



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

Date: September 20, 2023

Time: 6:30 PM

Location: Fanno Creek Service Center

In Attendance

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

Absent: Vidyanand Kulkarni

Board Liaison: Barbie Minor

Staff: Bruce Barbarasch, Nature & Trails Manager, Karen Munday, Nature Center Supervisor

Guests: Shelley Oylear, Washington County Bicycle & Pedestrian Coordinator

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:33 pm.

II. Approval of Minutes

Chair Erik called for review and approval of the August meeting minutes. Carl moved to approve. Brittany seconded the motion. The minutes were unanimously approved.

III. Old Business

None

IV. New Business

Karen Munday, THPRD Nature Center Supervisor gave a brief overview of the programs of the two nature centers-Cooper Mountain and Tualatin Hills. The nature preschool program supports 60 kids (10 preschoolers from the Education Service District). During the summer and school breaks nature camps are available to kids 4 years old to middle school. School group programs support elementary school field trips-there are 130 programs that serve over 4,000 kids. Nature studies are sometimes bilingual and are family focused. Adult nature programs include classes such as nature crafts, fitness and mushrooming. Special events, focused community engagement and facility rental connect communities to the parks. Paid internships train Latinx teens on nature and nature careers. Partnerships with Beaverton Black Parent Union and Adelante Mujeres bring minority families into the parks. The Friends of the Tualatin Hills Nature Park provides scholarships for school programs and runs the Nature Store. Ideas and comments for nature centers can be sent to k.munday@thprd.org.

NTAC questions included whether her programs utilize volunteers (answer: no), the biggest challenge (answer: getting enough staffing) and getting more community engagement with people from other countries who find nature dangerous or intimidating.

Shelley Oylear, Washington County Bicycle and Pedestrian Coordinator talked about county-level trail planning. The county program is focusing on their Neighborhood Bikeway Plan which better connects neighborhoods with local destinations. The goals are safety, comfort and connectability, looking to fill gaps in transportation using local streets and avoiding major streets as much as possible. There are 11 neighborhood areas in the plan. Signs will be used (that say Neighborhood Bikeway and are purple color).Once current bikeway is the PCC to Westside

trail. Several others are designed and will piggyback on other transportation projects where possible (such as intersection construction or sidewalk development). She has the overall neighborhood trails plan as well as detailed maps of each of the 11 areas. NTAC questions included how to identify community trail needs (answer: already in other plans, public comments, school district comments, coordination with city plans). The priority is to partnership with other organizations for the work (i.e. cities, ODOT). Funding comes from property tax, district road maintenance, vehicle registration, gas tax and grants.

V. Other

The NTAC plans to request a grant to improve signage on a THPRD trail gap. Members volunteered to research specific gaps by visiting each site and taking photos of signage or lack thereof. The NTAC reviewed and discussed these reports on the trail gaps, reviewing photos and hearing from each member who visited the gap. The NTAC will prioritize the gaps at the next meeting to decide which gap they will request funding for in the grant application.

HOMEWORK: Members will create their individual priority list for the grant and in October will decide which gap to apply for.

**VI. Next Meeting will be held on October 18
6 pm joint THPRD advisory committees
7 pm NTAC meeting.**

Meeting adjourned at 8:38 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Shirley Hoffmann

Recording Secretary