



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

**Date: 2/17/2021  
Time: 6:30 PM  
Location: Zoom**

## **In Attendance**

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

**Board Liaison:** Heidi Edwards

**Staff:** Bruce Barbarasch

**Guest:** Shawne Martinez

## **Call to Order 6:35PM**

## **Approval of Minutes:**

The January minutes were presented. Sam had submitted minor corrections in advance via email. The minutes were approved with no further changes.

## **Guest Comments:**

Shawne Martinez introduced himself as a district resident and cycling enthusiast. He is concerned about the chicane gates on the Fanno Creek Trail at 90<sup>th</sup> Ave. The gates are difficult to navigate, especially for tandems, recumbent bikes, and bikes with trailers. Bruce said now that a proper crosswalk is in place at the crossing, THPRD plans to remove the chicanes. The fencing will be replaced with a bollard and additional features to prevent motor vehicles from driving onto the trail. The schedule for this work is not set yet, but expected by summer.

## **Check In**

- Sam walked the recently reopened segment of Fanno Creek Trail between Denney Rd. and Hall Blvd. The habitat restoration work and the new bridge turned out great. The creek handled the increased volume from the snow melt well.
- Heidi saw lots of kids sledding on the hills along the Westside Trail.
- Grace took her dog to Rock Creek Powerlines Soccer Fields to play in the snow. She was surprised how much her dog loved the snow.
- Alison visited Lowami Hart Woods and saw lots of wildlife tracks in the snow. She volunteered with the amphibian monitoring program.
- Sheri visited Commonwealth Lake Park and saw many birds of various species.
- Laura has been hearing owls at night recently.
- Marty said the barred owls near her house say "Who cooks for you?"
- Sridevi is still in India and missing Oregon.

## **Old Business**

### **Connecting the Natural Resources Functional Plan (NRFP) to the Vision Action Plan (VAP)**

The committee used a "straw man" document that Sam wrote as a starting point for a wide ranging discussion of how the VAP can inform an update of the NRFP. Here are some highlights of the discussion:

- The VAP is not expected to replace other THPRD foundational documents, such as the Comprehensive Plan. The VAP will inform updates to those documents to bring them in line with community values and needs.
- The VAP is organized differently from other THPRD documents, with a lot of discussion up front about the vision planning process, and most of the specific conclusions in the Appendix. That organization is intentional, to emphasize that the VAP was driven by community inputs.
- The scope of staff's request for input from NTAC is to identify any major new goal areas that need to be added, as well as goals and other items in the existing NRFP that should be kept, removed, or modified.
- Staff will own the process of writing the details. Bruce envisions an iterative process, with multiple opportunities for public feedback.
- There was a discussion of whether to have the NRFP point back to the VAP for some goals. The consensus was to keep the NRFP a standalone document, even if that means repeating some things that are already covered by the VAP.
- Committee members mentioned some things that they would like to see addressed in an update to the NRFP:
  - Climate change and climate resilience should be a major focus area.
  - Eliminate internal redundancy where possible.
  - Revisit the decision-making parts of the NRFP. Specifically, provide more detail as to who makes what decisions.
  - Add a discussion showing the relationship of the NRFP to the VAP, modeled on the existing discussion of the relationship of the NRFP to the Comprehensive Plan.
  - The NRFP should be restructured where possible to make goal areas match up with the goal areas in the VAP.

We agreed to continue the conversation online:

- Sheri will email the committee a list of 8 or so specific action items from the VAP that appear directly applicable to the NRFP.
- Laura will email the committee her thoughts on updating the decision processes in the NRFP.
- Sheri will create a template for collecting further inputs from committee members.
- Sridevi will create a Google doc from Sheri's template to facilitate online collaboration.
- Members are asked to submit their comments by Friday, February 26.

### **Committee Goals for 2021**

Sheri shared a list of new and ongoing NTAC tasks, and the committee discussed them. Here are some highlights of the discussion:

- Some of the tasks on the list are wholly within the purview of NTAC, while others are more suited to the Joint Advisory Committee (JAC).
- Connectivity should be a major focus area.
- Climate change and climate resilience should be a major focus area.
- Consensus was that disaster preparedness should be a minor focus area or a JAC area. That said, there appeared to be significant interest in this topic among committee members.

Sheri will email the committee an updated list, designating which topics are suited for NTAC and which are suited for JAC, and incorporating other relevant details from the discussion.

## **New Business**

### **Community Grant**

Sheri led a discussion about the THPRD community grants. The goal is for the committee to agree on a grant idea and submit it to the JAC for approval. The deadline to submit a proposal for this fiscal year is June 30. Bruce cautioned that staff is short handed at present, so a good choice for a grant proposal is something contractor driven or committee driven. Some possibilities were raised:

- Interpretive signage broadly
- Elevation signs on trails
- Geographic or historical signs
- Items from the appendix of the VAP
- Items that could be done in collaboration with entities outside THPRD

Discussion will be continued.

### **Next Meeting: 3/17/2021**

Meeting adjourned at 8:20 PM

Respectfully submitted,  
Sam Scheerens

Recording Secretary pro tempore