



Tualatin Hills Park & Recreation District ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Trails Advisory Committee Meeting

Date: June 19, 2012

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Location: Sequoia Room, Fanno Creek Service Center, Beaverton, Oregon

In Attendance

Committee Members:	Chair Tom Hjort, Vice Chair John Gruher, Recording Secretary Bernadette Le, Mary O'Donnell; Barbara Sonniksen, Jim Parsons, Joe Barcott
Ex-Officio Committee Members Present:	Joy Chang (Washington County), Margaret Middleton (City of Beaverton), Nathan Potter (Beaverton Bicycle Advisory), Robert Spurlock (Metro)
Staff:	Steve Gulgren
Guests:	Calin Gherghe (North Bethany Resident), Nathalie Darcy (Fanno Creek Working Group), Kevin O'Donnell (CPO7), Renee (THPRD); Bruce Barbarasch (THPRD)
Absent:	Kevin Apperson

I. Welcome

Chair Tom Hjort called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

II. Introduction of Guests/Visitors

Everyone present introduced themselves.

III. Approval of May Meeting Minutes and Volunteer Hours for May

The TAC reviewed the May meeting minutes and discussed one minor edit. **MOTION** made (Mary) and seconded (Barbara) for approval of May meeting minutes with the edit proposed by Mary. Unanimous vote to approve. Steve passed the volunteer hours sheet around and each member recorded their May hours.

IV. Announcements

A community meeting, regarding the proposed trail in Cedar Mills Park, will be held at the Cedar Mill Elementary School on Thursday, June 21st at 6:30 p.m.

Carolyn McCormick was on the TAC calendar for this month but will be joining us in September.

V. Westside to Waterhouse Trail Connection

THPRD is working to gain easements along a set of tracks that run along the northern boundary of the Nature Park. A portion of the land is owned by TriMet and the other portion is owned by Portland & Western Railroad. THPRD recently received a signed agreement with TriMet for an easement from 158th to milepost 25.52. They are still trying to get in contact with Portland & Western Railroad. This connection may prove to be challenging as there are wetlands, PGE lines, and the Portland & Western Railroad easement. One strength of this connection is the already existing wooden trestle crossing Cedar Mill Creek. The project consultants are doing a structural analysis and it looks like it will be safe for bicyclists and pedestrians.

VI. Soft Surface Running Track along Rock Creek Trail

In December 2009 Natural Resources staff came to the TAC to report they had \$100,000, through the bond measure, for soft surface trails. Trails at a number of parks were discussed by staff and TAC members. The TAC recommended a soft surface trail adjacent to the paved trail at Rock Creek Greenway near the Pirate

Park. The TAC's vision was to provide an overflow area and a space for runners. TAC members also thought this would be a good demonstration project for the District.

Since 2009, soft surface trails have been constructed at Foothills Park and Whispering Woods (1,200 feet connecting two parts of the already existing trail) and the soft surface trail at Highland Forest was enhanced. The District is building soft surface trails with ¾ inch gravel, which is more durable than wood chips while still comfortable for runners. Bruce wanted to bring the Rock Creek soft surface trail project back to the Committee's attention and check back in before construction. He proposed two questions to the TAC:

- Do we still want it?
- Of the two locations presented, which do you like better?

Committee members that frequently visit Rock Creek Greenway said that they did not see a need for an overflow trail in this park and that the community may be concerned if such a trail was constructed without a need for it. Bruce presented the criteria staff used to identify other soft surface trail projects funded by the bond measure. TAC members liked these criteria and felt that they needed to review these criteria and think about other locations.

Bruce presented a loop trail opportunity in Morrison Woods. The District is waiting for a small piece of land for acquisition before the trail at Morrison Woods could be constructed. Although Bruce presented this idea he wanted the Committee to provide their ideas, as District representatives who visit parks throughout the system.

The Committee concluded this portion of the agenda by agreeing that there is little support for the two options proposed in Rock Creek. Committee members were very interested in looking at locations where trails are needed for Safe Routes to School. Bruce will send the criteria to Tom and the TAC will discuss this topic at a future meeting.

VII. Upper Fanno Creek Trail Improvements, Update

Nathalie Darcy and Tom Hjort presented the Fanno Creek Working Group's recommendations for how the TAC's \$20,000 BES funds could be used along the Fanno Creek trail.

1. Interpretive signage at 78th Avenue – This is the location of the former Furlock Railroad Station. The signage would discuss the historic significance of the trail at this location. They have identified photographs for the interpretive sign.
2. A painted crosswalk at 90th – the trail crossing is signed but is not painted. This would provide more of a visual clue to automobile drivers. There have been some different opinions at the County level regarding if a traffic engineering review would be needed for this. If it is needed, it could be cost prohibitive. Tom will discuss this issue with County engineers and try to determine whether or not a traffic study is required. He will report back to the TAC (and the Working Group) as to the results of this discussion.
3. Interpretive sign at the bridge – You can see the remains of the original trestle.
4. If cost of signs and the crossing is under the \$20,000, the remaining funds would be applied to supplement plantings in locations where foliage is limited.

