



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

Date: December 18, 2024

Time: 6:30 pm

Location: Virtual (Microsoft Teams)

In Attendance

Committee Members: Carl Nelson (chair), Tina Ricks (secretary), Marty Hite, Tom Erwin, Matthew Shepherd, Erik Lehr, Alison Davis

Absent: Sharon Keiser, Vidy Kulkarni, Erich Pacheco

Board Liaison: Barbie Minor

Staff: Bruce Barbarasch, Nature & Trails Manager

Guests: none

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:43 pm.

II. Approval of Minutes

The minutes were reviewed. October 2024 minutes were approved as written.

III. New Business

Outgoing members

Marty, Vidy and Sharon are leaving us.

Thanks to everyone for their service.

Marty has been part of the committee—longest serving over the years. Marty contributes, shares, and listens, and we appreciate her. She has been on the committee since 2017.

Marty: I have enjoyed being on the committee, appreciate how much I've learned. It's been a great intro to local government. It's time to go, but it's bittersweet. I will miss the committee.

New Committee Members

We will continue to offer hybrid meetings. Will ask everyone to come to the Jan. 15 meeting, will be dinner at 6:00 p.m. Food will be catered by a local Mexican catering company.

New members: Alison Davis, Jennifer Ruthven, and Samantha Tipler

Continuing members: Carl Nelson and Tina Ricks

In the coming year, will see more of Greg Creager. He supervises the field staff. He will be at our joint meeting in January.

Bruce is doing more sustainability and planning. Will share responsibility for this committee as needed with Greg.

Elect Leaders

Carl nominated as president

Tina will continue as secretary with Matthew Shepherd as backup

Annual Summary

January:

Oriented new members in January

Trail gaps and grant requests

February

Brainstorming for the year

Outcome of storm damage

Functional plan overview

Trail gaps update

March

Climate plan approved by board

Nicole Paulsen gave concept design for Heckman Lane Park

Nicole also gave equity access presentation

Trail gaps update

Grant funding approved

Letter of support for Getting There by Trail

April

Joint meeting

May

Planned field trip

Climate plan

Trail gaps update—feedback from Washington County

Other possible projects for funding

Rules for ebikes on trails

June

Functional Plan update

Trail etiquette (study from grad student)

Other projects for grant funding

August

Field trip to Jackie Huston park

September

Review of trail gaps project, review for Washington County
Regional trail signage, approval grant funding for Metro

October

Trail resources functional plan

November

Interviews

Marty: really nice to see the trail gaps project move forward from 2023 to now.

Things we want to see next year:

Matthew: big fan of field trips, let's do more. Bonded a bit, could see everyone in person.

Erik: agree, great experience, learn something, see a park you didn't know. Get everyone together. Can see how much we all care and how much we know.

Marty: maybe do a practice exercise using some of the rubrics in the functional plans. Make it a field trip/learning exercise.

Tina: Would like to find another grant project to work on like the trail gaps. It's still going but largely out of our hands.

Do Differently Next Year:

Let's do more in-person meetings.

Let's find out more about what the other committees are doing.

Barbie: the committee grants reset each fiscal year. Would like to know what the other committees are doing—can we all help together? Would love to be more connected to what other committees are doing. Maybe do a joint grant proposal with other committees. Maybe we can do some goal setting?

There will be a discussion about the Climate Action Plan and possible committee involvement at the January meeting.

IV. Old Business

Trail Gaps

Modified challenge grant was approved at last joint meeting and we are currently waiting for Washington County. Bruce just received feedback back from Washington County but hasn't had a chance to look at the details. Washington County will need to send us a bill so we can pay it by June.

Metro Trail Signage Project

Received a \$60K grant from Metro that will pay for replacement of all directional signage on regional trails. Had four community outreach meetings. Taking feedback, doing prototypes, testing designs, will have a giant list of new signs. The THPRD team is currently prototyping a

bigger orientation map. The THPRD team includes people from the trails team, a graphic designer, a GIS analyst, and others. The project is on time. The money for this project evaporates at the end of June. The district hopes to have it all installed by end of June. We don't know yet if it's staff or contract. Installing signs is too complicated to ask for volunteers to do. This project applies to the regional trails: Fanno Creek Trail, Rock Creek Trail and Westside Trail. (Waterhouse is considered a community trail).

Westside Trail Gaps

Working on grants to fill in gaps for the Westside Trail. Getting grants. This includes the US 26 crossing project. For example, the Westside Trail gap between Kaiser Road and US 26, going through the Oak Hills neighborhood. We don't own many of those pieces of land, nor do we have easements in place. We are negotiating with various entities to get this done. We have some design money. It takes a lot of coordination. Most of the corridor is owned by Bonneville Power (BPA). They are a willing partner but they have a lot of regulations. The Oak Hills neighborhood is concerned about a lot of people coming in.

Natural Resources Update

We will be scheduling another subcommittee meeting to discuss this. We need to define what is native. What if Western Red Cedars drop out (which they are), what do we bring in from other places? Technical word is "assisted migration." The spirit of the issue is that we're not importing saguaro cactuses, but can we define a geographic area that will make sense to import plants from? As humans, we are not good at engineering nature. What is the best bad decision we can make? There is so much we don't know. If we bring in plants from outside our region, we need to make sure not to introduce pathogens. By contrast, Metro is taking a very conservative approach. There is a spectrum of approaches to this problem.

For example, if a majority of tree species dropped out on their own, we'd have a system that doesn't support all the animals that are here currently.

Next meeting is January 15 at 6:00 p.m. at the Fanno Creek Service Center, 6220 SW 112th Ave., Beaverton. This will be our joint committee meeting plus dinner.

Respectfully submitted,

Tina Ricks

Recording Secretary