** What parks have you visited lately? Members had been to Fanno Creek Greenway, Willow Creek Greenway, Commonwealth Lake Park, Cooper Mountain Nature Park.

**IV. Old Business**

A. Staff received 115 patron surveys about **management of Bethany Lake** and the surrounding trail/natural area. Bruce Barbarasch shared graphs and other summary information about the results. Most patrons felt that supporting wildlife was an important part of lake management. Patrons who lived closest to the lake felt that harvest aquatic plants was more important than those who just visited the lake. Many requests were made for additional seating near the lake as well as requests for additional parking, sports courts, or playgrounds that were beyond the scope of the survey. The committee supported more seating, asked staff to consider better fishing access, and to harvest aquatic plants less often. The also asked if the survey result might be different if done during the summer versus a rainy spring.

**V. New Business**

A. Guest, Tom Hjort, asked the committee to support the **expansion of Cooper Mountain Nature Park**, including new trails, access, and stewardship as South Cooper Mountain area is planned and built out. He submitted written materials which are attached.

B. The group discussed a staff request to write a letter to support THPRD's applications for **Regional Flexible Funding** for the Westside Trail crossing of Hwy 26 as well as the Beaverton Creek Trail from the Westside Trail at Tualatin

Hills Nature Park to SW Hocken Ave. The group decided to support the projects. Marty will draft a letter and distribute it to the committee for review by e-mail.

- C. Bruce Barbarasch presented an overview of the structure, purpose, and status of THPRD's **Trails Functional Plan**. The update process for functional plans will be determined after the Comprehensive Plan is complete.
- D. Bruce also shared scientific information about **climate change** in the Pacific Northwest and some of the local impacts due to temperature and precipitation on vegetation and habitats. The committee asked:
- Q: Is THPRD monitoring tree health in the district?  
A: Yes, and staff is working on a systematic monitoring program.
  - Q: Is disaster preparedness part of the climate change planning?  
A: Yes. Wildfire management planning was just completed. Interagency natural hazard planning is ongoing.
  - Q: How will THPRD address pollution issues resulting from incidents of massive runoff?  
A: We work with Clean Water Service where possible. This also falls under ongoing disaster planning.
  - Q: What is THPRD doing to address long range impacts of climate change?  
A: THPRD has been re-meandering streams where possible for habitat restoration and better water retention. Discussions are underway regarding introduction of more drought resistant plant varieties, but great care must be taken to avoid unintended consequences.

**VI. Next Meeting will be on June 22, 2022 at 6:30 pm** (zoom link available through website or by contacting Bruce Barbarasch)

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Bruce Barbarasch

**Climate****Inclusivity****Connectivity**

Disaster preparedness

Distribution of park users at various properties

Linking trails

Climate Action Plan Feedback

Why do users choose one park over another?

Habitat connectivity

Electric vehicles

Refugee community outreach (with cultural sensitivity awareness)

Community

Wildlife adaptation to climate change

Cooper Mountain update

Power line parks/uplands: usage? Oak savannah potential?

Connections between parks/self-guided tours

What positive climate actions are being taken/have been taken in our area/within THPRD?

Interpretive signage

Native plant guides