



Oregon Recreation Trails Advisory Council

Minutes

Friday, April 21, 2017

9:00 AM – 5:00 PM

Chehalem Parks & Recreation District

Armory Youth Center

620 N. Morton Street

Newberg, OR

Attendance: Lauralee Svendsgaard, Chair and District
Jim Thayer, District 1
Joe Kresse, District 2
Robert Spurlock, District 3
Rod Sell, District 4
Becky Wolf, District 5
Julie Chick, District 5

OPRD Staff: David Stipe
Carrie Lovellette
Terry Bergerson, SCORP Planner

Other Attendees: Sherie Woodcock, OET
Paul Hennen City of Tualatin
Don Clemens Chehalem PRD
Elaine Keavney, Oregon City
Brett Henry Yamhill County
Rachel Dunham, Tualatin
Karen Viktay
Kat Ricor Chehalem PRD
Pat Keavney, Oregon City
Dennis Monson, OET
Wayne Wempkey

Housekeeping

Agenda Item: Approval of the January 27, 2017 Minutes (Action)
Presented by: David Stipe

The January 27, 2017, ORTAC meeting minutes were reviewed. After some discussion, the minutes were unanimously approved.

Motion: To accept the Sherar Falls proposal (Action)
Motion by: Jim Thayer
Seconded by: Joe Kresse
Motion passed unanimously.



Comment – It would be nice to see the process, we would have to work this out. Staff says to stay with the concurrence method and talk about the process later. The council has the opportunity to review the plan 30 to 60 days in advance. Issues can be addressed then. The timeline is based on the proponents.

Local Agency / Trail Advocate Updates

Agenda Item: Scenic Bikeway (Information)
Presented by: Alex Phillips, OPRD (via conference call)

Description: Alex gave an overview of the program.

Comment by public – Please give us an overview and introduction of Scenic bike/water program and staff.

Alex Phillips, OPRD Bikeways & Waterways Coordinator, asking for concurrence from ORTAC in making a recommendation to our commission to formally designate Sherar Falls as a scenic bikeway.

Public comments: None

Local Agency / Trail Advocate Updates

Agenda Item: Trail Keepers of Oregon (Information)
Presented by: Elaine Keavney

Description: Who they are and what they do - mostly urban settings.

Agenda Item: Oregon Timber Trail (Information)
Presented by: Gabriel Tiller, working with Travel Oregon

Description: Long distance, single track timber trail across the state. Bikepacking is trendy but has been happening for a hundred years.

Comments:

What kind of signage is there? There isn't any and it's something we are looking at. We expect folks to use GPS.



Any accessible for equestrians? Yes all of it is multi-use trails.

A lot of the stuff you are doing is the same as others. Have you thought of contacting ORTAC to make it a scenic trail?

We are looking long-term for this long distance route. We don't want to overshadow the other designated scenic trails.

It's interesting how you tiered it. It helps to see the segments.

It's a very cool idea what you're doing and your slides are great.

Stuttle Lake Lodge just opened. It's really nice and you can rent rooms.

You have some rerouting process going on – what are the reasons for this?

Landslides, road closures, etc. It's not just the alignment. We get feedback from the riders each year, as well.

Agenda Item: Buxton Trailhead (Information)
Presented by: Dennis Monson, Oregon Equestrian Trails

Description: Work mostly with Stub Stewart SP and Banks-Vernonia Trails to maintain the trails.

Comments:

Buxton trailhead and Whistlestop are other areas we do work in.

OET is there another group?

It is the association for the state.

Salmonberry seems to be in a lot of folk's radar.

Agenda Item: Chehalem Ridge Natural Area (Information)
Presented by: Karen Vitkay, Metro



Description: 9 mile multi-use and 9 mile walk/hike only in riparian areas. Some shelters, restrooms, picnic areas. Iowa hill is one destination site. Draft out in July-comments still accepted.

Comments:

Explain Metro's policy regarding dogs. – Metro doesn't allow pets in our natural areas. Our understanding is that dogs have a negative impact to natural areas. They are perceived as predators, but the code is under review. Some regional trails allow dogs and service dogs are allowed.

