



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

**Date: May 17, 2023**

**Time: 6:30 pm**

**Location: Fanno Creek Service Center**

## **In Attendance**

Committee Members: Heather AbuSneineh, Carla Fennell, Margaret Hite, Shirley Hoffmann (secretary), Brittany Leffel, Erik Lehr (chair), Carl Nelson, Tina Ricks

Absent: Vidyanand Kulkarni

Board Liaison: Tya Ping (absent)

Staff: Bruce Barbarasch, Nature & Trails Manager

Guests: Sam Sontag, PSU student in public administration auditing the meeting

## **I. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 6:36 pm.

## **II. Approval of Minutes**

Chair Erik called for review and approval of the March meeting minutes. Carl moved to approve. Tina seconded the motion. The minutes were unanimously approved.

## **III. Old Business**

The Committee brainstormed ideas for raising funds or cutting costs due to the increasing costs of providing services as presented in the April 2023 meeting.

The Board is examining the option of putting forward an operating levy on the next ballot, however getting a levy passed is not guaranteed and THPRD is looking for ideas to bring income/costs into balance. There is concern that simply raising fees will cut lower-income users out of using THPRD services. Revenue from fees is around 25%.

The Advisory committee came up with these ideas:

### **To Increase Revenue:**

- Increase fees for drop-in classes/pool/gym; summer camps, child care, facility rentals
- Sell little used or unused facilities/property
- Rent space to food carts for THPRD events or high use areas (concessions)
- Rent space for concerts
- Business/corporate sponsorships
- Ask the community for donations
- Pay to pre-schedule use of tennis/pickleball courts
- Host a hike or run (pay to participate)
- Host sporting events (pay to participate) or large-scale tournaments
- Fund raisers (park-a-thon)

- Add more community garden spaces

**To Cut Costs:**

- Cut staff
- Decrease maintenance (parks and facilities)
- Use more volunteer-based maintenance
- Reduce hours for facilities/consolidate staff resources
- Drop maintenance for aesthetic reasons
- Less mowed turf, more meadows
- Fewer hard built bathrooms
- Fewer porta-potties in small neighborhood parks
- Energy audits for facilities, reduce energy use
- Reduce sports field maintenance (i.e. use grass that needs less maintenance)
- Less habitat rehabilitation
- Higher weed levels in natural areas
- Reduce cost of pool maintenance
- Reduce cost of studies

The committee then reviewed and discussed the priorities for determining what trail gap we will apply for a grant to better trail signage.

This month the committee will visit and document the trail gaps provided by THPRD as being problematic. Committee members assigned themselves to research each gap.

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|--|---------|
| • Rock Creek Trail at soccer fields              | Shirley |
| • Hansen Ridge Westside Trail                    | Carl    |
| • Waterhouse Trail over Hwy 26                   | Tina    |
| • Westside Trail over TV Hwy                     | Tina    |
| • Fanno Creek at Denney                          | Heather |
| • Ridgewood Park at 26 and Sunset Transit Center | Marty   |
| • Waterhouse Trail at Laidlaw                    | Carl    |
| • Westside Trail at Scholls Ferry Rd             | Heather |

At the next meeting we will discuss our research results and review pictures and notes from each visit to determine the highest priority for a grant funding request. We will also set up a field trip to visit the priority gap we wish to fund.

**IV. New Business**

The committee added having an update to THPRD’s future trail planning to the list of presentation topics for our meetings.

**V. Other**

**HOMEWORK:** Those with assigned trail gap research will visit, take pictures going both directions on the trail gap and download those into the shared googledocs along with a short 1-2 paragraph report on what they learned.

**VI. Next Meeting will be held on** June 21, 2023 at 6:30 pm—hybrid--online and in person.

Meeting adjourned at 8:11 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Shirley Hoffmann

Recording Secretary