



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

### Nature Park Advisory Committee Meeting

Date: Thursday, August 13, 2009

Time: 7:00 pm

Location: Nature Park

#### In Attendance

Committee Members: Rod Coles, Jim Olson, Karl Quade, Kevin Hoover, Margaret Armstrong, and Deborah Winer

Staff: Bruce Barbarasch, Elisa Joy Payne

- I. **Call to Order:** Rod Coles called the meeting to order at 7:10 pm.
- II. **Approval of Minutes:** Thursday, July 9, 2009. Motion to approve minutes by Kevin, Seconded by Jim. **Minutes Approved.**
- III. **New Business**
  - A. **Nature Park Update.** Bruce presented the Nature Park Update.
    1. Staff Changes. Joan Andersen-Wells has transitioned to a new role as the Interpretive Project Manager. A new position titled Interpretive Programs Supervisor will replace the former Center Supervisor position.
    2. Trail Pruning. Park Ranger, Kelly Perry, is working on a major pruning project along park trails. Encroaching vegetation has shrunk access and safety clearance standards.
    3. Bug Fest Preparation. Staff are gearing up for Bug Fest on August 29<sup>th</sup> (11 am-4 pm). Our theme for the event is dragonflies.
    4. Nature Mobile. The mobile has been visiting underserved areas, District events and concerts. It has been well received. Staff are planning a fall schedule for the vehicle.
    5. Wildlife Sightings. A bobcat has been sighted several times in the vicinity of the Big Pond. A barred owl and mink have also been seen around the park.
    6. Campfires. We've had a few campfires in the park lately. Staff are working with Park Patrol on evening visits to catch the culprits.

July 2009 Volunteer Hours		
Volunteer Position	Total Hours Per Month	Total Volunteers Per Position
Advisory Committee	17.00	8
Education	636.25	12
Interpretive Garden & Gardening	41.75	11
Office	15.50	3
Park Watch	238.50	16
Plant Sale	11.50	3
Volunteer Training	0	0
Total	960.5	53

**B. Nature Park Staff Changes.** Bruce provided background on the changes in staffing related to Joan Andersen-Wells' new position as the Interpretive Project Manager. He explained the expanded role of Nature Park staff in environmental education and outreach throughout the District. Joan will be managing education and special projects including the Interpretive Garden, District-wide recycling, and some events.

**C. Challenge Grant.** A discussion of possible projects for the 2009-10 Challenge Grant was held. The following items were suggested:

- o Viewing platform near Big Pond, at least begin the planning
- o Benches for the Interpretive Garden
- o Shade canopy for the meadow/play area
- o Irrigation for the Interpretive Garden

The Advisory Committee requested staff to:

- o Research the costs of wooden benches similar to the ones at Cooper Mountain Nature Park and provide a cost comparison with our traditional bench.
- o Research design and costs for shade canopy for the meadow/play area
- o Make a request for planning time to develop design options and cost estimates for a viewing platform at Big Pond.
- o Margaret reported that the Interpretive Garden Committee is working to obtain estimates for developing an irrigation system for the Interpretive Gardens

**D. Westside Trail Planning.** Bruce reported that the old rail line that runs parallel to the Light Rail is being dismantled. Preliminary discussions are being held with TriMet about the possibility of routing the Westside Trail within the TriMet right-of-way. This would meet the long stated goal of the Advisory Committee of having the regional trail on the perimeter of the Nature Park. This trail alignment would make a good transportation link with the Light Rail stop.

**IV. Financial Report**

**A. Foundation/Challenge Report**

**Expenditures:**

Common Ground (prep for Bug Fest)	\$594.67
NW Natives (for Fall Plant Sale)	\$800.00
Toysmith (prep for Bug Fest)	\$318.90
Kathy Anderson (store purchases)	\$48.50
Watershed Garden Works (for Fall Plant Sale)	\$157.50
Chehalem Mt. Nursery	\$278.50
Seven Oaks Native Nursery	\$62.00
Wild Republic/K & M Enterprises	\$364.00
<b>Total Expenditures as of 7/31/09</b>	<b>(\$2,624.07)</b>
<b>Foundation account as of 7/31/09</b>	<b>\$14,208.03</b>
<b>Plant Garden Funds as of 7/31/09</b>	<b>\$10,000.00</b>
Cathy H donation	\$500.00
<b>Old Wagon Trail as of 7/31/09</b>	<b>\$2,742.65</b>

<b>Challenge Grant as of 7/31/09</b>	<b>\$5,000.00</b>
Challenge Grant funding (7/1/09):	\$5,000.00
<b>School Grant Fund as of 7/31/09</b>	<b>\$3,000.00</b>

**B. School Report**

Elisa reported on the positive response to the Environmental Education Field Trip Grant Program for Spring 2009 and thanked the Advisory Committee for the \$3,000 funding to begin this school year.

**V. Old Business**

**A. Advisory Committee Task Report.**

Rod reported on the Advisory Committee Task Force meeting. The formation of broad based Advisory Committees will likely move forward. Rod shared the by-laws of the Friends of John Quincy Adams House as an example of one way to structure a Friends Group. He said that each broad based committee and each friends group will be eligible for a \$7,500 Challenge Grant per year. The number of members in a Friends Group would not be limited. He urged us to be ready for a change as we move forward and decide how to develop a Friends Group.

Bruce answered many questions. We were assured that we would have staff support for projects such as the Plant Sales and the Interpretive Gardens. Our current funds will remain with our Foundation Account. Minutes will be required since we will still be raising funds and spending funds. A Friends Group can be very flexible. Two questions to be answered as we move forward are: Will we still receive Nature Park Updates from staff and will we still have an advisory role?

**B. Plant Sale and Garden Update.**

Margaret reported for both subcommittees

- The purchase orders for the Fall Plant Sale are complete. We will be requesting help with picking up plants from suppliers the last few weeks in September. The drip irrigation system in the maintenance yard has been set up for maintenance of plants held over from the Spring Plant Sale. The timer and system will not be completely automated because of the way the hose bib is set up. Staff will be able to turn it on for designated periods and it will shut off automatically, but we will have to turn the main valve off and on manually.
- The Interpretive Garden weeding and mulching is a work in progress. The extreme heat and then the rain caused some delays. We will have another work party on the evening of Tuesday, August 25<sup>th</sup>.
- The Interpretive Garden subcommittee met and worked on plans for garden sections 1 and 3 to be planted this fall. Section 5, an edible garden, and Section 6, a children's interpretive garden, are in the brainstorming stage. Ideas are welcome. Contact Joan, Margaret, Jerome Magill or Kathy Hammerstrom with suggestions.

**VI. Open Discussion**

Brief discussion of the role of Park Watch was held.

**VII. Next Meeting will be held on Thursday, September 10, 2009, 7:00 pm.**

Motion to adjourn meeting made by Jim Olson, seconded by Kevin Hoover. Meeting adjourned at 8:55pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Margaret Armstrong  
Recording Secretary