



Tualatin Hills Park & Recreation District

Nature & Trails Advisory Committee Minutes

Date: November 15, 2023

Time: 6:30 pm

Location: online

In Attendance

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

Board Liaison: none

Staff: Bruce Barbarasch, Nature & Trails Manager, Liana Harden, Engagement & Partnerships Specialist

Guests: none

I. Call to Order

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

II. Approval of Minutes

Carl moved to approve the October minutes as written, with Tina providing a second. The minutes were approved without changes.

III. New Business

Liana Harden, Engagement & Partnerships Specialist, talked about the process of trail naming for THPRD. There are three new trails being developed in the South Cooper Mountain area. THPRD worked with cultural partners and researchers to come up with initial name options. Potential names were then vetted with a THPRD internal committee and the THPRD management team provided input. For the three South Cooper Mountain trails, THPRD is now soliciting community input on the names selected: Chahalim Trail, White Oak Trail and Sandhill Crane Trail. The trail names reflect both cultural and ecological history of the area. She asked the NTAC for ideas to solicit more community input. Additional ideas included elementary and middle school input, farmers markets (if any in the area), grocery stores and restaurants in the area. THPRD is developing posters and other promotional material and will survey people in the area about the names. Once community input is collected, the names will be vetted with the three THPRD advisory committees in January. The THPRD Board will give final approval.

The NTAC then discussed officers for 2024. The roles of chair and secretary were outlined to clarify responsibilities and level of effort. Erik will step down as chair and Carl volunteered to take the position. Tina agreed to be secretary. The NTAC approved Carl and Tina as officers for 2024.

IV. Old Business

There was further discussion on trail gaps the NTAC researched for a grant proposal for improved signage. After re-reviewing the eight trail gaps on the list, the NTAC decided that due to the many outstanding questions about costs, multiple jurisdictions and priorities, further work and discussion is necessary before selecting a trail gap for a signage grant proposal. The application for a grant will go forward in 2024. Tina volunteered to create a spreadsheet that summarizes the issues for each trail gap to help the NTAC decide which trail gap would make sense for a grant to improve signage. The NTAC plans to continue discussion at the December meeting. The research and discussion on needed signage for all the gaps will also be helpful to THPRD staff beyond the grant process.

V. Next Meeting will be held on December 20, online at 6:30 pm.

Meeting adjourned at 8:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Shirley Hoffmann

Recording Secretary