Are there user trails out there now?

No there are not. There are gravel roads from logging. There is future logging so the main spine of roads will remain gravel road. It is public right now.

What is the degree of difficulty?

500 ft. elevation increase. Most of the roads are pretty steep and the trails are 5% or less. Very family friendly with all abilities.

Disabled accessible? Surface will be firm and stable.

How do you engage the Latino community?

We partnered with a community based group to help advertise to their communities. It took several meetings to gain their trust to get them to engage. We had a 125 people show up at the last meeting. We have nature educators and they had Spanish speaking tours. The key is not to ask them to come to you but you have to go to them in order to engage.

Agenda Item: French Prairie Bridge (Information)
Presented by: Zach Weigel, City of Wilsonville

Description: Bridge crossing of the Willamette River in Wilsonville for pedestrians and emergency vehicles.

Agenda Item: Tualatin River Greenway (Information)
Presented by: Paul Hennon

Description:



Trail is really nice with the interpretive aspects. Nice signage.

Lots of apartments being built in Tualatin by the Tualatin River.

Agenda Item: Chehalem Park and Recreation District (Information)
Presented by: Don Clements, Superintendent

Description: Want 70 miles and have a strategic plan and master plan and will cost \$80 million. Will have a campground and would like equestrian trails to connect to Parrot Mountain. We would like to connect this trail all the way to the coast. Most importantly, we want to connect Newberg to Dundee. We have not built in motorized because we don't know how. There is also an existing bridge on the SP property and they recently closed down. Hopefully, we will have a ped & peddle crossing.

Comments:

Where is the bridge?

Near Ewing Young park out on Winuski.

Very ambitious plan which is great. Master plan – what are some of your ideas for funding?

We have reached out to several groups. Mid-Willamette Council of government.

We need to have a map with all these trails.

Do you have it phased?

When you phase things, opportunities pass you by.

Agenda Item: Cedar Creek Trail (Information)
Presented by: Jason Waters, Sherwood

Description: NO SHOW

Agenda Item: HB 3149 - (Information)
Presented by: Dan Hillburn



Description: Passed House, onto the Ways & Means committee. There will be another vote, then Ways and Means then to both House & Senate and then to the Governor's office.

Send letters to legislators

1. State parks to give us an action plan for 2 years or less.
2. ODOT to the table, because they have the right of way which is the solution for some of the issues we've been having.
3. Sets up a fund that will give out grants toward to finishing and maintaining the trail.

Do you have to climb over headlands?

Yes. Cascade head is a good example.

In Washington there are ladders when the tide is in.

There are ongoing projects that are part of this like Salmonberry. Are you coordinating with other groups that are working on the same thing? Yes

Why introduce a bill what benefit is there?

This trail won't be finished for 20 years; we can change the priority for the Parks dept. Having ORTAC show support of finishing this trail would be useful.

Since we are an OPRD council, ORTAC aligns itself with the department.

Establishing the fund, would it come from lottery dollars or general fund? OPRD is lottery, fees or grants.

This gives the promoters opportunity to raise money.

ORTAC cannot support the legislation but can you make recommendations to OPRD Commission.

Lauralee says yes we can. We as a group have to be careful because our members are from all over the state.

OPRD says ORTAC can draft a letter or in person and express their opinion that the commission should consider a higher priority on the Oregon Coast Trail.

Jim says he is concerned about the precedent setting of this bill.

This project was started 40 years ago and was to be completed in 9 years. It's not like we are coming at this like it is a new idea.



Lauralee suggested that the letter be submitted to her.

Would the council consider reissuing the recommendation to make the OCT the highest priority.

We need to discuss our ability and our willingness to do this.

1979 recommendation is long gone. Maybe we can find it on our drive.

Have you looked at the municipalities along the trail?

Yes Connie has done that through writing her book.

And OPRD has contacts as well. It's very difficult to get over the ODOT and private land owners issues.

Two resources – people and money.

