



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

Date: February 15, 2023

Time: 6:30 pm

Location: Fanno Creek Service Center

In Attendance

Committee Members: Heather AbuSneineh, Carla Fennell, Margaret Hite, Shirley Hoffmann (secretary), Vidyanand Kulkarni, Brittany Leffel, Erik Lehr (chair), Carl Nelson, Tina Ricks

Board Liaison: Tya Ping

Staff: Bruce Barbarasch, Nature & Trails Manager

Guests: None

I. Call to Order

Meeting was called to order at 6:35 pm

II. Approval of Minutes

Chair Erik called for review and approval of January meeting minutes. Carl moved to approve December's minutes. Marty seconded the motion. With 2 additions, minutes were unanimously approved.

IV. Old Business

None

V. New Business

Bruce provided an overview of the Functional Plans for Natural Resources (NRFP) and Trails (TFP). The NRFP was approved in 2014 and the TFP in 2016. Both are in need of updating, but THPRD does not have a current timeline. He walked through the plans' content, explaining that they were developed with a system perspective, using watershed areas, a more connected habitat approach and a community engagement lens focused on who and how users connect with the natural world. Both Functional Plans provide priority and standards guidelines for THPRD development, maintenance and acquisition of THPRD property and trail development. Key discussion points from the Committee:

--It would be useful to define "access," especially for communities that are underrepresented in park user counts

-- What is the proportion of adult and child education activities?

--How does THPRD provide education for homeowners? Brittany pointed us to the Tualatin River Watershed Navigator for more information for private property owners.

--How THPRD handles trail construction when the guidelines for trail construction cannot be fully followed.

--How THPRD coordinates with developers as they include natural areas and trails in their developments.

--Details on how THPRD calculates indices for indicators of success, such as percentages of rehabilitated areas or level of improvement.

--Use of user counts to determine public use.

Eric led the Committee on brainstorming new ideas the Committee might pursue in 2023. Key ideas generated:

- Presentation on longer-term plans for the Fanno Creek Trail extension into Portland
- Understanding partnerships with outside organizations and THPRD such as the power line companies where major regional trails are located
- Committee access and use of grant money, to include an overview of the grant process
- Documentation of access for people with disabilities.
- Overview of habitat inventory program
- Field trips
- An updated map showing which trails were completed vs. planned. THPRD's Spanish map has the latest. Staff are now updating other digital maps at www.thprd.org
- Functional Plan – Should it be updated?
- Updates on plans for future/potential trails
- Status updates on recent grant proposals
- Better signage for trails that go on to neighborhood streets
- Update on Climate Action Plan
- Topics of special concern: Emerald Ash Borer and Western Red Cedar
- Invasive species management
- Community engagement
- How does THPRD define “equitable access”?

VI. Other

Carl mentioned that Treekeepers of Washington County would like to coordinate an activity with THPRD during Arbor month in April, such as a tree walk or tree scavenger hunt. Bruce said this should be discussed with the Community Engagement and Programming division of THPRD. It may be late to develop a stand-alone activity as the year's schedule is in place but perhaps Treekeepers could discuss joining an already planned event.

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

VII. Next Meeting will be held on

March 15, 2023, 6:30-8:30 pm. Will be hybrid: in-person and Teams.
Location: Fanno Creek Service Center, 6220 SW 112th Ave., Beaverton

Respectfully submitted,

Shirley Hoffmann
Recording Secretary