



## Tualatin Hills Park & Recreation District ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

### Natural Resources Advisory Committee Meeting

Date: July 23, 2013

Time: 6:30 pm

Location: Fanno Creek Service Center

#### In Attendance

Committee Members: Rod Coles, Mitch Cruzan, Don Nearhood, Matthew Shepherd  
Staff: Bruce Barbarasch  
Guest: Calin Gherghe

#### I. Call to Order

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

#### II. Approval of Minutes

Discussion

Motion to approve - Rod

Second - Don

Approved unanimously

#### III. Financial Report

There was no report.

#### IV. Old Business

##### a. Committee check-in:

- Rod: Worked in native plant garden at the Tualatin Hills Nature Park, worked on improving trail surfaces along the Old Wagon Trail at THNP, and attended the Board of Director's presentation about the Comprehensive Plan Update.
- Mitch: He has been observing work at Lowami Hart Woods.
- Matthew: Noticed and liked the new trail signs along the Rock Creek Greenway.
- Don: Walked the trail at Foothills Park and wishes it was wide enough so two people could walk shoulder to shoulder. Some parks are too neatly pruned. Could get by with a more natural look.

#### V. New Business

- a. *Meet the new Natural Resources & Trails Specialist*, Janelle St. Pierre. Janelle explained her background and responsibilities for parks in the north half of the district, including the Tualatin Hills Nature Park. *Rock Creek Greenway Pollinator Project*. Janelle explained the parameters of the 1.8 acre project which included one acre of wildflowers surrounded by shrubs, logs, and rocks. This will leave about two acres of mowed turf around the project. The Committee asked about the following:
- How will invasive plant be managed? With a shrub buffer, mowing, periodic weed treatments.
  - Will you bring in critters? No. Build it and they will find it.
  - Consider partner groups for education like PSU Environmental Studies Program.
  - Several people were interested in volunteering. Janelle to follow up.
  - Members would like to see more no-mow and/or low effort habitat areas.
- b. *Nature Revealed*. Bruce explained the development and site selection process. He then shared concept drawings and sought feedback on the four proposals for Rock Creek Greenway, Raleigh Park, Hazeldale Park, and Jordan Woods. Proposals can be seen at [www.thprd.org/art](http://www.thprd.org/art) Comments:

- Raleigh: Could there be a device that measures tree height? Some people wanted to see the installation be more artistic and less like instruments.
  - Hazeldale: Committee was OK with weeds as long as they are maintained in a patch and there was some kind of education. Would dogs disturb the plants? Not likely based on other natural areas. Will the areas be fenced? Not planned right now.
  - Overall the Committee was very supportive of the projects and requested updates on the progress.
- c. Leadership Change. Eric is stepping down as chair, but continuing on the Committee. Mitch was interested in the taking on the chair. Don motioned for Mitch. Matthew seconded. All present were in favor. Mitch Cruzan was elected the new chair.

**VI. Other**

- a. The August meeting was bumped to Wednesday to accommodate summer schedules.

**VII. Next Meeting will be held on August 28, 2013, 6:30 pm, Stuhr Center.**

Meeting adjourned at 8:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Bruce Barbarasch