

SWTrails PDX
Monthly Meeting Minutes

September 24, 2020

Attendance: Doug Rogers, Dave Manville, Lee Buhler, Brian Brady, Debbie Small, Hans Steuch, Bill Gallagher, Barbara Bowers, Glenn Bridger, Rita Fox. Guests: Laura Campos, Katurah Pennington, Jason Bergstrom

Doug called the meeting to order at 7:01 pm (Via Zoom video conference).

Doug welcomed everyone and held introductions.

Agenda: Lee made a motion to approve the agenda and Bill seconded it. The motion passed unanimously.

Minutes: Lee made a motion to approve the August 27, 2020 minutes. Hans seconded the motion and there were no objections.

Change to Secretary Position: Doug said current secretary, Rita, will be moving out of state in October, so the position will be vacant. Everyone gave a BIG "thank you" for her service.

Upcoming Community Events: Doug said the *Oregon Trails Coalition* will sponsor a recreation summit (series of talks on outdoor activities) from Sept 28-Oct 19th. On-going online training by *Portland Parks Foundation* (Friends & Allies Summit) on September 26th, 10am-4pm. *SWNI* Public safety legal clinic (over Zoom, Oct. 1st, 7:00 pm) for traffic laws will focus on bike and pedestrian safety -- how to stay safe on the road. Doug gave stats on the number of pedestrians (11) and bike riders (3) killed in Portland this year. Doug encouraged those interested in these topics to attend.

Treasurer's Report: Lee said we had a good month in August with a net income of \$1,427.12. We have \$29,815.03 in our bank account. Lee is working with Hans and Glenn on the 2019 audit of our records.

Membership: Barbara reported that presently we have 61 members, 13 donors and 10 sponsors for a total of 84.

Social Media: Barbara Stedman was not in attendance. Debbie said she is doing an excellent job on postings to our Facebook page and staying on top of things.

Self-Led Hikes: Brian displayed the list of the 26 new self-led hikes in SW Portland for a total of 103 miles. He said he and Debbie met with Oregon Walks and they agreed to publish some of the SWTrails PDX hikes on their Facebook page (they have over 5,000 followers). Dave said there was a tree over the trail on hike 4, and he has notified Parks. Brian created a testing page with maps for the regular established SWTrails PDX hikes. Dave will come up with Google maps for each. Brian also said he is going to add a narrative (one a month) for each established hike and would like members to write narratives. Debbie and Dave will start with #1 and #2. He would also like to have someone create graphics for each one of the established trails.

Some members had ideas of people who may be able to help. Brian displayed the 4T page and asked everyone to check out the links to make sure they all work. The page has been updated it to show that the tram is closed due to COVID.

West Willamette Restoration Partnership meeting report: Brian gave an update on the two-hour long meeting, which was mostly on invasive plants, like Garlic Mustard and Ivy. There are on-going cooperative efforts by several community groups to protect and restore our natural areas in SW Portland.

Neighborhood Greenway: Debbie said her street (SW Bertha Blvd. between 23rd & 30th) was chosen by PBOT as a demonstration Neighborhood Greenway street (as were several other streets in SW). When they put up the signs it really reduced the number of cars and their speeds, and it's a big improvement. Bill said he thought the signs and cones will stay for a while. Doug pointed out that that section of Bertha is a part of the Red Electric Trail, a designated route on PBOT's SW in Motion plan, and will eventually be modified with speed bumps and permanent stripping and signage. Brian suggested getting actual current traffic numbers to compare with the previous count PBOT did; Doug suggested we call the city and ask them to do that. Glenn said he will bring it to the attention of the Hillsdale Transportation Committee chair.

Our Traditional Group Hikes: Doug asked if there was a way to resume doing our group hikes. Debbie and Barbara suggested a committee to work on some COVID-19 safety rules. Dave said he has been doing modified hikes with another group. He said everyone needs to have a clear understanding of the safety rules since some people are very anxious about the arrangements. Dave said they added a COVID clause in their insurance waiver. Doug, Debbie, Barbara Bowers and Dave volunteered to be the committee members to investigate and work out rules.

Posting of our meeting *Minutes* on our OneDrive site and on our Website: Barbara Bowers noticed that our Minutes had not been kept up to date, so Doug and Britta worked on posting them to the website (and later to our OneDrive). There was some discussion for having clear assignments for cleaning up the folders.

SW Trails Projects: Dave said there was a work party with Portland Parks last month consisting of five people. They wore masks the entire time and stay 20' from each other. He said Parks has redone the stewardship forms with new restrictions. The next work party will be at April Hill Park to spread gravel, which will be by personal invitation. Dave said they got authorization for Lesser Park where there are reports of two trees down. Dave suggested a Zoom meeting with PBOT for an update on Urban Trails arrangements; Glenn said he will get it organized. Hans said Parks has agreed to pay for and install our trail signs marking the routes through the parks

Trail #5 closure through Lewis & Clark campus -- update: Hans said the committee sent a letter to the vice president of Lewis & Clark College to reconsider opening the trail across the campus. Also, a couple of neighbors have written letters of protest the location of the trail from the college campus. The Vice President answered our letter and agreed to meet with us.

Advocate's Corner: Brian talked about the neighborhood streets crosswalk list we worked on at a previous meeting. Brian rated the top 10 in our established trails. Brian said that Don wants to send it out to a larger audience.

Last Minute Announcements: Jason said the tool library is on hold as Parks has closed park facilities due to COVID. Laura said it is hard to come up with a schedule for the Beaver Festival due to COVID. She said she is looking into moving the festival to Tryon Creek as it is dangerous for people to walk along the Beaverton Hillsdale Highway (to see the beaver dam on Fanno Creek). Barb asked board members to write up job descriptions, so everyone has the information they need to get started in a new position.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 pm. *Our next meeting is Thursday, October 22, 2020 (by Zoom video conference call).*

Submitted by **Rita Fox**, Secretary