



Tualatin Hills Park & Recreation District

ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Natural Resources Advisory Committee Meeting

Date: November 27, 2012

Time: 6:30 pm

Location: Fanno Creek Service Center

In Attendance

Committee Members: Rod Coles, Mitch Cruzan, Eric Lindstrom, Don Nearhood, Cory Samia, Jack Shorr, Matthew Shepherd
Staff: Bruce Barbarasch
Guest: Calin Gherghe

I. Call to Order

Matthew called the meeting to order at 6:37 pm.

II. Approval of Minutes

Noted that Rod Coles was not present for this meeting.

Noted – change “general consensus” to “majority”

Motion to approve – Mitch motions approval as modified above

Second - Approved

Approved unanimously

III. Check-in activity

Eric took his grandson Quinn to Center Street to see how well the beaver-deceiver is working. It appears to be working well.

Mitch hiked Lowami Hart Woods in October and was surprised to see that not a lot has taken place there since the approval of the master plan. Bruce provided an update on progress and assorted design considerations. Schedule of work is dependent upon a variety of factors including bird-life nesting periods. He notes that it is a sensitive site so a great deal of caution and care is being exercised on all facets.

Rod volunteered at Newt Day and also did some park-watch duties at the Nature Park.

Cory has been unable to visit any THPRD properties.

Don attended the Intertwine Alliance meeting at the Zoo and noted THPRD's/Bruce's contribution. He also attended the last THPRD Board meeting. He is also attending Washington County transportation meetings and offering suggestions related to the development of transportation systems and collateral natural resources issues.

Matthew has been watching the beaver ponds in his nearby parks. He notes that the 7.5" of rain has had a big impact on water levels in the area.

Jack has graduated from the Master Naturalist program.

IV. Financial Report

There was no report.

V. Old Business

- a. Explorer Station Network Update / Matthew – Not too much activity on the project, but Management has approved the selection of artists. Planning starts next week, implementation to follow.
- b. Bond Project Updates / Bruce – Showed a chart that gives an overview of 30 projects and their current status. 2013 is a peak period of activity on these projects. Many of the projects are either weed removal or restoration planting activities.

Cory asked what spraying protocol was being followed for English ivy. Bruce responded that THPRD is following procedures used by Portland's Bureau of Environmental Services Watershed Restoration Department.

Bruce notes that several newer projects have shifted toward "green engineering" to tackle a variety of challenges – e.g. attracting beaver to areas that need impoundment. Also talking to ODFW and other wildlife experts regarding approaches to creating habitat that will attract turtles and other reptiles. Also working on enhancing amphibian habitat at the Tualatin Hills Nature Park.

Funds used to support mitigation projects will be coming into Natural Resources from Planning and managed from there, rather than by general construction contractors working on project-related mitigation. Cory asks if these kinds of activities should be included in the NRMP. Bruce suggests that this question will be tackled when the plan is being developed.

THPRD is continuing to look at properties for acquisition, but the process is necessarily very slow.

Bruce provided an overview of the Timberland Development, which includes many natural resource features.

- c. Tualatin Hills Nature Park – bikes on the trail? / Discussion:
Matthew outlines the issue (see memo). The question is should bicycles be banned from the park? After a general discussion, Eric moves that the Committee supports avoiding a ban and focus instead on other approaches to minimize conflicts and other issues. Mitch seconds.
Discussion – Cory wants to adopt a "wait and see" posture and keep all options open and wants that point included in the motion.

Amended motion offered by Matthew: Maintain status quo until the alternate trail is completed. Then, if bicycles become an issue, other options may be pursued.

Mitch seconds the motion.

Motion passes unanimously.

VI. New Business

- a. Board Presentation / Matthew – Discussion and suggestions from the group. Matthew to continue working on a final draft of the PowerPoint and will send it around before the next meeting.

VII. Other

- a. None

VIII. Next Meeting will be held on December 18, 2012, 6:30 pm, Fanno Creek Service Center.

Meeting adjourned at 8:41 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Eric Lindstrom, EdD, Recording Secretary