



Tualatin Hills Park & Recreation District

ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Trails Advisory Committee Meeting

Date: February 16, 2010

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Location: Elsie Stuhr Center

5550 SW Hall Blvd., Beaverton, Oregon

In Attendance

Committee Members:

Chair Wendy Kroger, Barb Sonniksen, Dave Brown, Tom Hjort, Joe Barcott, Susan Hanson, Mary O'Donnell, Kevin Apperson, Kris Schamp

Ex-Officio Members:

Steve Gulgren (THPRD), Robert Spurlock (Metro), Don Gustafson (with City of Beaverton: substituting for Margaret)

Absent:

Margaret Middleton (City of Beaverton), Joy Chang (Washington County), Kevin Sutherland (Beaverton School District), Mel Huie (Metro)

Guest:

Susan Peithman (Bicycle Transportation Alliance)

I. Call to Order

Chair Wendy Kroger called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

II. Introduction of Guests and Visitors

Everyone present introduced themselves.

III. Moment of Remembrance for Lee Ascher

Lee died on January 22, 2010. A memorial service was held on January 30. Steve, Dave, and Joe attended the service and reported that it was well attended and that Lee was clearly respected and well liked. Wendy called for a moment of silence in remembrance of Lee, saying, "We'll miss him."

IV. Approval of December and January Meeting Minutes

December minutes, as amended, were approved. January minutes were approved subject to minor amendments suggested by Barb.

V. Announcements

Steve reported that at its February 8 meeting, the Board of Directors approved all applications to the Trails Advisory Committee. Wendy and Joe's terms are for three years each (through February 2013), and other terms are for two years. Steve also noted that the Board created a new Parks Committee and Natural Resources Committee.

Wendy announced ODOT has \$1,000,000 to use for bike/pedestrian trail connections and that ODOT will be issuing guidelines regarding application for, and distribution of, those funds.

Wendy asked that the currently scheduled May 8 Committee-sponsored bicycle ride be moved to May 15 and the Committee agreed. There was discussion of possible starting locations, and route; exact details to be determined later.

June 5 is National Trails Day. There will be a committee work party at Murrayhill Powerline Park.

Wendy noted the summer activities guide will be distributed in March; that she will be submitting an article for publication; and that Susan Hanson will be the featured Committee member.

Robert asked about acquisition of trail counters. Wendy replied that they are being procured.

VI. Program

- A. Susan Peithman is BTA's new statewide advocate. Her job includes developing funding to help BTA advocate for a complete active transportation system throughout the state. Susan is currently focusing on Washington County, Eugene, Bend, and the Rogue Valley. She reports that federal funds are available locally for active transportation projects. "Active Transportation" includes walking.

Nationally, BTA has partnered with Transportation for America, which is in the process of hiring an Oregon field organizer.

In Oregon, BTA has a seat on a legislative committee that has been formed to address bicycle related issues (Wendy and Mary are also on the committee). Susan's job is to acquire statewide funding for BTA projects. One of her priorities is improving access to trails. Susan noted that Cycle Oregon, and the National Bike Summit, are on June 4; and the BTA's Alice Awards event is June 5. She asked the Committee to nominate for an Alice Award, which honors people who have made a substantial contribution to cycling in the state.

Susan noted that since her position is new, she needs to learn about what is happening in Washington County, and become knowledgeable about Washington County issues. She would like to know how agencies involved in transportation issues are able to cooperate and work together toward common goals. She is looking for heartbreaking/heartwarming/uplifting "stories" to use in aid of the BTA's legislative priorities, and is especially interested in non-Portland specific stories.

Susan explained that BTA's funding comes from members, foundation grants, and a Portland education grant. She asked what the Committee's top priorities are. Response: (1) connectivity, especially filling in gaps in the Westside Trail; (2) solving the problem of mid-block trail crossings; (3) creating safe routes to schools for children; and (4) improving coordination with all governmental agencies (e.g., ODOT), and getting them to see trails as transportation facilities, and not just recreational; and convincing them to see themselves as transportation agencies.

Susan asked how much of the recent bond measure was designated for trails. Steve indicated there was \$15,000,000 for trails design and construction, and an additional amount for property acquisition.

- B. Metro's Westside Trail Master Plan Committee. Joe reported on the committee's first meeting, held February 8, where Mel elaborated upon the current status of the Westside Trail, explaining that there are gaps that need to be eliminated, emphasizing that one of the most critical issues is how to extend the trail from the northern boundary of the District, east through Forest Park to Highway 30. Joe noted that after addressing several serious issues with that eastward extension (i.e., high traffic volume and

therefore dangerous route on Skyline Drive, no park provider on Springville Road, very steep topography) Mel asked, as part of the mandatory "fatal flaw analysis" whether it is necessary to complete that section of the trail. The next committee activity will be a field trip to examine some of the areas where the trail might be constructed.

