



Tualatin Hills Park & Recreation District

ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Natural Resources Advisory Committee Meeting

Date: April 26, 2011

Time: 6:30 pm

Location: Stuhr Center, Willow Room

In Attendance

Committee Members:	Rod Coles, Mitch Cruzan, Eric Lindstrom, Cory Samia, Matthew Shepherd
Staff:	Bruce Barbarasch
Guest:	Mark Hereim

I. Call to Order

Rod called the meeting to order at 6:33 pm.

II. Approval of Minutes

Bruce – Question regarding verbiage of section on page 2.

Minutes amended to "...location of trees creates issue..."

Motion – Matthew

Second – Mitch

Vote – Unanimous "Aye"

III. Financial Report

None

IV. Old Business

Lowami Hart Meeting Recap

(Revisiting Joint Trails. NRAC, Friends of Johnson Creek [FJC])

Mark invited to comment:

Passes out a list of FJC recommendations for Lowami Hart Woods; six points (copy attached);

Wants to clarify that FJC is not opposed to development, just wants to see some aspects of THPRD plan scaled back per the list.

Bruce addresses the issues associated with the use of pervious surfaces, noting the high level of maintenance needed to keep this kind of surface effective.

Mitch asks for clarification as to what is key issue for FJC, increased usage or increased runoff.

Mark says that FJC is concerned about both, but particularly about runoff and resultant pollution.

Eric suggests that drainage from parking lot may increase stream erosion and wonders what sort of holding or vault mechanism.

Bruce explains that treatment of storm water runoff of some kind would be required, but details not worked out at this point.

Discussion of how and when regulatory agencies will be involved.

Mitch comments that rerouting of trail was very impressive. Notes how the new plan has less impact on the trees.

Matthew maintains that the parking places will not add that much to the flashiness of the stream, given the already low level of the permeability of the area involved.

Mark argues that the impact will be significantly more than it is now.

Mitch wonders what current experience of runoff from other trails (e.g. Nature Park) THPRD may have.

Bruce indicated that the District has no such data.

Robb asks if there is an example of a "community trail" that the NRAC could look at to get a better sense of how much impact the proposed trails may have?

Bruce says that there are resources that show traffic flow relationships. He suggests the Vine Maple Trail in the Nature Park as a good model.

Cory notes that the Trails Committee used the phrase "...in the public interest..." to rationalize the validity of their arguments and wants to see a motion from NRAC that says we believe that protecting natural resources is also in the public interest.

Discussion of educational activities, how they are conducted, and what the potential consequences have been to date.

Motion – NRAC wishes to emphasize the importance of natural resources relative to the importance of other THPRD activities (e.g. the development of trail systems). Specifically, NRAC maintains that preservation and enhancement of natural resources in prime natural areas (e.g. Lowami Hart Woods) should always be of paramount importance to the District in the planning and development process.

Issues raised by this motion, particularly with regard to its specificity.

Discussion of how to move this motion forward with language that delivers a higher degree of clarity and accountability.

Cory makes the following motion – When considering site plans (e.g. Lowami Hart Woods), protection of the natural resources are as important to the public interest as access through wide and possibly high impact trails and developed areas. Accordingly the NRAC urges THPRD to be extra cautious when conducting development activities in natural resource areas.

Matthew seconds.

Ayes – Matthew, Robb, Matthew

Mitch opposes. Notes the continued absence of specific criteria.

Matthew notes that during the combined meeting Lowami Hart Woods was frequently described as a jewel, in one case as a pearl. He further notes that the way a pearl gets stung is that a hole gets driven through its heart.

V. New Business

1. Family Assistance Program Review

Bruce gives a summary of the program, noting that much of the programming is fee-based. In order to help underserved populations a better chance to be involved in the programs, THPRD has provided funds for those who may not be able to afford them.

Cory asks for clarity re: Plan of Action/first paragraph. Dollar amounts in a year appear to be the same. Bruce clarifies how the funds are distributed. Matthew adds that most activities do not run for four quarters so the District would experience some savings by making it a quarterly payment.

Committee likes the program and has no issues with it.

2. Park Renaming Process

Bruce provides an overview of the process and where the project currently stands.

Cory asks about signage. Bruce notes that when the current wooden signs are replaced the new ones will be made of metal and will have more appropriate icons.

The Committee has no issues with the progress of this initiative.

3. NRMP/Discussion

Committee advised to keep reading.

Eric looks for clarification on purpose of reading. Robb suggests that first read for familiarization and then read with an eye toward making recommendations during the revision process.

4. Park Updates

See "Highlights" handout. Staff very excited about the registration level for summer educational programs.

Cory asks about the prescribed burn for Cooper Mountain. Bruce provides details.

VI. Other

Bruce notes that Natural Resources staff is able to respond best to specific requests and/or instructions rather than to generalizations.

General discussion of communications challenges for both the Advisory Committee and the staff.

VII. Next Meeting will be held on May 24, 2011.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Eric Lindstrom
Recording Secretary

FBJC Recommendations on Lowami Hart Woods Master Plan

April 20, 2011

The following are recommendations made by Friends of Beaverton's Johnson Creek (FBJC) regarding the Lowami Hart Woods Master Plan. These recommendations are consistent with those made by West Beaverton Neighborhood Association (WBNAC).

It should be emphasized that FBJC and WBNAC are *not* calling for no development. Both organizations would like to see improvements made to existing trails, removal of some of the "social trails", removal of invasives, restoration of native plant communities, and control of erosion. There are two bond measure projects related to Lowami Hart Woods: a natural resources portion (\$280,000) and a trails portion (\$830,000). Changes in the trails portion resulted in a review of the Lowami Master Plan. FBJC recommendations differ from the those of the THPRD Staff-supplied Plan primarily in scale.

The FBJC recommendations on the Lowami Master Plan:

1. **Support the natural resources bond measure project.** If anything, consider expanding the invasives removal and restoration efforts.
2. **Reduce the size of the proposed parking lot to 5-8 spaces** (original size). An 18-car parking area cannot be established without removing several large-sized trees. By contrast, the already-established parking area just east of Johnson Creek appears sufficient to handle 5-8 spaces without removing additional trees.
3. **Reduce the width of the main trail to 4 feet with 6 inch shoulders.** The reduced width is entirely adequate to handle expected traffic and meet ADA guidelines. By reducing the width of the trail, roughly half of the trees slated for removal can be left intact.
4. **Relocate large-scale programming activities to larger facilities.** FBJC supports educational programming for Lowami that might help engender an appreciation of the unique natural setting that Lowami affords. Informative signs could encourage self-education and exploration. However, large-scale daycamps should be located at facilities that can support that sort of activity, such as the Nature Park or Cooper Mountain.
5. **Use pervious materials for parking lot.** With its large, roughly circular area, the parking lot has the potential to precipitate rapid run-off events during rainstorms. The result is erosion and run-off of pollutants into Johnson Creek. Use of pervious materials for the parking lot largely mitigates both effects.
6. **Use pervious material for all trail surfaces.** One concern of the Park District has been ADA compliance. With advances in technology, there are now several options for pervious trail surfaces that meet ADA guidelines. Pervious surfaces have the benefit of acting more like natural forest floor surfaces, buffering run-off of rain water and reducing introduction of pollutants into the stream.