



# **Tualatin Hills Park & Recreation District Nature & Trails Advisory Committee Minutes**

**Date:** 11/18/20  
**Time:** 06:30 PM  
**Location:** Zoom

## **In Attendance**

**Committee Members:** Margaret Hite, Grace Heassler, Sridevi Kothandapani, Sam Scheerens, Alison Rhea, Sheri Wantland (chair), James Wright

**Board Liaison:** Heidi Edwards

**Staff:** Bruce Barbarasch, Rene Brucker, Liana Harden, Matt Kilmartin, Gery Keck

**Guests:** None.

## **I. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 6:33pm

## **II. Approval of Minutes**

Margaret Moved to approve the minutes; Alison seconded the motion. The committee voted unanimously to approve the minutes.

## **II. Check In**

Sheri thanked Sam for standing in for her as NTAC liaison to the Tualatin Valley Trail stakeholder advisory committee, and attending a meeting on short notice at which Washington County presented the Concept Plan; Sam described the proposed alternatives, found here:

(<https://www.co.washington.or.us/LUT/Divisions/LongRangePlanning/PlanningPrograms/TransportationPlanning/tvtrail.cfm>) James commented that he is happy the project is making progress as it is an important addition to the broader transportation plan. Sheri appreciated the traffic data analysis, and recommended we all visit the link for the program.

Alison brought up the THPRD Board decision to direct System Development Charges (SDC) towards affordable housing initiatives. Alison noted that reallocation of those funds could result in a shortfall for maintenance and upgrades; she asked about alternate funding streams. Heidi offered context about the Board decision and SDCs, which are one-time fees on new development and account for a substantial portion of the budget. The district's SDC's have been one of the barriers to affordable housing in the area. For two years, the Board has worked collaboratively with other regional stakeholders to evaluate reallocation of the funds to mitigate the barriers imposed by the district. Heidi agreed that it is important to understand SDC reallocation as it relates to seeking grant funding to make up the shortfall.

In the round robin check in, Marty and Grace said they have been staying close to home for pandemic safety.

Heidi announced that the annual holiday event that benefits the non-profit Park Foundation is cancelled due to COVID-19. As a trustee, Heidi reported \$116,000 was released to the District for a variety of services, but the Foundation is always seeking funding and donors. Heidi announced an upcoming fundraiser to procure learning kits for

kids. She will discuss that initiative in the future, and encouraged committee members to donate.

#### **IV. Old Business**

Natural Resources Functional Plan (NRFP) was on the agenda for discussion but was pushed to the next meeting due to time constraints, as was the discussion of THPRD cooperation with schools.

#### **V. New Business**

At 7:00pm The Parks & Facilities Advisory Committee joined the NTAC for the staff presentations described next.

##### **1. Names Catalog**

Liana Harden presented an update on the project, which she had presented to NTAC in February. THPRD is aiming for site names that focus on under-represented communities and equity. Liana outlined the workflow:

Internal naming committee > Community input > Advisory committee input > Board Decision.

The naming group asked for input from the NTAC committee on feeling, engagement, and resonance within the community today and in the future. The first round of proposed names:

*Pío Pio Park at SW 187th Ave & Bonnie Meadow Ln*

*Unity Park near SW 178th Ave & Alexander St*

*Recuerdo Park at SW 174th & Biles Ln*

*Reflections Plaza at NW Cornell Rd & Joy Ave*

*Yoshihara Trail, Sato Trail, and Bethany Creek Greenway in the Bethany Area*

There was an open Q&A session with many questions. Heidi asked if people's names were considered for any of the parks. Liana responded that these were the names that the community most associated with these places and described balancing the history of families and groups in the community with evoking emotions; for now, the Japanese community most consistently came up with family names. Tricia asked if there is a process to handle names that become infamous? Liana will check on a process for if a name becomes problematic. (James noted this was asked in February, and asked Liana to follow up with an answer.) Wendy Kroger noted that names for current parks started around the 1847 land grants, and asked what the policy will be going forward to address the indigenous legacy of the area. Liana is working on a land acknowledgment procedure. They think that connecting with the tribal council through this process will

help with renaming. The Grande Ronde tribal council has contributed names but THPRD wants to work in tandem with them and other indigenous groups to develop a park or space from the beginning that recognizes them instead of renaming an existing park. She re-emphasized the importance of bringing those partners on from the very beginning. James asked which community was engaged in developing Reflection Plaza. Liana said that, because no one had moved into the new community, they started by interviewing the Muslim community in that neighborhood. Liana directed the two committees to the online surveys at: (<http://www.thprd.org/connect/news/introducing-new-park-trail-names>) Liana will update the committee in the future.

