## THPRDLogo_BW_RoundTualatin Hills Park & Recreation District

## Nature & Trails Advisory Committee Minutes

**Date: 8/17/22**

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

# Location: Zoom

**In Attendance**

Committee Members: Margaret “Marty” Hite (chair), Alison Rhea, Sridevi Kothandapani, Erik Lehr, Sam Scheerens

Staff: Bruce Barbarasch, Peter Swinton, Scott Wagner, Aisha Panas

Guests: None.

**I. Call to Order**

Marty called the meeting to order at 6:35 pm.

**II. Approval of Minutes**

The group reviewed the minutes for the May 25, 2022 meeting. Erik moved to approve the minutes. Alison seconded. There was no discussion, and the minutes were unanimously approved.

**IV. Old Business**

None.

**V. New Business**

Check in:

* Marty enjoyed a paddling trip on the Tualatin River. She did some hiking on the Wildwood Trail and observed a lot of invasive English Ivy.
* Erik has seen lots of dragonflies this year, and fewer mosquitos than usual.
* Sam has been bicycling with his granddaughter, including the Providence Bridge Pedal.
* Alison introduced a friend to Tualatin Hills Nature Park. The sewer construction work was not as noisy as she had expected. She planned to attend a “water walk” tour about sustainable farming.
* Bruce and his wife went on a small boat sailing trip for two weeks. They visited some state parks.

NTAC Recruitment:

* Five members will come to the end of their term in December.
* Staff has begun recruitment activities through a variety of media and partner agencies – similar to previous years.
* Committee members offered thoughts on recruitment and screening for new members:
	+ Some of the partner agency channels could provide a good opportunity to bring diversity to the NTAC.
	+ Reach out to local high schools to recruit young members. (This is already being done.)
	+ Make sure candidates clearly understand our role is as representatives of the community that the district serves. The staff informs, the committee advises, the board decides, and the staff executes.
* The committee discussed the screening process:
	+ Each of the candidates will be interviewed individually. If there are too many candidates to interview each of them in a reasonable amount of time, we may revisit this decision. Other possible approaches are to prescreen candidates based on their written application or interview them in small groups.
	+ Limit NTAC interviewers to no more than three. This will allow us to split the work among multiple teams.
	+ The chair will try to observe all the interviews to get a holistic view. Ideally, we would like to have a follow-up discussion with the whole committee to share observations.
	+ Key questions and statements will be scripted for a consistent experience.
	+ We should be prepared to offer in-person or online interview options, as pandemic conditions permit.

Comprehensive Plan:

* Peter Swinton (Planner) gave a presentation on Level of Service (LOS) Analysis
* The purpose of the 2022 Comprehensive Plan is to actualize the Vision Plan. The main parts are:
	+ Values statement
	+ Level of service analysis (tonight’s topic)
	+ Where we want to be
	+ How we get there
* LOS analysis is used to establish benchmarks for quantity, quality, and accessibility (walkability) of parks and amenities.
* THPRD uses a proprietary methodology called the Geo‐Referenced Amenities Standards Process (GRASP), that is in common use among public park districts.
* The resulting LOS analysis helps identify and prioritize acquisition and development opportunities.
* Peter asked the committee what factors THPRD should consider when studying the LOS analysis in the future.
	+ Consider how Metro plans and projects will affect walkability
	+ Consider prioritizing walkability for portions of the district with less access to motor vehicles
	+ Socioeconomic equity should be a factor
	+ Future density of housing is a consideration
* Peter asked the committee what staff should consider when weighing priorities to balance conservation and recreation
	+ Refer to the 2014 Natural Resources Functional Plan as a starting point for developing prioritization processes
	+ Wildlife corridor connectivity is a key factor
	+ Watershed management is another key consideration

Wildfire Management:

* Scott Wagner (Nature & Trails Specialist) gave a presentation on wildfire management planning
* THPRD has been collaborating with Tualatin Hills Fire and Rescue to establish:
	+ Emergency procedures
	+ Wildfire management ranking system
	+ Best practices for maintenance of various terrain and vegetation elements
	+ Site specific wildfire management planning
* The next steps are to integrate the information gained into site plans, collaborate with other partners, and educate and inform the public
* The members asked:
	+ Q: How is THPRD planning for future threats, such as climate change, disease, pest infestation, etc.?
	A: The plan is intended to be dynamic, with ongoing collaboration and planning as conditions change.
	Q: How will the public be informed about high-risk sites?
	A: Staff is currently developing signage. Plan is to involve all partner organizations in the public education process.

Turtle and amphibian surveys:

* Alison Rhea (NTAC member) gave a presentation on her experiences volunteering to count turtles an amphibian egg masses at selected sites in the district.
* For each activity, THPRD provides a kit with information and supplies.
* Amphibian egg mass monitoring is typically done from February through May.
* Turtle monitoring typically runs from May through August.

**VI. Other**

* There was no June meeting of NTAC.
* There was no July meeting of NTAC.
* On July 20, many members attended an optional field trip to tour the planned alignment of a portion of the proposed Beaverton Creek Trail from the Millikan Way Light Rail Station to the edge of the Nike woods.
* Another optional field trip to tour the Tualatin Hills Nature Park sewer construction project will be held September 15 at 6:00 pm. Meet in front of the nature center (15655 SW Millikan Way, Beaverton, OR 97006).

**VII. Next Meeting will be held on September 21, 2022, 6:30pm via Zoom.**

Meeting adjourned at 8:30pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Sam Scheerens

Recording Secretary pro tempore