



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

**Date: June 20, 2024**

**Time: 6:30 pm**

**Location: Virtual (Microsoft Teams)**

### **In Attendance**

Committee Members: Carl Nelson (chair), Tina Ricks (secretary), Tom Erwin, Erik Lehr

Absent: Sharon Keiser, Vidy Kulkarni, Marty Hite, Erich Pacheco

Board Liaison: (not present)

Staff: Bruce Barbarasch, Nature & Trails Manager

Guests: None

### **I. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 6:40 pm.

### **II. Approval of Minutes**

The minutes were reviewed. Erik moved to approve. Tom seconded the motion. May 2024 minutes were approved as written.

### **III. New Business**

#### **Functional plan update.**

The district is looking at several of our functional plans (how we do the work, how we approach it, how we prioritize projects). Bruce is updating 4 functional plans. This is a once in a generation opportunity to make 4 functional plans, in order to be prepared for a potential bond measure in 2026.

The Parks functional plan is the center of everything. Trails and Natural Resources go together but are always in Parks. Athletic Facilities are also always in Parks (fields and courts, not buildings). The Programs functional plan includes classes, events, etc. We're not touching this one. Facility functional plan includes 20 large structures from houses to swimming pools. How do we maintain, invest, or disinvest in buildings? Those are the plans in motion over the next 9 months.

We're trying to make sure all these plans are talking to each other in the same language, using the values our board of directors have set out. We want natural resources/environmental to

have a larger footprint because of climate issues. This will inform some of the decision making. We're trying to standardize all the formats for these plans. We shouldn't repeat information that is elsewhere.

The comprehensive plan is updated every 15-20 years. These functional plans need to be updated to reflect it.

This is a light remodel of the plans. They are being reorganized into sections. Outcomes (like "you will plant 10K trees this year") goes elsewhere.

We want the public to read the functional plans and understand how decisions get made, and see the rationale for decision making. The plans need to be "evergreen" aka information that doesn't get outdated quickly.

Staff will come to the advisory committees in the fall with discussions about these plans. Staff will ask committees, what do you think?

Once the functional plans are complete, we don't anticipate doing editing.

Do we have a hierarchy chart of all the different plans?

Vision  
Comprehensive  
Strategic  
Functional

### **Trail Etiquette**

Web page under Parks and Trails > Trails > Trail Etiquette

Bruce sent the group a study from a graduate student.

Off leash dogs and e-bikes are common concerns. Signs aren't always helpful. Takes a lot of staff to enforce rules.

What is park enforcement? Rangers and maintenance folks. We have enforcement "light" via park rangers. The Safety Services staff educate and enforce rules. They dress in a more official capacity. They can write an "exclusion notice." If we find you here, you can be arrested for criminal trespass. Not very often. These are given typically for camping or drug use. Can enforce significant safety rules, not just stuff that's annoying. THPRD has increased safety services staff over the years.

As we update signage, we might think about updating some of the rule-based messages (dogs, yielding to pedestrians, etc.).

### **IV. Old Business**

**Do we need a project (like trail gaps last year)?**

Do we need to have a project? We can. Not necessarily required. The parks committee suggested having a sustainability/climate project.

- Like the idea of a trail passport. Maybe get stamps at the nature park?
- Scavenger hunt?
- What about signage about names of parks. Who is John Marty? Who is Evelyn Schiffler? Who is Elsie Stuhr? Does anyone have the history of these place names?
- Trail functional plan has all the names of the trails.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:53 p.m. PST.

**There will be no meeting in July.**

**The August meeting is field trip on August 15, from 6-8pm.**

Respectfully submitted,

Tina Ricks

Recording Secretary