



Tualatin Hills Park & Recreation District

ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Natural Resources Advisory Committee Meeting

Date: February 28, 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, Jack Shorr

Staff:

Bruce Barbarasch

I. Call to Order at 6:40 pm.

II. Approval of Minutes

Motion to approve – Don

Second – Jack

Unanimous

III. Financial Report

Bruce asks if it would be possible to report quarterly except in unusual instances. Committee is agreeable to this change.

Re: Matching Grant – Bruce explains that this group is not currently obligated to raise funds to match existing funds. Additionally a portion of a donation for volunteer training fund also provided funding for the NRAC.

Bruce also talks about various capital items that the Committee might consider funding in the future. Committee members will come to the March meeting with ideas.

Possibility of using funds to purchase a digital camera for Natural Resources team discussed.

IV. Old Business

Fanno Creek Trail, Hall Street Crossing – there will be a Committee meeting to update this topic March 1, 2012.

V. New Business

a. Volunteer news (5 min)

Rod asks if everyone received an email from Melissa Marcum regarding on-line volunteer time tracking. The system will make the tracking of volunteer time more efficient. Rod emphasizes the importance of following through on this item because the Park District can use the time for grants and accountability. Feedback is valued.

Martin announced that he would serve on the Committee through June, then he is moving out of town.

b. Fanno Creek Trail Committee Update

Cory feels that the Committee is having a hard time getting their arms around the project. So far it is unclear about mandate, timelines, and other key Committee activities. A tour of the area left her unsure of how best to tackle the various issues, particularly the invasive plant issues. Washington County designated the area as being a wildlife area but it is difficult to know why and/or how to deal with it when it comes to restoration.

Cory asks how she should represent the NRAC in this process.

Matthew suggests that the realities of the situation be addressed – e.g. the invasives surrounding the area and the frequently narrow and restricted sections of the trail. From a natural resources perspective, there is little in the way of habitat remaining in the area, so it might work best to approach segments on their own merits.

Rod asks about how maintenance budgets for the area have been developed historically. Bruce responds that the budgets are built on an “as-needed” basis.

Matthew suggests that this section of the trail is of extremely low natural resources value.

Eric asks about possibility of land acquisitions. Bruce explains that exploring that possibility is not one of the Committee’s options.

c. Bronson Creek Greenway Bond Project

Bruce goes over the property, highlights major features. Talks about some of the restoration challenges. Clean Water Services (CWS) has offered to do a big wood survey to see if it is feasible to install some for habitat and stream flow uses. Currently, the park areas have little in the way of open access. Cory asks if there is a list of currently proposed trails. Bruce will send one out to the Committee.

Matthew asks about salmonids with regard to fish passage through the culvert at Highway 26. Bruce will send out the most recent fish species survey.

Note: Secretary ill and left meeting at this point.

The plan calls for adding additional vegetation along the creek, removing non-native invasive species, and leaving some areas more open for sun-loving wildlife. CWS will be a major partner on the project. The Committee supported the described restoration plan.

VI. Other Business

- a. Natural Resources Update (10 min)
- b. Elections. Eric Lindstrom was unanimously elected Secretary. Matthew Shepherd was unanimously elected Chair.

VII. Next Meeting will be held on March 20, 2012, 6:30 pm, Fanno Creek Service Center.

Meeting adjourned at 8:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Eric Lindstrom (with assistance from Bruce Barbarasch)
Recording Secretary