MOTION made (John) and seconded (Joe) for approval of the first, second and third recommended actions with the crosswalk being contingent on the study not being necessary. Unanimous vote in favor of the motion.

VIII. Application for Membership in Trails Advisory Committee

Kevin O'Donnell (CPO7) has expressed interested in becoming a member of the Committee.

MOTION made (Mary) and seconded (John) for recommending that the Board approve Kevin to become a member of the Committee. Unanimous vote in favor of the motion.

IX. Plan of Action for Committee Members Attending Public Meetings

TAC members often attend public meetings to support upcoming trail projects. Committee members expressed that they would like a more clear direction on what to do, as a TAC member, at these meetings.

Committee members expressed interest in

- Having official nametags or T-shirts with the THPRD logo. This would allow Committee members to be recognizable to the public at the meetings.
- Developing talking points for the TAC members.
- Hearing more information about a project prior to attending a public meeting.
- Having a longer presentation, which includes statements from the Committee members and questions from the audience, at future Westside Trail and other project public meetings.

Tom will schedule more discussion/action on this matter for a future TAC meeting.

X. Westside Regional Trail Master Plan Committee, Report

Two open houses were held for the community since our last TAC meeting. Many TAC members attended these meetings. One meeting was held for the south section of the proposed trail and one was held for the north section. The layout of the meeting was small group discussion where each table discussed a specific segment of the trail. The goal of these open houses was to share information with the public – conceptual location, what did the community want to communicate prior to the project. The communities along all of the segments were supportive except many people expressed opposition to the Oak Hills segments. Attendance at north meeting was 110 people and at the south meeting was 40 people.

XI. 2012 Committee Calendar, Update (Including Picnic)

Mary circulated the annual picnic food signup sheet. The shelter has been reserved at the Jenkins Estate/Camp Rivendale. Mary will contact Nicole to provide directions to the TAC. The picnic will start at 6 p.m. Mary will be finalizing a headcount and will provide that count to Steve.

XII. Staff Update on Trails Projects

A. Bond Measure Trails Update

- i. **Westside Trail** – The construction bid was approved at the June 4th Board meeting. The total bid was \$2.4 million. THPRD is looking to start construction in the second week of July.
- ii. **Waterhouse Trail** – Staff is still working through some design issues with Washington County. They will be looking to construct this project in the spring of 2013.
- iii. **Rock Creek** – The construction bid approved at the June 18th Board meeting. The bid was for \$757,000. Construction will begin this July.

B. MTIP Funding

- i. **Fanno Creek Trail/Hall Boulevard Feasibility Study** – Last night the Board decided they want to move forward with a mid-block crossing with a HAWK crossing but without a median. They also approved completing the grant requirement with the bridge being the preferred alternative. THPRD will be looking for approval on the mid-block crossing from the City as they own the road.
- ii. **Westside Trail Segment #18** – The second internal design team meeting was held. The consultant is currently looking at connections to neighborhoods and how to design the trail on the steep topography. The trail is a federal project so it has to be ADA accessible but it has a very steep section. The current design has the trail with an 8.3% grade in this steep section. To meet federal requirements they will need to construct a 5-foot landing after every 30 feet of trail throughout this section (six landings). The designer thinks they could place a landing adjacent to the trail to provide the resting place. A couple of cyclists at the meeting stated that having the landings within the trail would not impact their experience. Many Committee

members stated that, in general, the landings may be a good speed control idea as the trail may become dangerous for users if they were able to pick up too much speed.

XIII. Partner Jurisdiction Updates

A. Washington County –

- i. **Transportation Systems Plan** – Washington County is hosting three open houses for the TSP. The last open house in this series will be held next Monday at Tigard High School from 4:30 – 6:30 p.m. Interagency Coordination Committee will meet on May 31st and the Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC) will meet on June 4th. The CAC will be meeting at the Beaverton Resource Center.
- ii. **Bike/pedestrian prioritization project** – County staff is currently making the list of priority projects.
- iii. **North Bethany** – The hearing for this project will be held on June 26th. Ordinances adopted at this hearing will be effective on July 26th.
- iv. **Minor Betterments** – Proposals for the County's Minor Betterments program are due July 15th. This is a program where smaller projects, like filling in sidewalk gaps, can be funded.

B. Beaverton Bicycle Advisory Committee –The THPRD Sunday Trailways event (June 24th) has been posted on their website and several members are volunteering. The grand opening for the new segment of the trail will be held as part of the event (11:00 a.m. at the trail entrance on 105th Court). They also reminded the TAC about the Bike Beaverton Day (Sunday, September 9th). If you are interested in participating let Margaret know.

C. City of Beaverton – The Beaverton Community Vision Action Plan (adopted February 2012) is now available on their website. City Council will be discussing the Fanno Creek-Hall Boulevard crossing at their July 10th meeting.

D. Beaverton School District – No report because no representative present.

E. Metro – Robert presented information about the Westside Trail Project (see previous section).

XIV. Next Meeting will be held on July 17, 2012, 6:00 p.m. picnic at Jenkins Estate/Camp Rivendale.

Meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Bernadette Le
Recording Secretary