



Tualatin Hills Park & Recreation District

ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Natural Resources Advisory Committee Meeting

Date: January 24, 2012

Time: 6:30 PM

Location: Stuhr Center

In Attendance

Committee Members:

Rod Coles, Mitch Cruzan, Eric Lindstrom, Martin Mendelson, Don Nearhood, Cory Samia, Matthew Shepherd

Staff:

Bruce Barbarasch

Guest:

Jack Shorr

I. Call to Order at 6:36 PM.

II. Approval of Minutes

Motion to approve – Martin

Second – Don

Unanimous

III. Financial Report

Bruce – Question about purchase of the Carsonite Posts – Were posts for signs included in the Committee's recommendations? Members agree that the Committee's recommendations were based upon the understanding that the posts would be included.

IV. Old Business

None

V. New Business

- A. Winter Field Trip – Matthew asks what is the purpose of the field trip. Answer: is to gain insight into specific or general issues commonly experienced by THPRD's NRAC personnel.

Candidate sites include...

Bronson Creek – Bond Project

Kaiser Ridge – Bond Project

Raleighwood Park – Beaver/Flooding

Center Street – Beaver/Flooding

Greenway Park – Major meander construction

Koll Wetland – Reconstruction of weir

Bauman Park – Progress on projects

Bruce will send out a Survey Monkey.

- B. Budget items – recommendations.

Cori – Can we get a NRAC promo in the THPRD catalogue? Bruce – Yes if there is a special activity involved, but not for just an FYI.

Rob requests an update on the development of the Natural Resources Management Plan. Bruce goes over the current concept for the plan's redevelopment. Bruce has received informal feedback on potential cost of project; numbers varied across an extremely wide range. Actual funding target still under consideration.

Martin asks about primary functions of plan. Bruce explains that the next plan should provide reference resource for dealing with issues and expectations related to natural resource holding. Beaver and how to deal effectively with them used as an example.

Plan is supposed to be strategic in its perspective, but should also clearly define natural areas, their value and their function within THPRD's overall mission

C. Fanno Creek Trail Maintenance Project

Bruce goes over details provided in the packet. Area near Vista Brook Park is of particular concern due to the nature of the tree canopy. There are safety issues with some of the current vegetation. Staff has already marked trees with orange paint to indicate that they are targeted for removal. Users who have seen the marks are concerned about the implications and have complained to the Board. Of the 130 trees marked, approximately 75% are non-natives. The question is should it be managed as a natural area or as an artificial one?

This is a heavily used trail, as many as 10,000 users in the summer months.

Size and complexity of the project warrant community outreach and public meetings. A meeting is scheduled for February 2, 2012. THPRD will explain its processes and announce that a committee representing various constituencies will be formed to make recommendations to THPRD for a draft plan of how to deal with the tree issues involved.

The District has safety policies it must follow. The crux of the issue then is, how to enforce those policies while preserving as much of the community values for the area.

Cori will be primary attendee, Mitch will back up.

VI. Other

A. Natural Resources Update – Review

Martin asks about availability of files used to make the GIS maps showing the condition of all natural areas.

Cori – Was there an education plan? Bridge plan in place. Not yet ready for an actual comprehensive plan.

Mitch – Timeline for Lowami-Hart work? Still a year or so out.

B. February elections for Chair and Secretary

Eric's two-year term expires this month. He will reapply for Committee membership.

C. Jack Shorr, candidate for Committee

Jack detailed his love of nature and interest in related resource and management issues. He then talked a little about his work as an educator in the Portland Public Schools, where he taught special education and worked with students with disabilities. He is a Master Gardener and a Master Watershed Steward and currently volunteers with the Backyard Certification Program. He also volunteers with the Adopt-a-Park program and works closely with Melissa Marcum and Kyle Spinks.

VII. **Next Meeting will be held on** February 28, 2012, 6:30 PM, Garden Home Recreation Center.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Eric Lindstrom
Recording Secretary