In Attendance

Committee Members:  Jim Olson, Deborah Winer, Al Mowbray, Kevin Hoover, Rod Coles, Jerome Magill, Karl Quade, Margaret Armstrong, Vern Williams

Staff:  Joan Andersen-Wells, Bruce Barbarasch

Guest:  Brad Hauschild, THPRD Planning Department

I.  Call to Order
Jim Olson called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

II.  Approval of Minutes
Minutes approved as read.

III.  Old Business (Jim Olson moved this agenda item forward.)
A.  Old Wagon Trail Update
   Brad Hauschild, THPRD Planning Department, was introduced by Jim Olson. Brad presented two conceptual drawings for the proposed Old Wagon Trail realignment and reviewed the overall goals of the project.

   1. The Planning Project goals are to:
      •  Preserve a loop trail to keep the flow, recognizing that this is a popular trail, as it exists today.
      •  Improve the accessibility and usability of the trail.
      •  Increase access in the wet areas during the rainy season while avoiding the wettest areas as much as possible.
      •  Protect significant trees.
      •  Obtain permits/mitigation plans through Clean Water Services.
      •  To keep the entrance to Beaverton School District for educational use. This entrance is not intended for the general public as the grounds are gated during the night and on weekends.

   2. Comparing Concept #1 and Concept #2 (Please see attached.)
      a.  Concept #1 features include a boardwalk through the wetland with a viewing deck that will serve as an educational/interpretive location as well as pushes the existing bark chipped trail on the east side to the north to a more upland and potentially drier route. Estimated cost is $167,972.64.
b. **Concept #2** features the existing trails completely out of the wetland by running parallel to the north edge of the park. This requires minimal boardwalk and lower environmental impact. However, there is less educational value and aesthetic value.

c. A lively discussion of the pros and cons of both concepts followed the presentation. Issues that were discussed included:
   - Concept #2 trail location parallels the arbor vitae hedge along Beaverton School District (BSD) offices and Clean Water Services maintenance facility. This may provide views of the buildings and facilities;
   - Possible need for bioswales at the outfall pipes which carry storm water from the BSD and from the Merlo Station High School and adjacent industrial properties has not been addressed;
   - Suggestion that a compromise path could be drawn; recognition of the importance educational and aesthetic values provided by Concept #1.

d. We reviewed the Advisory Committee’s goals for the project. They are:
   - Improved safety (The old boardwalk is very narrow and is deteriorating.)
   - Improved access
   - Year round accessibility
   - Maintaining a loop
   - Beaverton Schools accessibility
   - Educational and interpretive opportunities in a healthy natural wetland

e. We discussed the cost difference between the concepts and the need to go with a plan that would meet our long-term goals for the Nature Park. **Jerome Magill moved and Deborah Winer seconded a motion that the Planning Department move forward with Concept #1.** Motion passed unanimously.

f. Rod Coles asked about the next steps and a timeline. Brad responded that we are ready to take Concept #1 to Clean Water Services to determine the need for permits and mitigation. He felt that we would have enough information within six month to move forward with fund raising and grant writing.

Jim Olson thanked Brad for his time and expertise.

**IV. New Business**

A. Nature Park Update
   1. **Work continues in the oak restoration** area in and around the Ponderosa Loop Trail. Limbs are being removed and staff is getting ready for a planting project scheduled for October 20, 2007. This is our SOLV Clean & Green Volunteer project.

   2. There were approximately 175 gardeners that attended our Fall Native Plant Sale on Saturday, October 6, 2007. This fundraiser brought in $3,585.00 on that Saturday and an additional $267.00 during the following week. Gross profit so far is $3,852.00. The net profit is approximately $1,198.20. This Plant Sale will continue throughout
the month of October 2007 to sell the left over plants. A complete report will be provided at the November 8 Advisory Committee meeting.

3. Staff and volunteers are busy preparing for our annual Newt Day event on Saturday, November 3, 11:00 am – 2:00 pm. Please see attached flyer.

4. The current Fall 2007 programs and the list of upcoming Winter/Spring 2008 programs were reviewed.

5. A mink has been spotted in the Nature Park parking lot hunting. Other wildlife spotted recently include turkey vultures, squirrels, green heron, bald eagle, wood ducks, pileated woodpecker, rabbit, deer, kinglets and coyotes.

6. The work for rerouting the Trillium Loop Trail, opening up a new viewing area on Big Pond, closing permanently the Beaver Trail, and relocating three interpretive signs and a bench will begin in late October.

V. Financial Report
A. September Foundation Report
   Beginning Balance 9/1/07: $19,227.10
   Revenue: $ 445.52
   Expenditures: ($ 2,160.23)
   Foundation Balance 9/30/07: $17,512.39

   Challenge Grant: $5,000.00

   Old Wagon Trail: $2,542.25

B. 2007-2008 Challenge Grant
   Jim Olson agreed to write a letter to the Board about our concerns with the constraints of the Challenge Grant. We agreed that there is a need for the Advisory Committee to work with the staff to develop some long-term plans for projects that meet Challenge Grant criteria. We are very concerned that this money be put to good use and used wisely. We often have big projects that require significant planning before materials can be purchased, for example the Kiosk, the Robin Nest Patio, the Old Wagon Trail, and the Native Plant Educational Display Garden. We become frustrated when our requests for funding are denied because the plans are incomplete or the exact need has not been determined. There does not appear to be a mechanism for carrying the money forward for big projects.

C. Long Term vision for park projects will be an agenda item next month.

VI. Old Business
A. Old Wagon Trail Update…moved to earlier in agenda

B. Plant Sale Review
   1. The Committee expressed appreciation to Jerome Magill for his leadership and behind the scenes organization that made this a very successful Fall Plant Sale. Jerome in turn thanked the Committee members and the staff who helped with the pre-sale organization and the day of the sale. Ranger Kelly’s expertise, positive attitude
and follow through were noted. She is a valuable addition to our staff and we hope that we will be able to keep her.

2. Things to note in planning for the Fall Sale next year:
   a. We have this so well organized that we will be able to have the volunteers start between 8:00 and 8:30 a.m. for the Fall Sale.
   b. We need additional help with carry out and with carrying from the holding area to the parking lot area.
   c. There were many serious gardeners who made large purchases.

3. Final sales will be reported in November. The remaining plants will be available until the end of October.

VII. Open Discussion
   A. Vern Williams gave his verbal resignation as a Nature Park Advisory Committee member since 1997. Vern was also an original member of the 1980 Advisory Committee that helped the St. Mary’s Woods become part of the Park District. Vern would like to continue as an ex-officio member.

VIII. Next Meeting will be held on Thursday, November 8, 2007 at 7:00 p.m.

Meeting adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Margaret Armstrong
Recording Secretary