



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

Date: 1/27/2021
Time: 6:00 PM
Location: Zoom

In Attendance

Committee Members: Margaret Hite, , Sridevi Kothandapani, Laura Porter, Sam Scheerens, Alison Rhea, Sheri Wantland (chair), James Wright

Board Liaison: Heidi Edwards

Staff: Bruce Barbarasch

Guests: none

Call to Order 6:49PM (Following the quarterly Joint Advisory Committee meeting.)

Approval of Minutes: The December minutes were approved.

Old Business

Sam stated that he had missed the Westside Trail Bridge Over Highway 26 meeting on January 26, and was hoping someone else from the committee had attended. Bruce indicated that a recording will be available on the THPRD website. The recording is now available at https://youtu.be/2b56_fmK4pc. The project web page is <http://www.thprd.org/parks-in-progress/westside-trail-bridge/>. Laura commented on the pop-up dog park in her neighborhood, an important community-building service, and noted that having a park within walking distance is an important measure of accessibility. Allison, who is on crutches, built on the accessibility conversation; some parks are not as accessible now, and finding more accessible ones is a nice way to explore the park system. James was excited that his children were in the picture of Recuerdo Park from the prior group presentation; he lives close and spends a lot of time there. Sridevi is still in India where she is managing vaccine rollout. Marty sees folks swimming at the Raleigh pool everyday and is impressed with their dedication. Heidi has been on a personal mission to run every trail in the THPRD network. She was thrilled about the pool facility usage. Sheri has been hampered recently by the weather, and noted increased mask compliance on all trails.

New Business

South Cooper Mountain Trails Update by Tim Bonnin, Senior Park Planner

The community trail system is coordinated with the City of Beaverton Planning Department which coordinates new development to ensure continuity and incorporate trails into site development. THPRD reviews plans to ensure they meet Trails Functional Plan (TFP) design standards. THPRD also reviews the cost projections from contractors to ensure pricing is accurate and fair.

Currently, two trails have been designed but not built; THPRD is working with developers to approve those sections and do not have a timeline for construction. THPRD and the City of Beaverton are working with developers to align the section on the north end of South Cooper

Mountain High School (completed in 2018) with the Blackbird Farms section that has not yet been designed. The large section in the Ridge subdivision was completed summer of 2020.

Heidi and Sheri noted the impressive progress, and thanked Tim for the hard work. Laura asked if there would be signage to clarify that the trails near homes are public; Tim assured the committee that standard signage would be installed. Heidi asked about trail mileage and development timelines. Tim noted uncertainty due to the nature of development and the unknown effects of the pandemic on the housing market. Sam asked if the trails reflect the TFP, including connectivity with the broader network of parks and trails. Tim said that the connections are good, and several areas will have off-street connections to other trails. Laura asked if developers might put trails adjacent to houses and roads to avoid the costs of bike lanes or sidewalks. Tim said developers are following the City's concept plan, which predetermines that any combined trails and sidewalks are built to THPRD standards. Bruce noted that compromises can be made to keep wetland and nature areas intact. THPRD owns anything paid for with its SDC funds. Tim detailed the City staff's efforts to align trails with the TFP. He added that all transportation infrastructure (e.g. sidewalks and paths) is pre-planned; developers do not choose sidewalk or trail construction space or standards. Sam asked if there is a specific plan to connect this community trail network to the regional trail network. Bruce responded that regional trail connections are still being discussed, and the final regional trail plan will come after final approved community plans. Sam reiterated the priority to connect these trails to the regional trail system and asked what plans are in motion to build the regional network. Tim responded that regional connector planning is still several years out because of the changing growth boundary and new development timelines; these developments are still at least 5 years out from completion. Bruce said the SDC funds would cover most trails but some of the larger regional sections may require other funding. The group thanked Tim for his outstanding presentation; members are excited about the future of the area.

Elections

Sam nominated Sheri for Chair and James for Secretary; Marty seconded. Both passed unanimously.

Committee Goals for 2021

Laura asked if THPRD is "in the red." Bruce said public institutions like THPRD are not allowed to run a budget deficit, and noted that the district is being strategic as appropriate such as cost cutting measures for capital projects. Heidi encouraged our committee to consider applying for a THPRD community grant. Laura mentioned a mountain biking project suggested by her teenage son, and encouraged asking teens we know for their valuable input.

Sheri reviewed the 2020 goals, itemized as done, in progress, and not done, and asked for input on goals for 2021. She thanked the committee for accomplishing a lot, even as the pandemic changed everything. Laura asked if THPRD could provide clean air refuges. Sam noted we are still in progress on the NRFP, and suggested the items not completed in 2020 are enough goals for 2021. Alison wanted to make sure we incorporate items from the Vision Plan into the list. She also noted that we have accomplished a lot, and agreed that the current list has plenty of work to do. Sheri agreed the list is adequate, and suggested prioritizing the comparison of the Vision Plan and NRFP. Sheri called out the wonderful work that was put into the visioning plan and its alignment with our committee values. Sam concurred that he was happy to see that our work has aligned with the community. Sam suggested an email thread for the Vision Plan and NRFP comparison work, and offered to draft a starting document. Sridevi asked about the district's needs analysis and disaster preparedness for wildfires. She said we should include wildfire response plans, needs analysis, and preparedness plan in our framework of discussion

as they relate to nature and trails. Sheri asked if wildfire preparedness planning is already in place. Bruce discussed what the nature and trails department does in relation to wildfire management, noting THPRD has very limited services related to community wildfire or disaster services.

Next Meeting: 2/17/2021

Meeting adjourned at 8:01 PM

Respectfully submitted,
James Wright

Recording Secretary