



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

Date: December 17, 2025

Time: 6:30–8:30 p.m.

Location: Fanno Creek Service Center

In Attendance

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

Absent: Jenny Ruthven

Board Liaison: Absent (Pradnya Patil)

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

Guests: [None]

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:33 p.m.

II. Approval of Minutes

The minutes from November 2025 were reviewed. Erik Lehr moved to approve the minutes. Tom Erwin seconded. The minutes as written were approved unanimously.

III. Guest Comments

[None]

IV. Committee Check-in

Committee members shared anecdotes about parks visited, nature notes, and plans for the upcoming holiday season.

V. New Business

A. Acknowledge departing members

Two members are departing NTAC: Erik Lehr and Tina Ricks. Bruce Barbarasch has moved on from role of staff liaison.

- Thanks were given to each individual for their contributions to the work of the committee

B. Climate Action Plan update

Bruce Barbarasch gave the committee a brief update on the district's Climate Action Plan

- Plan has two focus areas: mitigation activities and adaptation activities. Each has six subsections. District has made progress on the following.
- Mitigation
 - Energy use in buildings: Studied couple of facilities, investigating equipment that could save energy, assessing financing options
 - Question asked about solar panels on roof of aquatic center: Funding earmarked in bond measure for two major solar installations, but no decision on where; rooftop solar needs structural assessment of current building
 - Transportation & fleet operations: Gradually transitioning fleet to electric (replacement of vehicles at end of life), two new vehicles; some tools replaced with electric
 - Considering charging infrastructure, building it into new facility
 - Purchasing: Aspirational, hard to quantify because information about upstream climate impacts is limited; creating low-carbon specifications for products such as concrete.
 - Greenspace preservation: Undertaking inventory of natural assets; established tree health team; developed climate-adapted tree list to inform future planting
 - Question about emerald ash borer: EAB is here to stay; doesn't kill tree because ash will regrow from base, but EAB will continue in a multi-year cycle
- Adaptation
 - Management for resilient parks: Considering possibility of adding artificial shade or structures to offer shelter from sun or rain; additional tree planting in high-use areas
 - Fostering community resiliency: Use of facilities as cooling or warming shelters; seeking grants for additional a/c
 - Natural area stewardship & stormwater management: Investigating alternative tree species for planting; participating in working groups exploring tree adaptation
 - Wildfire reduction: Worked with TVFR to update plans for wildfire fuel reduction

C. Update on NTAC recruitment

Brief update on recruitment

- Tom Erwin and Matthew Shepherd reapplied and were confirmed by the board
- Three new members were also confirmed by the board: Josie Boisselle, Sue Poff, and Fern Savannah

D. Election of chair and secretary

Committee members elected a chair and a recorder.

- Nominees:
 - Chair: Samantha Tipler (nominated by Alison Davis, seconded by Tom Erwin)

- Secretary: Matthew Shepherd (nominated by Erik Lehr, seconded by Carl Nelson)
- Voting: both positions were approved unanimously

E. Trail request from Southwest Trails group

Greg Creager told committee about request for assistance with developing trail connection in Garden Home area.

- Connection wanted between SW Brugger St and SW Florence Ln through water district property.
- No particular benefit to district; not part of trail network, nor close to significant parks

IV. Old Business

[none]

Meeting ended 7:44 p.m.

Next meeting is a Joint Advisory Committee meeting on January 21, 20267, starting at 6:00 p.m. at Tualatin Hills Nature Center (15655 SW Millikan Way).

Respectfully submitted,

Matthew Shepherd
Committee member, Recording Secretary