



Tualatin Hills Park & Recreation District

ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Natural Resources Advisory Committee Meeting

Date: December 3, 2013

Time: 6:30 pm

Location: Fanno Creek Service Center

In Attendance

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

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Mitch Cruzan at 6:37 pm.

II. Approval of Minutes

There was a brief discussion about last month's minutes.

Motion to approve proposed by Don; seconded by Laura. Approved unanimously.

III. Financial Report

The Committee explored ways to use \$7,500 of available Challenge Grant funds. The conversation revolved around methods of clearly marking conservation areas to avoid unplanned mowing by the Maintenance Department. Bruce helpfully brought a sample plastic post to illuminate the discussion. These plastic posts could be used to outline the boundaries of no-mow areas and guide encroaching mowers. It was decided that a bunch of posts should be purchased and installed at a couple of sites, and the effectiveness would be monitored during the coming mowing season.

Motion: \$1,000 can be spent on buying marker posts. Proposed by Don; seconded by Rod. Approved unanimously.

IV. Old Business

a. Check in activity

Jack: Visited Cooper Mountain; attended and enjoyed Leopold land ethics training at Tualatin NWR.

Cory: Visited Cooper Mountain and enjoyed having a friend coughing at frogs.

Laura: Walked in Commonwealth Park with son; attended a work-related conference in Eugene where she learned about EWEB's initiative to find positive support for riparian area protection; attended a work-related training and encountered a graph that showed how early engagement in issues creates big impact for low cost.

Rod: Newt Day at THNPIC was a great success.

Don: Likes new pervious parking lot at Sunset Pool; can NRAC look into wildlife crossings of trails?

Matthew: Beavers along Rock Creek Greenway have been active; new lodge and lengthy dam.

Mitch: Discovered that it is expensive to have a single Douglas-fir removed from backyard; went to Brazil for work.

b. Continue future priorities/goals

The discussion centered on the ideas raised last month.

Laura: Suggested NRAC should create a plan for reaching goals.

Mitch: We should encourage residents' interest in NRAC.

Cory: Can NRAC have an enhanced feature in the THPRD activities program? During the ensuing conversation it was suggested that a photo could be added to the small item already in the NR feature. There was general agreement on this idea.

Laura: Can NRAC build relationship with other Advisory Committees? If we do, we should be strategic in which meetings and how often; don't want to waste time. Only go when it's worth it. Bruce will forward AC agendas.

c. Answer follow-up questions from Advisory Committee Survey

Committee members considered a series of questions presented in a letter from the THPRD Administration Office. These were District-wide concerns on policies, etc. that arose from the recent Comprehensive Plan update and not related directly to natural resource issues.

Out of district fees: Little consensus; what does data tell THPRD about use of facilities by OD patrons?

Discounts to specific groups: Seems a good idea if economic situation requires it.

Drop-in fees: What do other districts do for off-peak fees? Are there any BMPs?

Advisory Committee role: The Committee prefers not to fundraise.

d. Update on NR Functional Plan

Matthew had attended a meeting on November 18 to initiate the process of writing the long-awaited Natural Resources Functional Plan (NRFP). Other participants were all THPRD staff (Planning, Maintenance, Programs, as well as Natural Resources); though it was hoped that Metro would also be represented. The biggest hurdle to progress was the fundamental issue of whether the NRFP should be process driven or aspirational. Following the meeting, Bruce had taken the issue to District Management; he is awaiting clarification. A lively discussion ensued. The following were the salient issues raised:

Jack: Targets and timeline should be clear; can specifications be clearly quantified?

Mitch: Goals are good to have; aspiration encourages creativity.

Jack: The plan should be flexible to allow adjustment to changing fiscal conditions.

Bruce: Clear goals should be part of the NRFP.

Mitch: Use the existing tool of habitat quality to measure progress.

Cory/Laura: Can NRFP be used to protect natural resource efforts in an uncertain future?

Mitch: Emphasize the value of natural resources to the community (ecosystem services).

V. New Business

None.

VI. Other

None.

VII. Next Meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 28, at 6:30 p.m. at the Fanno Creek Service Center.

Meeting adjourned at 8:48 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Matthew Shepherd
Recording Secretary