



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

**Date: March 19, 2025**

**Time: 6:30 pm**

**Location: Fanno Creek Service Center**

### **In Attendance**

Committee Members: Carl Nelson (chair), Tina Ricks, Tom Erwin, Matthew Shepherd (temporary secretary), Erik Lehr, Alison Davis, Jenny Ruthven, Samantha Tipler, Erich Pacheco

Absent: none

Board Liaison: Barbie Minor (absent)

Staff: Bruce Barbarasch, Sustainability Manager

Guests: none

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

The meeting was called to order at 6:32 p.m.

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

The minutes were reviewed. February 2025 minutes were approved as written. Jenny Ruthven moved to approve the minutes, Alison Davis seconded, and all approved.

### **III. New Business**

#### **Trails Functional Plan**

Bruce B. gave committee an overview of the functional plan update process. Trails Functional Plan (<https://www.thprd.org/pdfs2/document3679.pdf>) is undergoing minor updates.

- TFP focused on the network of major trails (regional and community, aka big paved trails), often transportation/connectivity-oriented trails.
- Significant concern of NTAC is balancing trails / access with natural resource protection.
- Notable changes to TFP include
  - Trails prioritization is streamlined
  - Equity is being addressed
  - Efforts to balance trails and nature needs (reassess long-time proposed routes)
  - How to deal with lighting?
  - Design update to bollards (only where needed), fences (new choices, sight lines)
  - New trail system map

#### **Discussion topics**

- Are there proposed trails that no longer make sense?

- Lighting on trails: How to balance trail safety / user needs with wildlife impact of artificial light at night? Are there priority trails that could be lit? What are the light type options?
- Committee members would like to see new trail system map

### **Interpretive Signs**

Bruce B. provided background on interpretive signs. THPRD has have both public artworks and interpretive signs around district. Starting process of reviewing district needs and developing guidelines. Interpretation should reflect what community wants.

- Four basic types of sign: warning, directional, information / advertising, interpretive

The committee undertook an exercise to consider various example signs. Subsequent discussion covered the following points:

- #1 – cool large 3-D map-model of the delta; unsure about audience;
- #2 – good mix of images and text; nice combination of photo and historic blueprint; only English; font size large enough?; could have had a map
- #3 – big, easy to read; easy to maintain; variety of information; unsure why that mix of information; not clear who audience is; only English
- #4 – good visuals; attractive; sparks curiosity; encourages interaction with surroundings; could have female birds as well.
- #5 – liked progression photos; plants; lot of words; font size adequate?; could read a different sign on each visit; English only
- #6 – enjoyed seeing this sign on trails; design isn't inviting; lot of information; many topics included;
- #7 – invites people to look for changes; bilingual (English, Spanish); less engaging than bird sign; didn't inform people; background / context for sign; could have included note about why the landscape looks like it does (did); could add QR code to encourage people to share photos

### **Broader considerations**

- Who are audience (one-time visitor, repeat visitor)?
- Language(s) on sign
- Knowing demographic of visitors and how they prefer to be presented with information
- Need to develop general guidance on sign types, etc. for local parks
- Are there ways to recognize traditional ecological knowledge (TEK) or cultures?

### **Next steps: questions to consider**

- Which sign types are most suitable for residents?
- What information is appropriate for different types of signs (or other information resource)?
- What is suitable level of sign provisions for different sites?
- What is good combination of information and interpretation on a sign?
- What is recognized good practice on signs?

- Language access (e.g., Factor 1 analysis)
- Accessibility

**Meeting ended 8:33 p.m.**

**Next meeting is the quarterly Joint Meeting of Advisory Committees on April 16 at 6:00 p.m. at the Fanno Creek Service Center, 6220 SW 112<sup>th</sup> Ave., Beaverton. *Note the earlier time.* Meeting will also be available by Microsoft Teams. NTAC meeting will follow Joint meeting.**

Respectfully submitted,

Matthew Shepherd  
Committee member, temporary Recording Secretary