



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

**Date: 10/21/2020**

**Time: 7:20pm**

**Location: ZOOM Meeting**

### **In Attendance**

Committee Members: Katy Brumbelow, Margaret Hite, Grace Heassler, Laura Porter, Sam Scheerens, Alison Rhea, Sheri Wantland (chair), James Wright

Board Liaison: Heidi Edwards

Staff: Bruce Barbarasch

Guests: n/a

### **I. Call to Order**

**The meeting was called to order at 7:20pm**

### **II. Approval of Minutes**

Margaret moved to approve; Sam seconded the motion.

The committee voted unanimously to approve the minutes at 7:22 with no amendments

### **III. Old Business**

#### **a. Catch-up**

Sam attended the online open house for the Westside Trail Bridge over Highway 26 site; he found it was very informative. Sam praised the inter-agency coordination on the project. Discussed the complexity of the project. Check out the project page and video [here](#).

Heidi took a hike through THPRD property to drop off her ballot on the way she visited Matrix Hill park, Sexton Mountain and Hyland Woods along the way. She enjoyed her trip through THPRD properties and thought it was great to get outside.

Laura visited Ridgewood view park with her son, they enjoyed their visit.

Sheri visited the Brookhaven Park Trail as it connects to Lowami Woods. She noted that THPRD is graveling an unofficial trail. She is pleased to see the improvements. She is appreciative of the work that is going on despite the current challenges posed by the pandemic.

Katy has been recreating at schools recently instead of local parks, she noted significant overgrowth of non-native species. She discussed the interconnectedness of the landscape and saw an opportunity for THPRD and the broader community to educate school administrators on upkeep of these areas.

Marty had a great walk at Cooper Mountain Nature Park she particularly appreciated the one-way trails. She did the loop with her friend multiple times and even ran into Bruce.

#### **b. Ebikes**

Bruce received additional guidance from the National Park Service (NPS) on their Ebike policy. They came to the same conclusion as our advisory committee: that Ebikes should be treated like any other bike. Bruce received feedback from a community member and park user that requested THPRD govern Ebikes as it would any other bike.

Sheri appreciated the information from the presentation and has a positive outlook on the future of Ebikes in the park system.

#### IV. **New Business**

##### a. **Natural Resources Functional Plan (NRFP)**

###### i. **Initial Thoughts**

Sheri started the discussion by requesting feedback from the group on “**Section 6, Measuring Success**” starting on page 48 of the plan.

Alison appreciated the layout and noted the value of the information presented. Alison specifically noted the presence and quality of the glossary in the back and how helpful it is in understanding the plan. She noted that the NRFP was published in 2014 and had been produced in such way that it has been able to remain topical for such a long time. Alison was curious to see how the vision plan and functional plan will meld together.

Sheri commented on Alison’s remark. Sheri agreed with Alison and reasoned that the NRFP had stayed so topical because it was forward thinking when written.

Heidi noted that she will be on a board member retreat soon and will bring the question about melding the Vision plan and NRFP together. “To Katy’s question, since I cut out...at our last board meeting I mentioned that we were working through the details of our Natural Resources Functional Plan. Then mentioned we have an upcoming board retreat where we focus some on our new Visioning Plan and I will ask how we work to integrate these two plans to work in tandem.” -Heidi via Zoom Chat.

Laura noted that we will continue to have growth in Washington County and emphasized the importance of connectivity of trails for wildlife in the area.

Following these initial thoughts on the section Bruce began a presentation:

###### ii. **NRFP presentation – Community Engagement & Habitat Management**

Bruce’s presentation focused on the NRPF Habitat Management section’s priority 2: Improving Habitat Connectivity.

Bruce highlighted Laura’s comment about growth and connectivity and the significance of this topic.

During the development of the plan THPRD prioritized outcomes over methods. The rubric used when designing the functional plan was: ‘methods become outdated while outcomes tend to last.’ Bruce reviewed how the success metrics were determined and how milestones were defined. He shared a portion of the internal NRFP progress report, noting they have completed a map of biodiversity corridors, and highlighted that most of the goals are ongoing.

Bruce presented a “Metromap” to demonstrate the real-world application of the connectivity principal.

In the example Bruce used the Bronson Creek corridor to discuss how THPRD uses tax lots to identify areas that can be connected easily. He showed the committee riparian zones as well and discussed how those areas impact the analysis of connectivity projects. He discussed the acquisition of about 40 acres of property to extend the connectivity of parks within THPRD as they relate to the Bronson Creek corridor.

Bruce discussed how they work with other community partners to push these goals, specifically the partnership with Clean Water Services and Washington County and their coordination on land

acquisition and use. THPRD owns ~ five percent of the watershed but uses those partners to leverage additional access.

Comment from Laura: "Partnerships are a fantastic way to leverage what's important to a variety of stakeholders and have big wins for everyone. Way to go, Bruce!" Via Zoom chat.

Katy noted the difficulty and impressiveness of contacting so many landowners.

Sam asked, regarding the eight priorities listed in Section six of the NRFP, does THPRD intend to re-evaluate those initial priorities?

Bruce responded that revision of the plan was awaiting the update of the Comprehensive Plan which will be based on the Vision Plan. He discussed the priorities and noted the importance of adding equity and climate change.

### iii. Closing Thoughts

Sheri felt that the term climate change can be divisive. The group discussed language around climate change. Laura feels that framing it as resilience would bring a larger audience, Katy agreed. The group agreed that the conversation around climate change should be framed in terms of sustainability and resilience.

Alison pointed out the quality of the discussion and requested that we continue this conversation next week due to the time constraints imposed by the joint meeting.

Sheri stated her intention to send out questions regarding the NRFP community and habitat section prior to the next meeting.

Alison asked a procedural question about getting new business onto the agenda.

Sheri asked us to send any topics for new business to her for inclusion if they were topical and logical.

Heidi requested a list of action items the group is considering.

Katy acknowledged Heidi's request and mentioned grant writing as a priority for her.

Bruce asked us to consider the following question for the next meeting.

"How do you feel the balance is between learning and taking some form of well thought action and advice."

## V. Next Meeting:

**The Meeting of the THRPD Nature and Trails advisory committee will be held on 11/18/2020 at 6:30 PM.**

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Recording Secretary James Wright.