



Tualatin Hills Park & Recreation District ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Trails Advisory Committee Meeting

Date: March 15, 2011

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Location: Elsie Stuhr Center

5550 SW Hall Boulevard, Beaverton, Oregon

In Attendance

Committee Members:

Chair Wendy Kroger, Vice Chair Tom Hjort, Recording Secretary Joe Barcott, Susan Hanson, Mary O'Donnell, John Gruher, Mary Elizabeth Smith (Beaverton Bicycle Advisory Committee)

Ex-Officio Members Present:

Joy Chang (Washington County), Mel Huie (Metro)

Staff:

Gery Keck

Absent:

Margaret Middleton (City of Beaverton), Kevin Apperson, Jim Parsons, Barb Sonniksen, Kevin Sutherland (Beaverton School District)

Guests:

Stephanie Routh, Priscilla Christenson (Friends of Johnson Creek)

I. Call to Order

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

II. Approval of Minutes

Everyone present introduced themselves.

III. Financial Report

Tom moved for approval of the February minutes; Mary seconded. Unanimous vote to approve.

IV. Announcements

Last week Wendy attended the first meeting of the new THPRD Parks Advisory Committee and led a discussion about trails. In answer to their question about why are there are trails in "their" parks, Wendy explained the differences between neighborhood, regional and community trails; and the benefits, uses, and purpose of each category of trail.

Wendy also recently attended a public meeting regarding Tigard's Greenway Trail Master Plan.

Tom is the Committee's liaison to Portland regarding Portland trails that are in any way connected with the THPRD trail network. He has recently telephoned Allen Schmidt (503-823-1674) a planner with Portland Parks and Recreation regarding their Red Electric Trail that is planned to ultimately connect with the Fanno Creek Trail at the Garden Home Recreation Center. Tom circulated several documents including the May 2007 Red Electric Trail Planning Study; the THPRD 2006 Trails Master Plan; the 2003 THPRD Fanno Creek Greenway Trail Action Plan; and a map showing Portland's current preferred, proposed six mile, multi-use trail alignment would connect between the Fanno Creek Trail and the Willamette River. According to the Red Electric Trail Study, the 4.5-mile portion of the trail that is in Multnomah County is estimated to cost \$16.5 million to build. This study does not include a cost estimate for the portion of the trail that would be constructed in Washington County. In Multnomah County 26% of the trail would be off-road, and the rest on city streets. In Washington County (THPRD), approximately 75% of the recommended alignment would be on off-road paths.

Schmidt informed Tom that this is an active, high priority project for Portland and is in the City's Comprehensive Plan. The Washington County portion, however, is not in the THPRD Trails Master Plan. Portland anticipates that property acquisition will be a major initial problem in construction of the trail because several of the adjacent property owners do not want the trail built in that corridor.

In answer to the question of whether or not this “recommended” alignment could be included in the THPRD Master Plan, it was noted that it could be, with public and Board approval. Alternatively, it seems possible that the Washington County portion of the trail could be developed on Oleson Road. The Red Electric Planning Study mentions this as a “fallback” option because sidewalks and bike lanes would be on a busy street.

The Committee agreed there should be more focus on this project; that it is very desirable to connect the Fanno Creek Trail to the Red Electric Trail in Multnomah County.

V. Willamette Pedestrian Coalition: “Getting Around on Foot Action Plan”-- Stephanie Routh

The Willamette Pedestrian Coalition was created in 1991. Its objective is to promote walking conditions that are safe, convenient, and attractive. Stephanie Routh – its current director – distributed copies of an executive summary of the November 2010 Getting Around on Foot Action Plan explaining that it was prepared from surveys, interviews, conversations, research, and study of numerous area transportation plans. The plan noted the emergence of three primary themes: people want (1) safe street crossings, (2) walkable destinations, and (3) universal access (i.e., the physically disabled should have equal access to transportation infrastructure). The Plan elaborates on the following twelve key findings: safe crossings should be provided, sidewalk gaps should be closed, equities should be recognized, designs should be for all abilities, planning should be on a human scale, traffic should be calmed, transit and walking/rolling should be combined, the community should act on the recommendations and not just talk about them, urban design should be studied, communities should be engaged and not just given information, projects should actually be funded, and partnerships should be created.

On April 27, there will be a Washington County Active Transportation Forum organized by the Willamette Pedestrian Coalition, and the BTA (Beaverton Public Library: 6-8 p.m.).

VI. May 14, 2011 Ride Into Spring annual event

Wendy noted that there would be a planning meeting on March 17 with Bruce Barbarasch and Ranger Scott Hinderman.

VII. Challenge Grant

Bob Wayt has funds available from the Communications budget to be used for the tri-fold trail specific maps (probably enough money for three). Uses of this year's Challenge Grant funds were again discussed (kiosks, benches, more maps, art).

VIII. Westside Regional Trail Master Plan Committee Report

Joe reported that there has been no activity of this committee.

IX. Partner Jurisdiction Updates

Northwest Trail Alliance current projects. Joe announced that NWTA (local mountain bike advocacy organization) is currently interviewing applicants for its first paid staff position; and that NWTA is negotiating a contract with THPRD whereby NWTA will manage, maintain, and operate the bicycle course at Eichler Park.

Metro. Mel noted three upcoming events and encouraged everyone to attend: (1) March 29 Active Transportation Summit in Salem; (2) April 27 Quarterly Trails Forum at Metro; and (3) Friday, September 23 bi-state trails tour (the first such tour).

Washington County. Joy reported on the North Bethany project, noting the May 17 vote regarding acquisition of land for capital construction in the service district. If an “urban” designation is obtained, development can begin.

City of Beaverton. For Margaret, Mary Elizabeth announced that the Beaverton bike map should be published within a couple of weeks, and that she would have copies to distribute at the April 19 TAC meeting. It was agreed the map should be placed at all trailhead kiosks in addition to bicycle shops and other bicycle oriented businesses.

Beaverton Bicycle Advisory Committee. Mary Elizabeth noted that the Bike Beaverton Festival will be held in conjunction with the Beaverton Parade, on Saturday, August 27; and that the Committee's action plan has been presented to the City Council.

X. Staff Update

Fanno Creek Trail. At its April 4 meeting, the Board of Directors will address solicitation of bids for the Allen Boulevard segment; and potentially award the project, at its June 6 meeting so that construction can begin this summer and be completed by November.

Bond Measure Trails Update. Everything is progressing on schedule.

Waterhouse Trail: Land use permit will be sought soon.

RTP Grant Application: Cedar Mill Park/Brady/107th – Staff presented last week.

MTIP Funding for Fanno Creek Trail/Hall Blvd Crossing Feasibility Study: On April 4, Board approval will be sought for the IGA. The agreement will be presented to the City Council next week. All options for crossing Hall will be examined and considered.

MTIP Funding for Westside Trail Segment 18: The process is just beginning. Hiring a design firm will be the first activity.

XI. Next Meeting will be held on April 19, 2011.

Meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joe Barcott
Recording Secretary