



Tualatin Hills Park & Recreation District ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Parks Advisory Committee Meeting
Date: May 29, 2013
Time: 6:15 pm
Location: Fanno Creek Service Center

In Attendance

Committee Members: Greg Cody, Sue Remkeit, Virginia Bruce, Miles Glowacki
Staff: Mike Janin, Supt of Security Operations & Dave Chrisman,
Supt of Maintenance Operations
Guest: Ron Vrooman, Citizen

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chairman, Miles Glowacki at 6:20 pm.

II. Approval of Minutes

The minutes from the April 9th Parks Advisory Committee were unanimously approved.

III. Staff Reports

Park Security, Mike Janin

Mike reported that he is currently dealing with staff turnover issues and evaluating replacement opportunities. Several of his PT Park Patrol staff are candidates for FT law enforcement positions with Hillsboro and Washington County. This reflects well on the credentials and abilities of his staff but means that Mike must be in a constant state of recruitment/replacement. Mike reports that he has a qualified pool of candidates but the training and start up can be time-consuming.

Mike reported that Parks Security is working cooperatively with the Beaverton School District, Washington County, and the THPRD Park Maintenance Department to coordinate a clean up the newly acquired Hulse property adjacent to Mt View Middle School. The site will eventually be developed as sports field/park designed to accommodate the disabled athlete. The site is overgrown with vegetation and a frequent hang out for undesirable activity. The clean-up will open the sight lines making it easier to monitor and reduce inappropriate use.

Mike reported that the Parks Advisory Committee will be asked to attend a September THPRD Board meeting in support of their prior recommendation to ban smoking in parks. An implementation plan for the Smoking Ban will be submitted to the Board of Directors for approval and PAC may be asked to testify. More details regarding the PAC's role will follow.

Parks Maintenance, Dave Chrisman

Dave reported that after 28 years of dedicated service, Allan Wells, Park Maintenance Coordinator, retired earlier this month. Allan's replacement will be Keith Watson, who has been serving as the Athletic Fields Maintenance Coordinator and in the Maintenance Department the past 17 years.

Dave reported that the new parks maintenance service delivery model (site ownership/trip reduction) continues to go well. Dave would like to introduce Keith Watson at the next meeting and also talk about and plan for making park zone assignments/connections between the Advisory Committee members and our maintenance zone managers. We will also review details about our parks maintenance incentive program which has been discussed at prior PAC meetings.

Dave announced that three benches have been ordered for the Schiffler Park Wetland overlooks. The benches will be backless and have been funded via the PAC Challenge Grant.

IV. Old Business, Presentation – Ron Vrooman, Proposal for Off Leash Dog Exceptions

Ron Vrooman referenced his proposal for off leash dogs which he had submitted to the PAC earlier in the month. He suggested that responsible dog owners might be issued some type of visible label while in the parks with their dogs. He reminded the Committee of the benefits of the off leash activities versus traditional enclosed parks which are often overcrowded and not well maintained.

Ron addressed some of the concerns, noted below, that were raised at our previous April meeting. Ron felt that these issues were irrelevant with respect to his proposal. Ron suggested these were issues to be resolved by attorneys and have little bearing on his proposal. Several Committee members disagreed stating that they were directly relevant to the proposal and will need to be addressed if the proposal is expected to move forward.

The primary concerns raised by the Committee will be site selection. The Committee stressed the importance of locating a site, with minimal development or opportunities for conflict with existing uses. They also stressed the importance of support from local or adjacent residents and the need to go through the public notification community outreach process. The Committee also reminded Ron of two prior public neighborhood meetings where dog park proposals were adamantly opposed by local residents. The important point being that the process, if moved forward, will/must include public outreach.

Ron commented that if the land was public he felt the process should be simple since the land was intended for public use.

After more discussion Ron agreed to meet with Greg Cody to see if they could formulate a more definite plan that could be brought back to the PAC for review. The intent/goal was clarified as follows:

- Proposal would be a pilot project
- Site selection guidelines should be clarified (Portland Park Guidelines were distributed)
- Timing guidelines (use schedule) for off leash should be addressed
- Community outreach must be included

Questions/concerns/comments raised at April 2013, PAC Meeting:

- Who would issue a certification for a responsible dog owner?
- Would this be for all parks or select parks?
- To include all hours or select hours?
- How will the public react to this?
- The District is frequently told by citizens they want more enforcement of current leash rules.
- How can off leash dogs be considered under the owner's immediate control?
- Would the District have to change current rules to allow off leash opportunities?
- Many dog owners do not currently clean up dog waste.
- Should/could off leash dogs be marked or tagged?
- What impact will this have on District liability?
- What are the impacts when we have exceptions to existing rules?

V. New Business

- A motion was made and unanimously approved to use PAC Challenge Grant monies (\$3,000) to provide two park benches at Ridgewood Park. The benches should be installed facing the play equipment structure. No park benches currently exist at the park.

VI. Committee Time

Virginia Bruce met with Bruce Barbarasch and also with Bob Wayt to discuss how interpretive signs are currently being used and how their use might be expanded. Currently, interpretive signs are used in parks focusing on natural resource features. Examples are displayed at the Nature Park and Cooper Mountain Nature Park. Virginia is suggesting that their use could be expanded as an outreach tool to encourage people to love their parks. For example, interpretive signs could reinforce the value of local history especially where parks are named after families who may have been the previous owners of the land. Interpretive signs might educate and explain how properties were acquired or might explain the value as a trail connection in a much larger system. They could be used as a tool for further branding the District. The Committee is interested in this theme because they may want to promote more interpretive sign use in parks with future Challenge Grant monies.

VII. Other

Miles announced and invited all members of the PAC to attend a dedication of the art sculpture, currently on display at Progress Lake Park in Beaverton. The Beaverton Arts Commission will host the dedication Thursday, June 6th, 6pm at the site.

VIII. Next Meeting will be held on Tuesday, June 11, 6:15 at FCSC.

Meeting adjourned at 7:55 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Dave Chrisman
Recording Secretary