



Tualatin Hills Park & Recreation District ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Trails Advisory Committee Meeting

Date: April 19, 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, Barb Sonniksen, John Gruher, Richard Walker (Beaverton Bicycle Advisory Committee)

Ex-Officio Members Present:

Joy Chang (Washington County), Robert Spurlock (Metro)

Staff:

Steve Gulgren

Absent:

Mary O'Donnell, Susan Hanson, Kevin Apperson, Jim Parsons, Margaret Middleton (City of Beaverton) and Kevin Sutherland (Beaverton School District)

Guest:

Scott Hinderman (THPRD Ranger)

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 March Meeting Minutes

Tom proposed modification of the minutes regarding his report on Portland's development of its Red Electric Trail and how it might connect with THPRD's Fanno Creek Trail. John moved to accept the minutes as revised. Joe seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

IV. Announcements

Joe encouraged attendance at an Eichler Park site visit tomorrow (April 20). The visit will be for THPRD and Northwest Trail Alliance (NWTa) representatives to discuss the recently executed contract whereby NWTa is going to maintain and improve the park's BMX course. Joe also invited all to attend the NWTa's Trail Fest celebration this Friday night (April 22).

Commenting on her attendance at the March 29th Oregon Active Transportation Summit, Wendy reported that (1) Steve Roberts (of Washington County) gave an excellent presentation about activity in Washington County, and (2) she spoke with Don Baack about the Red Electric Trail, and how it might connect to the Garden Home Recreation Center. Tom mentioned that he will be meeting with Baack tomorrow (April 20).

Wendy reported on the April 11 joint TAC/Natural Resources Advisory Committee meeting regarding Lowami Hart Woods, noting that Friends of Beaverton's Johnson Creek (which bisects the woods) are concerned that a 10' community trail is too large for the area. Wendy asked that Committee members take pictures of community trails in wooded areas to present at the May 11th neighborhood meeting to show what such trails actually look like in a wooded area.

Steve noted THPRD will have a display at Metro's April 27th Quarterly Trails Forum, and that he and Bruce would be there. Committee members were encouraged to attend. David Fisher, former director of parks in Minneapolis and St. Louis, will give a keynote address regarding the planned "River Ring Network of Greenways and Trails" for the metropolitan St. Louis region.

- V. **Program** - Ranger Scott Hinderman's presentation on THPRD trail counters and what they are telling us. We currently have twelve counters, and because they can be moved around to different sites, that is probably enough counters for our use. Scott noted a lack of vandalism which could be an indication that they are hidden quite well. Scott distributed numerous charts, showing the numbers recorded by the counters since June 2010. The Rock Creek Powerline Trail (the longest continuous trail in the district) has the most use, approximately 124,000 hits for the last six months of 2010. The Fanno Creek Trail in Greenway Park registered 17,000 hits in July 2010.

The Committee encouraged the district to place counters on trails where work is anticipated (i.e., Schuepbach Park, Murrayhill Park, south of the Nature Park) to get a record of before and after usage.

Scott next showed the Committee the just issued (April 2011) Washington County Visitor's Bureau bicycle route map which led to a discussion of the two THPRD trail map formats (large map showing all district trails, and individual trail tri-fold maps). The large map will not be revised for a few years, but staff is currently updating the tri-fold maps. Robert asked if the Intertwine logo could be placed on the new tri-folds, and staff said they would inquire with management.

A recently received grant (\$60,000) to build wayfinding signs and possible placement locations (e.g., Fanno Creek Trail at 92nd) were discussed.

- VI. **May 14 "Ride Into Spring" Report.** Joe reported that planning is well under way and the ride will be approximately 6-7 miles, will be based on the Fanno Creek Trail, and may be extended to Eichler Park where a NWTa work party could potentially be working on the BMX course. The invitation list was briefly discussed.
- VII. **Tri-fold Trail Map Discussion.** As mentioned earlier, these maps are currently being revised. Barb suggested (1) the format be changed to allow a larger actual map (maybe map on one side and text on the other) and (2) that a smart phone application be created for each trail. It was noted that Intertwine may be working on such applications and that we might consider coordinating with them.
- VIII. **June 4 National Trails Day Project.** Wendy noted that the Committee project will be to clear brush from the trails in Hyland Forest Park. She encouraged Committee attendance.
- IX. **Westside Regional Trail Master Plan Committee Report.** Joe reported that Metro is gearing up for activity, and expects the project to be active by July. Joy and Steve are on the Stakeholders Advisory Committee.
- X. **Updates**
Metro. Metro now has three years worth of data from national trail counts, and ALTA has been retained (for \$5,000) to analyze the data, identify general trends, and issue a report by this summer.

Robert discussed the upcoming April 27th Quarterly Trails Forum, noting that Jean-Francois Rheault (Director of the North American office of Eco-Counters) will be there to demonstrate their eco-counters which can differentiate bicyclists from pedestrians, count groups of people, capture directionality; and transfer data remotely. The counters each cost about \$2,700. Metro is encouraging Oregon State Parks to purchase some eco-counters.

Metro signage. Metro has funding and is finalizing the scope of work for consultants to create a signage plan. The Committee asked how we could make sure the Metro sign plan and THPRD sign plan are complementary and not in conflict. Robert said this is an Intertwine project more than a Metro project and that we should work with Intertwine staff to coordinate the signage plans.

Washington County. Joy distributed a draft of the Washington County Transportation Plan Update: Schedule and Scope of Work Summary.

Beaverton Bicycle Advisory Committee. Richard distributed the just issued Beaverton Bike Route Map and noted the Bike Beaverton ride will be August 27, 2011, beginning at Beaverton High School.

XI. Challenge Grant. Will be used for another kiosk (at Lowami Hart Woods) and maps.

XII. Staff Update on Trail Projects.

Fanno Creek Trail: Out to bid tomorrow. Bids due on May 11th. The Board expected to approve a bid at its June 6th meeting with construction to begin in July.

Fanno Creek Trail/Hall Boulevard Feasibility Study: IGA expected to be approved at the Board's May 2nd meeting with work to begin this summer.

Westside Trail: There is a landowner issue the District is trying to resolve.

Walker Road Waterhouse Trail mid-block crossing: Oregon Bike Pedestrian Grant (\$270,000). Project kick-off meeting was today. State wants counts of people crossing mid-block (weekdays, Saturday/Sunday) and would like the information within a couple of months. Committee will schedule counts.

Waterhouse Trail: moving along well. One segment was not part of the bond and may have to be withdrawn from the project and a grant sought to complete.

Rock Creek Trail at 185th & West Union. Good bids received by Washington County.

XIII. Next Meeting will be held on May 17, 2011.

Meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joe Barcott
Recording Secretary