



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

Date: January 17, 2026
Time: 7:00 pm
Location: Virtual (Microsoft Teams)

In Attendance

Committee Members: Carl Nelson (chair), Tina Ricks (secretary), Erik Lehr, Matthew Shepherd, Erich Pacheco, Tom Erwin, Vidy Kulkarni

Absent: Marty Hite, Sharon Keiser

Board Liaison: (not present)

Staff: Bruce Barbarasch, Nature & Trails Manager

Guests: None

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 pm.

II. Approval of Minutes

The minutes were reviewed. Erik moved to approve the minutes, Tina seconded. The December 2023 minutes were approved as written.

III. New Business

Introductions of the new committee members.

Bruce gave an overview of the whole district—all the things that the nature and trails advisory committee covers.

Carl gave a 2023 Year in Review presentation to give the new members an idea of what we did last year.

Would like to start building a list of priorities for our committee for this year. We would like to get an overview of what the budget looks like.

Bruce: Fiscal year beginning July 1, 2024 will have a budget that we can look at soon. We don't know how much money will be available next year. We are heading into a lean period. The board will request an operating levy from the public. We don't know about grant requests for next year until July. It may not be as robust as past years.

Carl: There are many plans out there on the THPRD web site, and it's hard to sort out what the plans all are, what they mean, and what takes priority over what. Would like an overview of what the priorities are.

Bruce: Vision plan informs the comprehensive plan. Strategic plan is specifics coming out of the comprehensive plan. Strategic plan feeds the functional plans.

Erich: What things are going well? How can we be most helpful and supportive? Let's highlight that and do more of it.

Matthew: Primary interest is wildlife and habitat. Are there priority wildlife or habitat projects? Are there areas of the district that are underserved, or have less access to wildlife habitat? Does this committee have a role in supporting the nature mobile? Materials or activities?

Erich: What data do we have to inform decision making? Trail use data, information from the community, etc.? Bruce: We have data, the question is, what are we trying to answer?

IV. Old Business

Carl presented the current THPRD Trail Gaps Overview and Trail Gaps Grant Request documents to bring the new committee members up to speed on this project that we've worked on during 2023.

How the advisory committee grant process works: If a committee has a grant proposal, it goes to the joint advisory committee (once per quarter) to review. Instead of waiting until April, we will send this out electronically to discuss at individual committees. Other committees will review at their February meetings. Bruce will reach out to the other committees about getting onto their agenda—potentially having one of us join their meetings, or creating one common meeting for 15 minutes or so, for the February date.

The Beaverton Traffic Commission is meeting on February 1st to talk about turning Bethany Court into an official Bike Boulevard with changed pavement markings. This road (the cul-de-sac at the end of Bethany Blvd. across Cornell Road) is part of the Waterhouse Trail gap over US 26, so part of our project. This portion of the trail gap is owned/maintained by the City of Beaverton. Tina will write a short letter to the commission and send it out to the committee via email to all of us so we can discuss, modify, and approve it. Then we can send it on behalf of the NTAC. One member of our committee can attend the meeting to answer questions if needed.

What about the damage from this storm? Bruce: we don't really know yet. There are a reasonable number of trees down all over. Until staff go out, we don't really know. We're looking for trees that are damaged, leaning, exposed roots, damage to structures, etc. The Tualatin Hills Nature Park is off limits until we can survey. Tom: do the staff use drones? Bruce: It's not frequent, but it does happen. The detail we have on the ground is most frequent. But we are open to technology.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 pm.

V. Next Meeting will be held on

February 21, 2024 at 6:30 pm. Bruce will re-send the calendar invite.

Respectfully submitted,

Tina Ricks

Recording Secretary