- C. Challenge Grant expenditures (every Advisory Committee has \$5,000 in Challenge Grants to use as desired). The Committee discussed allocating \$1,200 of the \$5,000 for a bench, to be placed on the Fanno Creek Trail between Hall Boulevard and Denney. It was suggested that a plaque honoring Lee Ascher might be placed on the bench (approximately \$100) and that it might be good to have more kiosks, and to be able to place map holders more effectively on the kiosks.

Motion made, seconded and carried to use Challenge Grant funds to have a bench constructed and installed between Hall and Denney, to have a plaque honoring Lee placed on the bench, and to use the remainder of the \$5,000 for kiosks and map holders on kiosks.

- D. Trails Master Plan Benchmarks. Kevin distributed a draft "Trails Performance Metrics" graph showing objectives, indicators, data, and measurements, relating to the District trail system. The final graph should be completed within a couple of months. The Committee thought it would be good to add to the graph (1) information about individual trails, and (2) how each trail is actually used (i.e., recreation, transportation, cycling, hiking, running, trail counts, etc.).
- E. District Trail Maps. [Suggested proposal dated January 20, 2010 distributed]. The two types of maps (tri-fold trail specific; and comprehensive map of all trails in the District) were discussed, including advantages and disadvantages of each; and it was noted that they each project a different image. Steve said the District was looking for feedback on what might be the District's "vision." What image should maps project regarding look, goals, and form? A vision/image for the District needs to be developed and there should be consistency with the maps. Also maps need to mesh with District boundaries where other agencies assume responsibility for trails. Steve reiterated that Bob Wayt (Director of Communications & Development) has agreed this is a communication issue that is properly borne by the Communications Department. It was noted that maps should be electronically available (i.e., iPhones, Google, etc.) and that it would be good for maps to include contour lines.

Steve asked how maps should look, what information they might contain, what image they should project; and that suggestions be forwarded to Bob Wayt. Robert expressed his opinion that the District's maps are quite good.

- F. Miscellaneous Updates.
METRO. Robert discussed use of GIS trail data but noted that before a GIS system can be utilized in maps, data must be collected and adopted, and that GIS mapping software is now available. Metro is known nationally for its system of data organizing, storing and maintenance (including layers for trails and bike lanes) which is updated quarterly and provided to subscribers. Metro continues to develop trail-mapping products. It is digitizing and realigning trails, and trail features. For example, its maps will show how emergency vehicles can access any portion of a trail. THPRD is also using GIS data. Metro is very good at collecting data, and THPRD is good at using it to create maps.

CITY OF BEAVERTON. Don reported that (1) the City is designing bike lanes on Lombard Boulevard and (2) the City's Transportation Plan has been submitted to the Planning Commission.

CITY OF BEAVERTON BICYCLE ADVISORY COMMITTEE. Dave reports that the committee has been discussing and reviewing (1) plans for the Lombard bicycle lanes, (2) bike lanes between Denney and Beaverton-Hillsdale Highway, and (3) bicycle parking and bicycle regulations. He discussed the August 1, 2010 Bike Beaverton event and said they expect approximately 500 participants, and that they will need to determine what markings they may place on the Fanno Creek Trail north of Scholls Ferry Road, to guide riders.

- G. Staff Update on Trail Projects. Steve reported the District is working with Clean Water Services on the "688 foot" issue; that they would like to resolve all issues at once; but that he is not optimistic about there being any substantial construction this year.

Westside Trail: Steve noted the District has done some preliminary alignments but that the remaining gaps (especially in segments 1, 4, and 7) have steep terrain, wet areas, and private property ownership which hinders access. Some alignments may have to be adjusted. The District is on an accelerated schedule, but needs to determine where wetlands are located and provide for mitigation. Steve reported that the District has retained a land acquisition specialist to search for mitigation property that might be acquired.

Rock Creek Trail: the District and Washington County are discussing the 185th Street mid-block crossing.

Washington County's Kathy Lehtola is retiring. Her replacement will begin in a couple of weeks.

Steve reported on a current District "renaming" project to reclassify and name parks/facilities based on their primary use and function and to "clean up" certain names. For example, what is now called a "park" might actually be a "wetland" and unusable as a park. That site will no longer be named a park because that is not its primary use and function. More detail, and a request for feedback, will probably be brought to the Committee's attention in a few months.

VII. Next Meeting will be held on March 16, 2010.

Meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joe Barcott
Recording Secretary