## 2. Nature Play Standards Draft

Matt Kilmartin presented a slide show regarding draft language for new Nature Play standards. Prior nature play area guidelines were released in 2012, and need to be updated due to a review by our insurer Special Districts Association of Oregon which identified risk management gaps. In May of 2020 a task force began to develop new guidelines, changing the name from “guidelines” to “standards” with a strong focus on developing clear definitions and standards. Among the questions, Talia asked about standards of use for bicycles and skateboards. Bruce suggested leaving space to add other types of play areas to the document. James asked about inspection standards (page 8). He was concerned about the vague language in the “Maintenance & Inspection” section specifically as it related to the timing of inspections.

Matt agreed that the inspection frequencies were left a bit vague but also noted that more detail on inspection frequencies could be found in other district documents. Therefore, rather than duplicating that info in this section, references to those other documents would be added to this section for better clarity. Sam followed up on this with a comment on the lack of a definition for “hazards”. Wendy Kroger was pleased to see the document and suggested consideration of a fourth goal that identifies the importance to protect natural areas. Bruce responded that the rules do not prevent people from going off trail, and there is a fine line between open space and these spaces. Wendy replied that she would like to see that better clarified in the document. Also, on page 2 in the “design elements and principles,” in addition to plants, Wendy would like this section to include considerations for animals/wildlife as well.

Matt said the original document did have language about this, and it can be reviewed and added as appropriate.

## 3. Beaverton Creek Trail Planning

Rene Brucker gave an update on the project. The big takeaway is that there are so many development restrictions that only one alignment is feasible. Community engagement will start in January with virtual open houses and mailers. Possible alternatives to come in summer. Heidi is thrilled with the partnership with Nike and finally seeing this project come to fruition. Rene noted this trail ultimately will connect to a Beaverton city trail that would run much farther east. Sam commented that when he was involved in reviewing trails functional plan, this section was a top priority due its connection potential; everyone on the committee thought it would be very difficult to get an alignment with all the stakeholders, but this is a better alignment than they foresaw in the past. Sam asked about the Crescent Connection at Hocken St. Rene replied, the Crescent Connection will come out at the Goodwill on Cedar Hills Blvd., maybe a realignment to Dawson St. Where there will be better pedestrian access.

James asked about the decision matrix for the 153<sup>rd</sup> avenue crossing point. Rene explained there is more open area on the south side for development, fewer trees to remove and fewer access issues with TriMet.

James asked if it would impact the new TriMet bike facilities; Rene said, no, it crosses before them.

Via chat, Heidi asked for the approximate date for completion. Rene said originally completion was to be in 2023, and Metro has obligations to hit their completion date on time, in addition many stakeholders slowed the process significantly. " In addition, we are, and will be working closely with the adjacent landowners and the many stakeholders, which often tends to extend the process. Gery added that each phase must be completed before the next one can begin as a restriction of the grant which contributed to the slowdown. Alison asked if street crossings would be lighted or just signed. Rene replied that ODOT and county requirements for lighting will be followed as prescribed.

#### **4. Leadership**

Bruce brought up the election of committee positions, which usually take place in January. Recognizing the disruption of meetings due to the pandemic, he asked whether to elect new members to these positions or keep the current members through the next year. The group felt that keeping the current members in their positions was the best course of action. James asked if there was a procedural barrier to this; Bruce will investigate, and review any procedural issues at the next meeting.

### **VII. Meeting adjourned at 8:25.**

**Next Meeting will be held on  
12-16 at 6:30pm**

Respectfully submitted,  
Recording Secretary James Wright.