



FRIENDS OF TUALATIN RIVER NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE COMPLEX

May 25, 2023 Board Meeting Minutes

The meeting was held in person.

Present: Michael Boreing, Dawn Carovano, Alan Christensen, Cheryl Hart, Tom Hartz, Keith Mays, Phyllis Millan, Tom Stibolt, Willem Stoeller, Irene Vlach.

Staff: Bonnie Anderson, Natalie Balkam, Rebecca Chuck, Todd McKinney.

Guest: Karen Strickland (SRC).

I. Quorum

We have a quorum (6 directors required).

II. Excused Absences: Sharon Miller.

III. Call to Order (2:00pm)

IV. Welcome and Introductions

V. Kudos and Mission Moments

Approval of Agenda

Consent Agenda

1. Standing Committee Reports:
 - Advocacy Report
 - Financial Reports
 - Governance Committee Report
 - Membership Report
 - Planning Committee Report
 - Store Report
2. Draft Minutes of the meeting of 4-25-23

Motion to approve the Consent Agenda and the Reports:

1. Tom S.
 2. Michael
- Passed.

Reports

1. President – Cheryl Hart

Last week an aide to Senator Merkley (Chair of Interior Appropriations), Mitra Anoushiravani, visited the Refuge. She was very enthusiastic and we hope she will facilitate a visit later this year by the Senator himself, either to Tualatin NWR, or to Wapato Lake NWR.

2. Executive Director – Bonnie Anderson

- Bella Padgett was hired as the new Habitat Restoration Specialist. She will work part-time until the end of July, and start full time in August. Bonnie will invite her to attend next month's board meeting.
- Carly has agreed to continue working 40 hours/month to finish projects and to help train Bella.
- The Beer Festival contract is signed. Planning meetings are ongoing. The Festival will take place August 5-6.
- The TREE grant application will be submitted later this week.
- Sherwood Rotary invited us to apply for \$1,000 for the Youth Summit.

3. Refuge update:

a. Rebecca

- Refuge staff is continuing to meet with the Gaston City Council about Wapato Lake restoration and repair of the embankment. A field staffer for Senator Widen attended the last meeting.
- Tonquin Quarry: last week Refuge staff was notified that a judge upheld the permit, ignoring or dismissing our findings of facts and accepting the Quarry's statement that their operation will have no impact on the wetlands. The Service is filing additional objections, which are due June 1. Meanwhile the Quarry still needs a permit under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act. Senator Merkley is aware of the issue, thanks to our letter. Western River continues to be interested in a potential acquisition of the property.
- The outside restrooms are out of order.

b. Todd

The current exhibit in the Visitor Center is 15 years old and needs to be overhauled to reflect the changes that took place on the Refuge in the meantime. The planning process is expected to extend into 2024. It will be as inclusive and empowering as possible to a broad scope of the community. The Friends need to have a conversation about how, and to what degree we wish to be involved in this process.

c. Natalie

Natalie reminded us that depending on the circumstances, we may act as volunteers either of the Service, or of the Friends. Please refer to the latest issue of the Volunteer Newsletter.

4. National Friends Workshop

Our organization was well represented by Bonnie, Cheryl, Phyllis and Sharon.

Old Business

1. Action Item from 4-25-23 Meeting:

- a. HRS position
- b. Expectations for board members at the Langer Beer Festival – will be drafted at a later date

2. Columbia Land Trust Update / King City: Tom S.

Tom S. gave an update on the King City Kingston Terrace Transportation System Plan and Master Plan. The planning commission decided to go forward with the proposed alternative, ignoring objections. The Plan will go to the City Council for approval on June 14 at 6pm. Tom S. and Phyllis are authorized to represent the Friends at the meeting.

New Business

1. Use of LinkedIn as recruiting tool: Willem

Due to time constraints, this item was rescheduled to the June board meeting.

2. Updated Advocacy Policy: Willem

Motion to approve the updated Advocacy Policy:

1. Willem
2. Alan

Discussion: Board members are reminded to send Bonnie a list of organizations and issues they are following

Passed.

3. 30th Anniversary

Phyllis gave an update on the planning of the upcoming 30th Anniversary of the Friends. It was suggested that founding members of the organization be invited.

4. Inviting Speakers

Alan recruited 5 speakers to talk at events at the Refuge this fall. Refer to Alan the names and contact info of additional speakers.

Announcements

Rebecca invited the Board on a field trip to Nestucca Bay NWR, to be held on July 27. A butterfly specialist will attend.

Adjourn_(3:40pm)

Motion to adjourn:

1. Tom S.