Tualatin Hills Park & Recreation District
ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Natural Resources Advisory Committee Meeting
Date: October 26, 2010
Time: 6:30 pm
Location: Stuhr Center

In Attendance

Committee Members:	Rod Coles, Mitch Cruzan, Eric Lindstrom, Cory Samia, Matthew Shepherd
Staff:	Bruce Barbarasch

I. Call to Order

Rod called the meeting to order at 6:35 pm.

II. Approval of Minutes

Mitch moved for approval.
Matthew seconded.

III. Financial Report

No activity.

IV. Old Business

1. Lowami-Hart Woods follow up

The Committee requested additional information about the impacts of the development project on natural resources and a description of the planned natural resources enhancements to the site.

Bruce shared a realigned parking lot design which differed from the one Planning staff showed at the September meeting. This option provides maximum vehicular traffic into and out of the park.

- General discussion of how this access plan serves the park. No negative comments from the committee at this time.

Habitat Enhancement Description

- Bruce went over map and amplified basic information.
- Area provides a range of habitats.
- Generally contains invasives but also contains a wide variety of desirable native plants.
- Basic restoration strategy will be to do a complete weed removal sweep of the area focused on key invasives – reed canary grass control seen to be unnecessary at this time, due to difficulty of eradication and diminishing return on investment for eliminating small patches.
- Staff will replant with native shrubs and trees and encourage existing natives to reseed.
- CWS previously enhanced area along the creek.
- No rare or sensitive species known to be in this area.
- Restoration funding is a specific "line item" in the bond budget and will be conducted by contractors.
- Project activity begins this spring.

Q: Matthew re: trail connectivity of this section to upstream areas (Vale wetlands)? Response is that such connectivity possible but not probable due to cost and environmental factors.

Q: Cory re: Natural Resources Management Plan rating of this park? Response is 85 out of 100; higher level of desirability due to existing vegetation, terrain and condition.

Q: Cory re: location of trails adjacent to and over wetlands? Response is that most trails and bridge routes well established and likely to be improved rather than moved.

Eric moves that the Committee says it is favorably inclined toward project and interested in monitoring its future developments through a quarterly update.

Mitch seconded.

Debate:
Cory suggests that since the project is already on the master plan but was not reviewed by a Natural Resources Advisory Committee this fact should be included in the motion. Very concerned about the location of the trails so close to the creek.

Mitch thinks it is a good idea to support the plan, reservations notwithstanding.

Matthew notes that new trails will be managed vs. existing trails which largely are user created.

Vote:
Eric abstains.
Cory no.
Three in favor of supporting the plan.

V. New Business

1. NR Department organization update (with John Gaddis new Natural Resources and Trails Specialist)
   - Bruce reviews the org chart and explains how the various positions function.

   Q: Matthew re: Tech hours and allocations. Response is that these techs work on a scheduled as well as demand basis. Bruce notes that Rangers are not technically supervisory. Also while each Ranger has a specified "zone," in practice roles are flexed as situations require.

   Discussion of Park Patrol (police cadets) and their function within the parks, which is complementary to Natural Resources roles.

2. Upcoming meetings
   Discussion of how to handle holiday meetings.

   November meeting as scheduled (23rd)
   December meeting as scheduled (28th)

3. How to fill remaining spaces on NRAC.
   Get the word out to various groups including…
   - Notify "Friends" groups.
   - Post on Park info boards.
   - Notify CPOs / NACs.

4. NRAC presentation to the Board of Directors (tentatively planned for February)
   Bruce explains purpose and procedures related to presentations to the THPRD Board of Directors.
   Discussion of how and what we should present.

5. Additional information from Bruce:
   - Kristin will be seeking info/input on educational programs (curriculum) and interpretive signage in future meetings.
   - At Camille Park approximately 100 ash trees (6" at breast height) may be removed in order to preserve the Oregon white oak population. A public meeting will be held on November 2, 2010.

- Rod circulates an electronic document – News and Events from Natural Resources and Trails and Bruce explains how to access it on the web.

VI. Other

None.

VII. Next Meeting will be held on Tuesday, November 23, 2010.

Meeting adjourned at 8:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Eric Lindstrom
Recording Secretary