



Tualatin Hills Park & Recreation District TRAILS ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Advisory Committee Meeting

Date: October 19, 2010

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Location: Elsie Stuhr Center

5550 SW Hall Boulevard; Beaverton, Oregon

Committee Members Present: Chair Wendy Kroger, Vice-Chair Tom Hjort, Joe Barcott, Mary O'Donnell, Susan Hanson, Jim Parsons, Les Ruh (Beaverton BAC).

Ex-Officio Members Present: Margaret Middleton (City of Beaverton), Joy Chang (Washington County), Mel Huie (Metro)

THPRD Staff Present: Gery Keck

Excused Absences: Kevin Apperson, Barb Sonniksen

Guests: Jane Hart (Metro)

I. Call to Order

Chair Wendy Kroger called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

II. Introduction of Guests and Visitors

Everyone present introduced themselves.

III. Approval of September Meeting Minutes

Tom moved for approval of the September minutes; Jim seconded. Unanimous vote to approve.

IV. Announcements

Gery: Safety vests to be worn at committee work parties have been received. "Trails Advisory Committee" is written on the back.

Wendy: John Gruher (a friend of Elisabeth Zeller) has expressed an interest in applying for committee membership.

Jim: Bicycle lane symbols on the new Lombard Avenue bicycle lane, near Lombard and Allen, are already wearing off.

Mel: A trail count follow-up meeting has been scheduled. Mary and Susan will be attending.

Joy: Joy announced that the North Bethany Area Master Plan will be finalized at an October 26 meeting. She distributed a map of trails in the North Bethany area and raised questions about the exact placement of the Westside Regional Trail (WRT) within that area, noting an apparent discrepancy between the North Bethany Plan and the Metro Plan in that various maps of WRT placement indicate it going north and east from the vicinity of the Rock Creek Trail and not just east as she thought was intended. There was a lengthy discussion of various issues affecting placement of the WRT in the North Bethany area; and how the North Bethany area interrelates with the WRT. Joy observed that when North Bethany residents were considering trails they were not thinking of trails that meet "regional" standards. Wendy emphasized that there are two primary concerns: (1) the North Bethany trails have at least one link (connection) to the WRT, and (2) that the WRT, wherever located, meet regional trail standards.

V. Benchmarks

Wendy reports they are being prepared and should be completed before the end of the year.

VI. Westside Regional Trail Master Plan Committee Report.

Joe reports there have been no committee meetings, and that he spoke with Robert Spurlock today who indicated there may be no more meetings until approximately February. Robert also told Joe that Metro Councilor Kathryn Harrington has expressed interest in the committee's work and that Robert would be meeting tomorrow with Ms. Harrington to give her a status report, and would be keeping her current with future committee activity.

VII Program: Tonquin Trail Master Plan – presented by Jane Hart from Metro.

Jane displayed maps of the proposed, Metro-driven, trail system connecting Wilsonville, Sherwood, and Tualatin. The vision is for this to be a regional multi-use trail; built, maintained, and funded by the three communities; although Clackamas and Washington Counties are also involved. The project began with a 2004 feasibility study. Alignments were proposed and then revised after public testimony received at hearings. Metro eliminated “fatal flaws” revealed during public hearings. The challenge is how to route the trail to connect the three cities. MTIP funds for planning the project were obtained (\$188,000) and the project formally began in July 2009. Current project budget is \$259,000. CH2M Hill and Alta Planning and Design have been retained. The trail is currently in various stages of completion. 50% of the trail in Wilsonville is completed. The objective is for people to be able to use the trail to access nature, schools, employment, shopping, etc. The project is currently in a “concept” stage.

Currently the primary problem is to designate the exact trail routes. During the summer of 2010 Metro had a display at numerous summer events in the region to obtain general public response, observations, and suggestions; specifically regarding alignment/routes. Generally comments were that, as much as possible, the trail should be off-road, safe, and in nature (*i.e.* away from development). Potential routes are currently being examined. Options are being narrowed. When final preferred alignments are chosen, Metro will present the plan to the various regional elected bodies for approval. Metro expects a Master Plan to be completed by summer 2012. Metro and The Intertwine Alliance are working together to get material online regarding trails maps.

