

Natural Resources Advisory Committee Meeting

November 27, 2012, 6:30pm

Fanno Creek Service Center (6220 SW 112th Ave, Beaverton, OR 97008)

Agenda

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| 1. Call to order | Matthew Shepherd |
| 2. Approve minutes (5 min) | Matthew Shepherd |
| 3. Check-in activity (20 min) | Matthew Shepherd |
| 4. Financial report - none. No new activity. | |
| 5. Old business | |
| a. Explorer Station Network Update (5 min) | Matthew Shepherd |
| b. Bond Project Updates (15 min) | Bruce Barbarasch |
| c. Tualatin Hills Nature Park- bikes on trails
(15min) | |
| 6. New business: | |
| a. Board Presentation (30 min) | Matthew Shepherd |
| 7. Other | |
| a. None | |
| 8. Next meeting (5 min) | Matthew Shepherd |
| a. Next Meeting: 12/18/12, 6:30pm, Fanno Creek
Service Center | |

Upcoming Meetings with a Natural Resources Component:

- Cost Recovery Philosophy, Model and Policy Workshops – misc. dates in December.



Tualatin Hills Park & Recreation District

ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Natural Resources Advisory Committee Meeting

Date: October 23, 2012

Time: 6:30pm

Location: Stuhr Center

In Attendance

Committee Members: Rod Coles, Mitch Cruzan, Eric Lindstrom, Don Nearhood, Cory Samia, Jack Shorr, Matthew Shepherd
Staff: Bruce Barbarasch, Kristin Atman, Brad Hauschild (park planner), Dave Walters (park planner)
Guests: Calin Gherghe, citizen

I. Call to Order

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

II. Approval of Minutes

Discussion: Typographic issues – Check-in activity line 1: change instruction to construction; New business line 6: change rail to Max
Motion to approve – Jack
Second - Don
Approved unanimously

III. Financial Report

There was no report.

IV. Old Business

- a. Natural Resources Functional Plan - Tabled
- b. Kristin presents Interpretive Signage / Art Installation Project
 1. Explains challenges of developing interpretive signs
 2. The Outdoor Exploratorium served as a resource and inspiration
 3. Studied technological possibilities and decided to use more traditional resources
 4. Looked for ways to foster engagement and repeat visits
 5. Artist selection committee looked at work from various artists
 6. Met a total of six times and narrowed the list down to 4 candidates
 7. Likely to be four locales selected for artwork
 8. Three \$80,000 awards plus one \$25,000 award
 9. Kristin outlines next steps, including process steps for securing commitments and developing concepts Clarifies that this is provided for in its own budget and does not impact funds slotted for development and installation of conventional signage
 10. Fabrication and Installation by 2013
- c. Kristin presents Education Program Update (see handout)
 1. Explains mission and method of operation
 2. Discusses goals and current progress against those goals
 3. Currently working on developing a strategic plan for the education programs
 4. Cori suggests that in developing long term goals the department might look at expanding the target audiences
 5. A major challenge for the department is how to engage more of the community in both cost-based and free activities

6. Major activities are the preschool program; nature camps; and Nature Mobile programs
 7. Many successes, but also challenges, including growing activities at Cooper Mountain Nature House, and finding scholarships for school fieldtrips. With regard to the latter the department is looking for grants and donations for scholarships. Also, some of the facilities could use a few improvements – e.g. air conditioning at Cooper Mountain.
- d. Board Presentation
1. Matthew asks for input regarding the presentation outline he sent around earlier in the week
 2. Committee members provided general observations and suggestions on the further development of the presentation
 3. Matthew will move forward with a final draft and update members at next meeting.

