



# Tualatin Hills Park & Recreation District

## ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Natural Resources Advisory Committee Meeting

Date: February 24, 2015

Time: 6:30 pm

Location: Fanno Creek Service Center

### In Attendance

Committee Members: Cory Samia, Don Nearhood, Laura Porter, Matthew Shepherd,  
Mitch Cruzan (chair), Rod Coles  
Staff: Bruce Barbarasch

### I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Mitch Cruzan at 6:34 pm.

### II. Approval of Minutes

Motion to approve minutes of the previous meeting (1/27/15) proposed by Laura Porter; seconded by Don Nearhood. The minutes were approved unanimously.

Discussion: None.

### III. Financial Report

There were no financial changes to report.

The account has a balance of \$7,500, which is restricted to capital expenditures (an item that costs more than \$500 and lasts more than a year). Mitch recommended that committee members come up with ideas.

### IV. Old Business

#### a. Check-in

Laura: Attended a meeting about the THPRD Parks Function Plan. Noted that the introduction to the draft plan highlighted the value district patrons place on open spaces and wildlife, but the plan largely ignores this and doesn't address these as components of parks. Will draft a letter that the committee or individual members can send. Will send to Aisha Willits and Brad Hauschild. Laura also mentioned that Clean Water Services (CWS) has job openings and that a coworker attended a conference on beavers; she'll share information about both via email.

Matthew: Joined the volunteer task planting shrubs along one edge of the pollinator meadow in Allenbach Acres (part of Rock Creek Greenway).

Rod: Led a "Walk with a Friend" hike at Tualatin Hills Nature Park, arranged by Friends of the Nature Park; two hikers participated. Out of the district, took part in the Raptor Road Trip on Sauvie Island; very cool!

Mitch: Visited Cooper Mountain Nature Park and had a very pleasant hike, although there were a couple of people with dogs. Visited a site in downtown Beaverton, close to Center Street, and was shocked at the clearance work that has been undertaken; the site isn't THPRD.

Don: Took part in the volunteer appreciation event at Fanno Creek Farmhouse. The group went bird watching in Fanno Greenway, where they also saw the trail flooded by beaver activity. There was a diversity of opinions voiced by participants as to what should be done.

Cory: Went for a walk on the Fanno Creek Trail near Garden Home Recreation Center and felt threatened by fast bicycles.

#### b. Discussion of goals for NRAC in the coming year

The committee members continued the discussion from the previous two meetings (November 2014, January 2015). The following were considered reasonable goals:

- Act as ambassadors for the NRFP to raise awareness of it, both within THPRD and the local community, including:
  - Engaging in public consultation process during development of other FPs by the district, and
  - Talking with NACs, CPOs, and similar about THPRD Natural Resources management and activities.
- Look for ways to increase connectivity between THPRD properties and enhance biodiversity corridors across the district.
- Support Natural Resources staff by participating in volunteer tasks and other activities.

## V. New Business

### a. Review Advisory Committee renewal requests

Three members of the committee are ending their current term. Don Nearhood has decided to step down. Mitch thanked Don for his service, a gratitude that was echoed by the other members present.

Jack Shorr and Matthew Shepherd wish to remain on the committee and have submitted renewal applications. Motion to recommend that their applications are approved by the board was proposed by Laura and seconded by Mitch. It was approved unanimously.

### b. Election for chair & secretary

Nominations for the two positions were requested.

Chair: Laura was nominated by Mitch, seconded by Matthew.

Mitch was nominated by Cory, seconded by Rod; Mitch declined the nomination.

Secretary: Matthew said he was happy to continue. He was nominated by Cory, seconded by Laura.

A vote was taken by the committee. Laura was elected as chair, Matthew as secretary.

### c. View from Bruce's Desk

Project update: Trails FP – a consultant has been hired to help complete the draft plan. The draft should be completed in time for the Trails Advisory Committee meeting in April (4/21). An invitation has been extended to NRAC members to join the Trails Advisory Committee for that meeting.

Bond measure, phase 2: Both Hyland Woods Natural Area and the Jenkins Estate will have their projects completed. A new habitat improvement project is being developed along the Rock Creek Greenway, west of West Union Road. Planting season is upon us; 100,000 trees and shrubs are to be planted this season.

### d. Parks Functional Plan

Bruce briefed the committee on the status of the Parks FP. The Parks FP will guide acquisition and development of parks for active use (sports, running, throwing Frisbee, etc.) rather than passive uses such as walking or bird watching. Some parks are hybrid, such as a Greenway where both active and passive uses occur.

A brief discussion followed that touched on the following:

- Parks FP seems separate from NRFP.
- As discussed by Laura during the check-in, the Parks FP highlights patron value of open spaces and wildlife but doesn't address these needs.
- Parks FP guides acquisition of parks. Guidelines include maximum tree cover or wetland area in a park property (i.e., areas for passive use) as a percentage of the area.
  - Committee members were unsure as to why parks need to be separated from natural resources or other passive areas. Why should a land parcel with multiple values be passed over for acquisition?

- It might make more sense for park acquisition to be based on a minimum acreage of useable active space, so that hybrid sites could be purchased.
- NRAC members are encouraged to attend the open house to discuss the Parks FP.
  - Tuesday, 3/3, 6 to 7:30 pm, Dryland Training Center at HMT Recreation Complex
- Mitch will consider submitting letter on behalf of NRAC.

A Programs FP is also being developed. It may be currently available online. If not, it will be very soon. The plan includes natural resources programs and environmental education. One aspect of the plan is cost recovery. Each program is placed within a different level of cost recovery that varies from a requirement to cover a small proportion of the program cost to more than 100% of the cost. This FP will also be discussed at the open house on 3/3.

VI. **Other**  
None

VII. **Next Meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 24, 2015, at 6:30 pm, at Fanno Creek Service Center.**

Meeting adjourned at 8:25 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Matthew Shepherd  
Recording Secretary