Crossing of numerous major streets and arterials will be an issue. Bridges will probably be necessary. This will be an expensive project. The hope is that costs can be shared by many jurisdictions. There is currently no funding for construction. Jane guessed it would take twenty years to complete the project.

VIII. Updates

Metro. Mel reports that the next Quarterly Trails Meeting will be October 27 from 1-3 p.m. at Metro; and that the Banks to Vernonia Trail dedication will be Friday, October 29, which will include a bike ride with the State Parks Director.

Metro may apply for some ODOT “Flexible Fund” grant money, probably in the amount of \$100,000 to be used to update trail maps, which haven't been updated in twenty years (\$21,000,000 is available, statewide, for non-motorized transportation projects). Grant application deadline is November 12. If Metro does submit an application, a letter of support from the TAC would be helpful. Mel will also request a letter of support from Beaverton, and Washington County.

Mel reported that Metro has funds to allocate for natural area restoration projects.

Washington County. Joy distributed copies of the “Washington County Midblock and Uncontrolled Crossing Pedestrian Crossing Approval Process,” explaining that this proposed process/policy would probably be approved and adopted at the November 2 County Board Hearing. Also, in response to inquiry from Mel, Joy reported that there is no update or status change regarding the West Bull Mountain Concept Plan.

City of Beaverton. Margaret briefly discussed the Fanno Creek Trail Hall Boulevard crossing; the new bike lanes on Lombard Avenue; and the October 13 Beaverton Planning Commission hearing regarding a section of the Fanno Creek Trail where numerous Committee members testified. Margaret emphasized how helpful it is that each committee member's testimony was different from the others, and that when the Commission hears the same testimony from many people it is boring, and not persuasive. Tom asked about the appeal process for anyone who might want to appeal the Commission's decision to grant THPRD's request for construction of the trail along Fanno Creek south of Allen Boulevard. The appeal procedure was discussed, including what constitutes a proper justification for appeal; and the October 28 deadline for an appeal to be filed. It was agreed that if there is an appeal, Committee members will appear to testify when the City Council addresses the matter.

Wendy asked Margaret what role the Committee could play regarding signage, alignments, and branding, on the Beaverton Creek Trail. Margaret indicated that the City values the Committee's opinion, and would welcome any input given by the Committee.

Wendy mentioned the trail near the Red Tail Golf Course and indicated it was being examined as a "safe route to school."

Beaverton Bicycle Advisory Committee. Les noted that the committee is having an internal discussion and debate about its future course, and also noted the October 13 Planning Commission decision regarding construction of the Fanno Creek Trail along Allen Boulevard.

IX. Staff Update on Trail Projects

Fanno Creek Trail. Gery thanked those who appeared on October 13 to testify before the Beaverton Planning Commission. It was good that everyone's testimony was different. If there is no appeal (deadline October 28) the project will be put out to bid in April 2011, with construction to begin in June and hopefully completed in November.

Portland BES Community Benefit Funds Project at Garden Home Center. Still no decision about what amenities might be built.

Hall Boulevard Crossing of Fanno Creek Trail. David Evans & Associates has been selected as the consultant. Scope of work, and amount of fees are being negotiated. The IGA between all three parties (THPRD, Metro, and ODOT) needs to be executed before the project can begin.

Rock Creek Trail 5 (near Kaiser Woods and extending east). The THPRD Board will reconsider this issue at its December 6 Board Meeting. Staff has talked with CWS about the Board's concern that the best alignment be chosen. Three options were presented to CWS which will designate its preferred alignment. On November 18 there will be a public hearing on the issue.

Lowami Hart Woods Park. November 17 public hearing regarding THPRD current proposal (see minutes of September 2, 2010 meeting) and refinements to Master Plan (Master Plan has been approved but there has been no public hearing since 2001).

Waterhouse Trail. Moving along well. Staff had a good meeting with CWS last week. No major issues.

Westside Regional Trail. Has recently been decided that only a "Type 1" application will be necessary; not a "Type 3"; which means no necessity to present to Planning Commission. Has also recently been decided that there cannot be a midblock crossing at Scholls Ferry Road. County engineers said criteria for a midblock crossing were not met; engineering aspect was deficient.

Next Meeting: November 16, 2010

Meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Joe Barcott
Recording Secretary