



Tualatin Hills Park & Recreation District

ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Natural Resources Advisory Committee Meeting

Date: October 23, 2012

Time: 6:30 pm

Location: Stuhr Center

In Attendance

Committee Members: Rod Coles, Mitch Cruzan, Eric Lindstrom, Don Nearhood, Cory Samia, Jack Shorr, Matthew Shepherd
Staff: Bruce Barbarasch, Kristin Atman, Brad Hauschild (park planner), Dave Walters (park planner)
Guest: Calin Gherghe, citizen

I. Call to Order

Matthew called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm.

II. Approval of Minutes

Discussion: Typographic issues – Check-in activity line 1: change instruction to construction; New business line 6: change rail to Max
Motion to approve – Jack
Second - Don
Approved unanimously

III. Financial Report

There was no report.

IV. Old Business

- a. Natural Resources Functional Plan - Tabled
- b. Kristin presents Interpretive Signage / Art Installation Project
 1. Explains challenges of developing interpretive signs
 2. The Outdoor Exploratorium served as a resource and inspiration.
 3. Studied technological possibilities and decided to use more traditional resources
 4. Looked for ways to foster engagement and repeat visits
 5. Artist selection committee looked at work from various artists.
 6. Met a total of six times and narrowed the list down to four candidates
 7. Likely to be four locales selected for artwork
 8. Three \$80,000 awards plus one \$25,000 award
 9. Kristin outlines next steps, including process steps for securing commitments and developing concepts. Clarifies that this is provided for in its own budget and does not impact funds slotted for development and installation of conventional signage
 10. Fabrication and installation by 2013
- c. Kristin presents Education Program Update (see handout)
 1. Explains mission and method of operation
 2. Discusses goals and current progress against those goals
 3. Currently working on developing a strategic plan for the education programs
 4. Cori suggests that in developing long term goals the department might look at expanding the target audiences.
 5. A major challenge for the department is how to engage more of the community in both cost-based

and free activities.

6. Major activities are the preschool program; nature camps; and Nature Mobile programs.
7. Many successes, but also challenges, including growing activities at Cooper Mountain Nature House, and finding scholarships for school field trips. With regard to the latter the department is looking for grants and donations for scholarships. Also, some of the facilities could use a few improvements – e.g. air conditioning at Cooper Mountain.

d. Board Presentation

1. Matthew asks for input regarding the presentation outline he sent around earlier in the week.
2. Committee members provided general observations and suggestions on the further development of the presentation.
3. Matthew will move forward with a final draft and update members at next meeting.

V. New Business

a. Dave Walters presents Graf Meadows Trail

1. Involves two unnamed streams that drain into Rock Creek
2. Design options
3. One option is to follow route of existing trail, which crosses a wetland.
4. Second option makes a longer trail but impacts less of the existing wetland.
5. Cory asks about existing vegetation; response is that it is mostly a mix of natives and invasives.
6. Existing beaver dams are south of the THPRD property line.
7. Staff will be discussing the plans with neighbors in the next few weeks.
8. Erosion issues along new pathway are likely to be minimal due to terrain elevations.
9. Tree cover in the proposed trail area consists of younger specimens (cottonwood and cedar 6 to 8 inches).
10. A majority of the Committee favors Option 2.
11. Calin Gherghe recommends looking at a path alignment that does not run so close to existing neighbors on the west end; staff will listen to suggestions from the public at the hearings.
12. Jack moves that the Committee supports Option 2 because it reduces wetlands impact;
13. Cory seconds
14. Motion carries 4-2

b. Brad Hauschild presents Westside Trail (Segment 18)

1. Trail will cross Bronson Creek and its floodplains.
2. Site inventory took place summer of 2012.
3. Multiple utility corridors run through the area, which dictates where trail may go.
4. Committee asked to examine the plan and offer perspectives and indicate level of support.
5. THPRD still trying to find ways to minimize wetlands impacts by working with HOA and utility companies for alternate routing of the trail over their respective properties.
6. Plan calls for roughly 800' of trail that may involve wetland fill and/or boardwalk.
7. The Committee is generally not in favor of projects that entail filling wetlands, but supports efforts to reduce the impacts as much as possible.

VI. Other

- a. None

VII. Next Meeting will be held on November 27, 2012, 6:30pm, Fanno Creek Service Center.

Meeting adjourned at 8:54pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Eric Lindstrom, Recording Secretary