Tualatin Hills Park & Recreation District
TRAILS ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Advisory Committee Meeting
Date: September 21, 2010
Time: 7:00 p.m.
Location: Elsie Stuhr Center
5550 SW Hall Blvd.; Beaverton, Oregon

Committee Members Present: Vice Chair Tom Hjort, Joe Barcott, Mary O'Donnell, Susan Hanson, Kevin Apperson, Barb Sonniksen, Will Cortez (Beaverton BAC), Jim Parsons
Ex-Officio Members Present: Joy Chang (Washington County), Jabra Khasho (City of Beaverton)
THPRD Staff Present: Steve Gulgren, Bruce Barbarasch, Scott Hinderman, Matt Kilmartin
Absent: Wendy Kroger, Margaret Middleton, Robert Spurlock

I. Call to Order

Vice Chair Tom Hjort called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

II. Introduction of Guests and Visitors

Everyone present introduced themselves.

III. Approval of August Meeting Minutes

Barb moved for approval of the August minutes; Susan seconded. Unanimous vote to approve.

IV. Announcements

Tom announced approval by the board at its September 13, 2010 meeting, of Jim Parsons' application for committee membership.

There was an announcement and discussion about the Board's actions at its September 13 meeting regarding Rock Creek Trail Segments 2 & 5, and North Bethany Trail Segment 2. The board approved staff's proposal regarding Rock Creek Trail segment 2, and North Bethany segment 2; but asked staff to do more research about a possible realignment of the proposed Rock Creek Trail Segment 5 (between Kaiser Road and the Westside Regional Trail) so as to explore options to potentially locate the trail farther away from certain property lines.

Bruce reported that the District may be applying for a Regional Transportation Option Grant to be used for construction of trail wayfinding signs.

V. Program

A. Status of Lowami Hart Woods Park, trail, and parking lot, presented by Park Planner Matt Kilmartin

Matt distributed photos, diagrams, and the master plan of the Lowami Hart Woods Park bond project; including three proposed options for configuration of nearby streets, turn lanes, and pedestrian crossings. The expectation is that the project will generally enhance and improve the quality of the area. The project is currently in the design development stage. The master plan and cost estimates were done in 2001. The bond program is to implement that master plan. The trail in the park will be

approximately one-third of a mile. Bond funds available are in the amount of $800,000. Of that, $250,000 is allocated for "soft costs," $430,000 for construction, and $120,000 for "contingencies." There will be a kiosk in the parking lot. For the near term, restrooms will be portable. Permanent ones may be built in the future. It's expected that day camps and schools will use the park. The land use application will be submitted soon, and public neighborhood meetings will be held in November and December. Construction is expected to begin early in 2012, and should be completed before the end of the year. Matt listed the following as potential "add-alts" depending on expenses:

1. gravel or other soft surface on trail(s) instead of paved
2. "site center" (abandoned girl scout camp) may not be completed

There was a lengthy discussion and analysis of the three proposed options for traffic patterns, vehicular access, pedestrian guidance, and the parking lot: several options were drafted as a result of a traffic engineer traffic analysis and were included at pages 6a, 6b, and 6c of the package Matt distributed. After discussing safety issues, relative costs, traffic volume on Hart Road, amount of bike/pedestrian traffic expected to be crossing Hart Road, and what the engineers think is the best option, Joe made a **MOTION** that the committee endorse and support the traffic engineers' recommended option (page 6a). Barb seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

B. Trail Counts/Counters

Bruce and Scott distributed numerous charts and graphs showing the results of the trail counters that have been placed at various locations around the District, including graphs showing hourly, daily, weekly, and monthly data. One counter has been in place for several years (Nature Park), but five new counters were placed in June 2010. Each of the new counters cost $500 but produce a lot of data that can be used for budgeting, staff allocation, grant funding applications, etc. Bruce and Scott explained that the data is collected from the counters every month, how it is collected, and how it might be used. In the future the counters may be placed in different locations, on regional and natural trails.

C. Bike/Ped Trail Count Report

Mary and Susan reported on the September 14-19 trail counts, reviewing comments made by trail users, suggestions for future facility improvements, and suggestions for improvement of the survey process. Everyone agreed doing the counts, and accompanying surveys, is enjoyable and a good way to talk about trails with trail users.

D. Summer Reprise

Because staff was working on numerous projects this summer, requiring committee feedback and participation, there was less time than usual to spend on field trips "ground truthing" District facilities. The general consensus, however, was that time was well spent during the summer months and we were able to examine numerous District trails during the summer. No one expressed frustration or annoyance at having to focus more on business than is usually done during June-August.

E. Staff Update on Trail Projects

1. Fanno Creek Trail Design Status: Steve reported that the project has been submitted to the City of Beaverton which is a big step forward, although we are still dealing with some land acquisition issues. Steve noted, however, that there is some opposition to the trail segment and the opposition is likely to be expressed at an October 13 Beaverton Planning Commission hearing. He encouraged committee members to attend that hearing to speak in favor of the trail segment, emphasizing that it's critical for the commission to hear comments in support of the trail.

2. Fanno Creek Trail relocation public meeting (held a couple of weeks ago): Steve reported that there were about 25 people at the meeting addressing the issue of the trail intersecting Hall Blvd from the south, near the Albertson's store. Most people at the meeting agreed that the proposal to direct the trail to the corner of the Albertson's lot is good, and that a fence is probably also a good idea. The District intends to work with the City of Beaverton to get the trail rerouted, and is still considering the option to build the fence.

3. Fanno Creek Trail MTIP grant project (Hall Blvd. crossing).
A Request for Proposal was sent to eleven firms. Four responded with proposals. ODOT has accepted staff's recommendation for the David Evans & Associates (DEA) proposal. The next step is for the District to negotiate a fee and the scope of work, with DEA, then executing an inter-governmental agreement. Public involvement in this project will be important.

4. Bond measure trails update.
Steve reported on the Board's September 13 meeting when it addressed the Rock Creek Trail Segments 2 and 5, and the North Bethany Trail Segment 2 (see Announcements above). He explained that the District will have to talk more with Clean Water Services to determine whether there is another viable location for the trail that will be farther away from the concerned property owners.

5. Westside Trail update
Steve distributed copies of a September 13, 2010 Washington County letter to the District addressing the issue of a mid-block crossing of Scholls Ferry Road, concluding "that the county does not approve of a mid-block crossing for this trail across SW Scholls Ferry Rd." Trail users will be directed to Teal Blvd. to cross Scholls Ferry.

Steve reported that a mid-block crossing at West Union Rd. and Kaiser Rd. has been approved.

F. Jabra reported that bike lanes on Lombard Avenue between 1st Street and Denney Road will be completed by the end of this week (September 24).

Next Meeting: October 19, 2010.

Meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Joe Barcott
Recording Secretary