



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

**Date: 9/22/2021
Time: 06:30 PM
Location: ZOOM**

In Attendance

Committee Members: Katy Brumbelow, Margaret Hite, Sam Scheerens, Alison Rhea, Sridevi Kothandapani (joined at 7:17pm) , Sheri Wantland (chair), James Wright

Board Liaison: Felicity Montebalanco

Staff: Bruce Barbarasch

Guests: Angela Saini, Heather A.

I. Call to Order: @ 06:34 PM

II. Approval of Minutes: James moved to approve the July minutes and Sam seconded. The minutes were approved.

III. Check-In

Sheri started our check-in with a wonderful experience over the weekend. She had out of town visitors who shared a heart-warming story about raising their child in one of our local parks. Sam let the group know that the Augusta Lane bridge is now open. Alison had the chance to show a friend how large, diverse, and wonderful the park system is. Marty has been enjoying longer distance runs on the Fanno Creek Trail. During one of her longer runs she used her cat-like reflexes to avoid being decapitated by a disc golf disc. James also visited the Augusta Lane bridge. Felicity has had the chance to explore other portions of the Tualatin Hills Nature Park because of the construction. Bruce was at the Fanno Creek Greenway yesterday and was pleased to see creek intact after the first rainfall.

IV. Chair updates:

Sheri noted that we are back to remote meetings due to the Covid-19 pandemic. She expressed how much she values this committee and our ability to still get things done during these challenging times.

V. Native vs. Non-Native species

Bruce kicked off the conversation by defining some common terms for the group, like "native," "non-native," "invasive" etc. As climate change progresses, the plants that are currently considered native may not survive here, adding a new layer of complexity to the native species debate. As a district we may want to start planting non-native trees that are better adapted to a dryer warmer climate. Alison asked about the specific policy that THPRD followed regarding the treatment of native species. THPRD treats species that existed here prior to the influence of European colonizers as native. Some non-native species that can damage the ecosystem are designated as "early detection, rapid response" species. THPRD partners with other agencies to try and mitigate those species. They have site specific protocols for parks and various invasive species within those parks. THPRD and its partners have seen success with reed grass removal at Bronson Creek Greenway. Alison talked about a remediation project that involved removing reed canary grass. She asked if THPRD is open to partnering with other groups or students on special projects. The district does partner with community groups and students. They also engage in educational events where they can. Sam appreciated the forward thinking on planting climate change resistant non-

native trees. He also asked about Himalayan blackberry. Bruce explained the treatment protocol that THPRD uses to treat it. Alison asked for a presentation on the integrated pest management program. Bruce noted that a copy of the policy is available on the THPRD website. Marty discussed a large blackberry eradication project on the Rock Creek Trail and has been pleased with the results. Alison was happy to see some of the training that THPRD has been performing for the community. She appreciates that they look at both flora and fauna.

VI. Advisory committee recruitment:

Recruitment has begun. Bruce reviewed the recruitment and interview process. He detailed the communications plan to get the word out to the community. James asked if they were engaging faith groups. Bruce will be sending flyers out to NTAC members for distribution to the community.

VII. District update

More will be discussed at the October joint meeting. The district is running programs that have been healthy and positive overall. THPRD saw a modest reduction in summer camp attendance, but enrollment was still strong. Some programs like the plant sale and the preschool were as successful or improved on prior year performance. Bruce discussed electronic trail counters and the odd trends created by the pandemic.

VIII. Next Meeting will be held on zoom at 6pm it is a joint meeting

Meeting adjourned at 07:45 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Recording Secretary
James Wright