



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

Date: September 17, 2025

Time: 6:30-8:30 p.m.

Location: Fanno Creek Service Center

In Attendance

Committee Members: Tom Erwin, Alison Davis, Erik Lehr, Tina Ricks, Matthew Shepherd (secretary), Samantha Tipler (temporary chair)

Absent: Carl Nelson, Jenny Ruthven

Board Liaison: Pradnya Patil

Staff: Greg Creager, Nature & Trails Manager (committee liaison); Bruce Barbarasch, Sustainability Manager; Peter Swinton, Urban Planner

Guests: [None]

I. Call to Order

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

II. Approval of Minutes

The minutes from June 2025 were reviewed. Erik Lehr moved to approve the minutes. Alison Davis seconded. The minutes as written were approved unanimously.

III. Guest Comments

[None]

IV. Committee Check-in

Committee members shared anecdotes about parks visited and nature notes.

V. New Business

A. Introduction: Greg Creager

Greg Creager is taking over staff liaison responsibilities for this committee. He gave an introduction to himself.

B. North Johnson Creek Trail

Peter Swinton, THPRD Urban Planner, presented information about a proposed new segment of the North Johnson Creek Trail:

- West Village Community Parks & Open Space Concept Plan covers area flanking SW Barnes Rd, northeast of Hwy 26 / Hwy 217 intersection.

- Community trail intended to be built in sections following Johnson Creek east of SW Valeria View Dr.
- Facilities will be funded by SDC credits as housing is developed in the area.
- Initial trail segment proposed to run east of SW Valeria View Dr along south edge of creek corridor.
- Timeline: developer expects to obtain permits in November, with construction next spring / summer.
- Questions:
 - How does this affect wetlands? Trail will not impinge on Johnson Creek wetlands corridor
 - Does trail replace a sidewalk? No, trail will be a new feature build to THPRD trail standard, but will resemble a sidewalk.
 - Proposed tree (black tupelo, *Nyssa sylvatica*) isn't native; can a native species be used? Tupelo is on THPRD's list of approved trees.
 - Is the creek corridor THPRD owned? No, probably owned by HOA of neighborhood on north of creek.
 - Will the drain rock shoulder be adequate to handle rainfall; will trail flood? It should be okay. There also is an adjacent stormwater swale.
 - Who will be responsible for maintenance? Initially, it will be owned by the developer. Longer term, it will be owned and maintained by THPRD, supported by SDC credits.
 - Existing trail is on west of SW Valeria View; will crossing the road be hazardous? Existing sidewalk on SW Valeria View for trail users; road crossing will be added.
 - How tall is guard rail? Feedback to developer is that guard rail / fence needs to adhere to THPRD trails plan specs.
 - Is there a requirement for mitigation of wetland / natural area losses or removal of vegetation? No details available.

C. New member recruitment

Bruce Barbarasch provided information about the upcoming advisory committee recruitment process.

- Recruitment for new AC members is starting.
- NTAC committee will need to review applications and interview applicants.
 - Three people needed to conduct interviews in early November; should be same people at all interviews.
 - Volunteers: Alison Davis, Carl Nelson, Samantha Tipler.
- Likely have five spots to fill: Tom Erwin, Erik Lehr, and Matthew Shepherd are reaching the end of their 2-year term; Erich Pacheco previously stepped down; and Tina Ricks announced her intention to leave at end of this year.

D. Interpretive Signage Project

Bruce Barbarasch reviewed the discussion on signs at the June NTAC meeting. At that meeting, the discussion didn't fully resolve. Would the committee like to continue

discussion or should a staff group take this forward based on previous feedback and report to the committee at a future meeting?

Recommendations:

- Need a decision on use of QR codes.
- Staff group should take this forward. Will report back to committee in 4–6 months.

E. Letter of support for Community Renewable Energy Grant

Bruce Barbarasch introduced the topic—climate action plan encourages THPRD to adopt renewable energy sources:

- Community Renewable Energy Grant could support assessment of locations at HM Terpenning complex for solar generation installations.
- Grant is due this week.
- Proposal: Alison Davis – I move that the NTAC submits a letter in support of THPRD's Community Renewable Energy Grant application.
 - Seconded by Eric Lehr
 - The vote was unanimous by members present.

IV. Old Business

A. Advisory Committee Grant ideas

The committee reviewed the Advisory Committee Grant Program requirements and what was achieved with some previous grants.

- Brainstorming ideas: equipment for nature & trails team, seasonal & temporary use signs, safety issues to address, materials for nature camps, new venues for nature mobile, Black & Green Fellowship.

Meeting ended 8:08 p.m.

Next meeting is a Joint Advisory Committee meeting on October 22, starting at 6:00 p.m. at Fanno Creek Service Center

Respectfully submitted,

Matthew Shepherd
Committee member, Recording Secretary