V. New Business

- a. Dave Walters presents Graf Meadows Trail
1. Involves two unnamed streams that drain into Rock Creek
 2. Design options
 3. One option is to follow route of existing trail, which crosses a wetland
 4. Second option makes a longer trail but impacts less of the existing wetland
 5. Cory asks about existing vegetation; response is that it is mostly a mix of natives and invasives
 6. Existing beaver dams are south of the THPRD property line
 7. Staff will be discussing the plans with neighbors in the next few weeks
 8. Erosion issues along new pathway are likely to be minimal due to terrain elevations
 9. Tree cover in the proposed trail area consist of younger specimens (cottonwood and cedar 6 to 8 inches)
 10. General consensus of the committee is to favor Option 2
 11. Calin Gherghe recommends looking at a path alignment that does not run so close to existing neighbors on the west end; staff will listen to suggestions from the public at the hearings
 12. Jack moves that the committee supports option 2 because it reduces wetlands impact;
 13. Cory seconds
 14. Motion carries 4-2
- a. Brad Hauschild presents Westside Trail (Segment 18)
1. Trail will cross Bronson Creek and its floodplains
 2. Site inventory took place summer of 2012
 3. Multiple utility corridors run through the area, which dictates where trail may go
 4. Committee asked to examine the plan and offer perspectives and indicate level of support
 5. THPRD still trying to find ways to minimize wetlands impacts by working with HOA and utility companies for alternate routing of the trail over their respective properties
 6. Plan calls for roughly 800' of trail that may involve wetland fill and/or boardwalk
 7. The Committee is generally not in favor of projects that entail filling wetlands, but supports efforts to reduce the impacts as much as possible.

VI. Other

- a. None.

VII. Next Meeting will be held on

Next Meeting: 11/27/12, 6:30pm, Fanno Creek Service Center

Meeting adjourned at 8:54pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Eric Lindstrom



TUALATIN HILLS PARK & RECREATION DISTRICT

MEMO

DATE: November 19, 2012
TO: Steve Gulgren
FROM: Bruce Barbarasch

RE: **Bicycle Management in the Tualatin Hills Nature Park**

Background

The Tualatin Hills Nature Park has approximately 1.5 miles of multi-use paved trails. Bicycles are prohibited on the park's soft-surface trails. The paved, Oak Trail is heavily used by bicyclists, walkers, environmental education classes, and runners.

Historically various individuals and groups have envisioned a bicycle-free trail system at the Tualatin Hills Nature Park, however this was not feasible because the Oak Trail provides an important transportation connection between the Westside Trail at SW Millikan Way and the light rail station at Merlo Road.

With the planned construction of the Westside to Waterhouse Trail connection, a paved trail will skirt the northern edge of the park, connecting the existing Westside Trail to the Merlo Road light rail station.

Proposal

Staff are considering the pros and cons of excluding bicycles from the park upon completion of the park. Staff assume that with appropriate signage, the majority of commuting bicyclists would use the Westside to Waterhouse Trail instead of park trails.

Pros of no-bikes

1. Increased undisturbed space for quiet nature watching. (Though patrons complain about groups of joggers much more frequently than bikes.)
2. Lower probability of user conflict.

Cons of no-bikes

1. Enforcing a no bikes rule would take significant staff efforts on a continuous basis. Patrons would be unhappy with staff if we do not act on every bicycle report, yet catching an offending bicyclist could prove challenging.
2. The trail currently provides families with young children a relatively quiet bike riding venue. Families would be excluded from using the trails, which defeats one of the Park District's recreational goals.
3. There are currently very few bicycle-pedestrian conflicts, so instituting a new rule would shift staff efforts to a lower priority effort.

Next Steps

Staff will seek input from various citizens groups to determine the level of community interest. Based on these considerations as well as the feasibility of implementing the rule, a recommendation will be made to Park District Management.

Natural Resources Department

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TUALATIN HILLS NATURE PARK

LEGEND

GRID SPACING 200' x 200'

- RIVER/STREAM
- PARK BOUNDARY
- PAVED TRAILS
- SECONDARY TRAILS
- WETLANDS
- UPLANDS

0' 200' 400' 800'