He's just asking for an opportunity. Open the door for this.

This dialogue is taking place in a lot of coastal communities especially ones with the gaps.

Council Business Items

Agenda Item: Statewide World Class Trails Network Research (Information)
Presented by: Stephanie Noll

Description:

How they are funding a 32 trails & staff.

The trails association has individual membership, and 70% of funding comes from individual donations. 50 % are dedicated to the maintenance & development programs. They go out to a county park and do work and get paid by the county.

What is the membership fee? \$50 per year with 13,000 members.

In Oregon, the trails keepers are aspiring to the Washington model. They are the group in Oregon that has the vision to strive to the Washington Trails Association (WTA) model.



Trails Keepers just hired an executive director.

They may be the home for the Oregon Trails Association.

WTA is a very good model for that.

We could have had a letter of intent in to RTP for a summit.

This is great work and it's very exciting because the momentum is so great in Oregon for trails.

Where is Travel Oregon right now for the future in this?

They may provide seed funding, but it would not be under their umbrella. They might want to have a representative on the coalition.

What would ORTAC's role be in this?

Maybe we should discuss our role.

This group doesn't speak for OPRD. And, ORTAC's involvement seems like it falls right into the theme of our previous conversations.

There should be minimal involvement from ORTAC.

What role would ORTAC play in this association?

I think we should stop and have Terry present then discuss the last questions of Stephanie.

Agenda Item: SCORP (Information)

Presented by: Terry Bergerson, OPRD SCORP Planner

Description: The need for additional non-motorized trails funding

Step counters have become a huge tool now.

1. The health benefits of trail use.
2. Tourism development – but you need to keep the health benefits in mind as well. Also not everyone in the natural resource community wants tourism.

What is your definition of tourism?



I want to get an advisory committee together to build a strategy to develop a fund for non-motorized trails.

1. Expand Cigarette Tax
2. Expand hotel / motel tax (higher for out of state people)
3. Sequestered Funding – ODOTs budget
4. User Fees for Bikes
5. UGB Expansion Windfall Tax
6. Gas Tax Revenue for Roads not maintained by ODOT
7. Expand State Cell Phone Tax

Make Terry's presentation available to everyone.

David to talk to Jan Hunt about the Summit.

Motion to support the coalition.

Stephanie is going to move forward with the coalition and the Summit. She's looking for our support and involvement.

Would ORTAC like to lend its support to Stephane for the Summit?

There is a consensus of support. Lauralee will give Stephanie some help as herself and not ORTAC chair.

Lauralee will confer with ORTAC members and keep them informed.

David will give direction on how we officially operate alongside this entity.

Terry said to be cautious of putting everything into one bucket.

Motion By: Robert Spurlock
Motion: Jim Thayer be the ORTAC representative on the SCORP funding committee.
Second: Julie Chick seconded.
Discussion: No further discussion.
Yay/Nay: Unanimous Yay.

Oregon Bicycle & Ped Advisory Council (OBPAC) ORTAC rep.

Motion By: Rod Sell
Motion: Robert Spurlock to be the ORTAC representative



Second: Joe Kresse
Discussion: No further discussion.
Yay/Nay: Unanimous Yay.

Strategic Planning

Doug Newman Award

We want to recognize staff as well as volunteers. We can have a lifetime award and have the limit at 15 years for professional level.

Could have a rising star award – up and coming
Volunteer achievement award
Professional achievement

Keep the category the same for the time being and then deal with other awards at a later date.

Call it a Doug Newman Achievement Award and if they have lifetime achievement, the council can change it to a lifetime achievement award. July 1 deadline.

Other Tasks: Table display – RTP said they would pay for it and Julie knows someone who can produce it. We would need it before the Barbara Walker Regional Trails Fair. Will put it together and send it to Julie for her person to print it up.

Meeting adjourned at 4:50 p.m.



Council Site Visits

Saturday, January 28, 2017
9:00 AM – 12:00 PM

A walking tour of Yamhillas was completed.

Meeting Adjourned at 12:00 p.m.
