



Tualatin Hills Park & Recreation District

ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Trails Advisory Committee Meeting

Date: November 15, 2011

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Location: Elsie Stuhr Center; Beaverton, Oregon

In Attendance

Committee Members:

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

Ex-Officio Committee Members Present:

Margaret Middleton (City of Beaverton), Robert Spurlock (Metro)

THPRD Staff Present:

Steve Gulgren

Absent:

Barb Sonniksen, Kevin Apperson, Jim Parsons, Joy Chang

Guests:

Shelley Oylear (Washington County Bike/Ped Coordinator), Aisha Wilits (Washington County Senior Transportation Planner), Bernadette Le (community member), Calin Gherghe (community member), Kevin O'Donnell (CPO7 chair)

I. Call to Order

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

II. Introduction of Committee Members, Guests and Visitors

Everyone present introduced themselves.

III. Approval of October Meeting Minutes

Susan moved for approval of the October minutes; John seconded. Unanimous vote to approve.

IV. Announcements

No announcements were made at this time. (At the conclusion of the meeting Wendy announced her resignation from the committee effective December 1, 2011.)

V. Program

Shelley Oylear and Aisha Wilits gave a joint presentation about Washington County's current programs designed to benefit cyclists and pedestrians. They distributed copies of a multi-page information flyer; and a postcard noting Washington County's "bicycle and pedestrian improvement prioritization project," seeking feedback, comments and corrections to the County's recently completed inventory of the existing bicycle and pedestrian system on the County's urban arterial and collector roadways. The County is in the process of identifying high priority projects on urban collector and arterial streets.

In the past year the County has begun two planning efforts: (1) the bicycle and pedestrian improvement prioritization project (funded by the U.S. Department of Energy), and (2) the bicycle facilities tool kit (examines which bicycle facility treatments best support bicyclists in Washington County). The County has also formed a "minor betterments" committee whose function is to determine where minor improvements in the system would substantially improve the system; focusing on minor gaps in the transportation system that are too small to qualify for major attention/projects.

The County wants to encourage cycling and walking; and wants to know what facilities, and solutions to problems, most appeal to community members. John noted that a good method for obtaining citizen input would be to conduct open houses in numerous neighborhoods. Wendy suggested creation of a County bike/ped advisory committee to report to the County Commissioners. Shelley explained that the County is considering

formation of such a committee and is encouraging the various urban areas within the County to form their own bike/ped advisory committees.

VI. Westside Regional Trail Master Plan Committee Report

Joe reported the committee has yet to meet. Robert noted he has received information indicating that ODOT will be issuing a notice to proceed within the next week or two (prerequisite for the committee to meet) and he would like to have the first meeting before Christmas.

VII. Staff Update on Trail Projects

- BES Grant Update (Garden Home vicinity). Steve circulated a list of the following facility upgrade projects that have been approved by the Board: Fanno Creek Trail exercise equipment, new fitness room, new gymnastics room, dance and exercise room, and after-school program updates. Wendy asked if it might be possible to use future Challenge Grant funds for the other projects the Committee favors i.e., outdoor climbing wall/boulders, and bicycle skills course.
- Fanno Creek Trail parallel to Allen Boulevard. The project is progressing. Abutments have been completed. Decks are being constructed. Plantings will occur in December. The goal is for the project to be completed by the end of December. Robert asked about street connections at each end of the trail section. Discussion about the trail routing to Denney Road Highway 217 overpass at west end of the section; and about the Washington County road/bridge construction at the east end of the section in the vicinity of Scholls Ferry Road.
- Bond Measure Trails Update.
Rock Creek/North Bethany: December bid; February Board approval; spring 2012 construction.
Waterhouse Trail: March bid; May Board approval; summer construction.
Westside Trail: project delayed because of a land acquisition issue. May have to invoke condemnation process.
- MTIP Funding
Fanno Creek Trail/Hall Boulevard Feasibility Study: A presentation of the stakeholders' committee's findings will be given (1) to the City of Beaverton on December 6, (2) at this Committee's December meeting (December 20), and (3) to the THPRD Board on January 9, 2012. The Committee supports either a tunnel under, or a bridge over, Hall Boulevard, but believes an "at grade" crossing is not feasible. Shelley Oylear noted that the City of Vancouver has constructed a bridge over State Route 14 in the vicinity of Fort Vancouver that is sound from an engineering perspective and is aesthetically pleasing, and is a good example of how a bridge over Hall could look.

Westside Trail Segment #18 (Kaiser Woods Park to Hansen Ridge Park): David Evans & Associates has been retained as the consultant. District is currently negotiating scope of work.

VIII. Citizen Comment

Although not on the agenda, the Chair recognized Calin Gherghe who wished to discuss the North Bethany Trail project extending south from Springville Road. Calin has concerns about the currently proposed trail alignment and argued that with a slight deviation therefrom (1) safety would be improved, (2) cost reduced, and (3) the affected wetlands better protected. The Chair, however, noted that the Committee has already submitted its recommendation to the Board for trail alignment; and the Board has adopted that recommendation and staff has submitted it to the County for approval. Mr. Gherghe's expression of concern is therefore untimely. His recourse is to the County and he confirmed that he has sent the County a letter and will follow up according to established procedures.

Kevin O'Donnell (CPO 7 Chair) reported that CPO 7 never received notice of the "facility renaming project" that has been active throughout 2011, and that the CPO has concerns with some of the renaming. Steve confirmed

the District did send CPO 7 notices regarding the project. Since none were received, however, there is an issue to address.

IX. Partner Jurisdiction Updates

Washington County. Joy absent. No update.

City of Beaverton. Margaret reported that the "urban renewal district" proposal has passed.

Beaverton Bicycle Advisory Committee. Richard reported that in the future, the annual August Bike Beaverton ride will be held on a different day than the parade. With the parade happening it is difficult for the bike ride. In 2012 the ride will probably be on the day after the parade. The Bicycle Committee is looking for ways to assist with education in the schools about how to get kids to ride bikes more.

Metro. Robert discussed the Nature in Neighborhoods Grant Program saying that trails are perfect projects for the program, and that they are looking at Beaverton Creek Corridor for improvements. Robert also mentioned that the wayfinding signage plan for the Intertwine is progressing.

Tom reported on the Aloha Rebuild Planning Study. \$3,500,000 has been allocated and some THPRD facilities will be involved.

Wendy's Resignation. As noted above, at the end of the meeting Wendy announced her resignation effective December 1, 2011. Steve noted Wendy has been Chair of this Committee since May 2005. Everyone expressed appreciation for all the work she has done, and emphasized that her departure would be a great loss for the Committee. Vice Chair Tom Hjort agreed to Chair the meetings until the February 2012 regularly scheduled election of officers.

X. Next Meeting will be held on December 20, 2011.

Meeting adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joe Barcott
Recording Secretary