EBRPD Trails User Working Group Meeting #2
November 13, 2020
Meeting Focus: Hikers

TUWG
Website: https://www ebparks.org/about/planning/tuwg/default.htm

WORKING GROUP: NEW MEMBERS

- Elena Miramar - Vision Espana
  Knowledge of what park will represent - hopefully diverse groups and minorities

- Gabrielle Martinez - Civicorps JVC
  Representing diverse youth, hikers, dog walkers - learning how trails can be improved

- Antoine Chambers - Civicorps JVC
  Representing dog walkers on trails, input from dog walkers on new acquisition planning

- Kathy Roth - Dog Walkers

- Ian Baird - Orinda Hiking Club
  Enjoy sharing trails with equestrians - not bikers on narrow trails

- Michael Gregory - District PAC
  What to see this effort realized, better defined, more equitable for all

- Bob Coomer - District PAC
  Input from community members, representatives, looking forward to seeing what we can accomplish

REFLECTIONS ON THE PREVIOUS MEETING

NOTES

- Notes should be sent out sooner so corrections can be made promptly

SHARED RESOURCES

- What are criteria for documents to be posted on website?
- Response: information for group reference library (e.g., data / surveys, white papers)
- Ensure posted documents are compliant with WCAG accessibility rules
**UPDATE ON WORKING GROUP FORMATION**

**MISSION (Updated)**

The Working Group will work directly with Park District staff to evaluate various trail interests, constraints, and conflicts that influence the planning, design, and implementation of new natural surface trails; as well as how we can best improve park trails without compromising the safety or enjoyment of any diverse group of trail users, balanced with the District’s commitment to protect natural resources.

**GROUND RULES**

1. Attend scheduled meetings.
2. Attend scheduled site visits.
3. Participate in meeting discussions.
4. Keep an open mind and be respectful.
5. Represent stakeholder perspectives.
7. Avoid sidebar conversations.
8. Avoid repetition.
9. Step up, step back.
10. Be a liaison to the public.
11. Staff will present WG report to the District’s Operations Committee.
12. Have fun.

**MISSION / OBJECTIVES**

- Please send Mission Statement out in writing.
- Call-thrash-compromise. I feel it’s important that everyone is comfortable having different ideas. When you have a clear mind, I think you can talk about this.
- Add the perspective of diverse opinion.
- Add environmental concern to mission.
- Classic balancing act. Is recreation on versus environmental stewardship.

**CONSENSUS**

Consensus building encourages dialogue. It clarifies areas of agreement and disagreement. It improves information used in the process. And it resolves contentious issues using structured, face-to-face (virtual) interaction among stakeholders. Consensus does not mean all participants agree completely on every part of an issue. It means that they can support the decision completely even though they might wish the decision could be slightly different. Simply put, consensus is the willingness to go along with the decision either in active support of it or in not opposing it.

**WORK PRODUCT**

- A set of issues and potential solutions for optimizing trail use for all user groups.
- It is intention to create policy that Board will vote on.
- Responses: no, but would appreciate recommendations to discuss with Board.
- Seeking guidance on specific issues.
- Would like the work product to include:
  - A recommendation for developing trail use on various properties.
  - Income for creative management of existing trail networks.
  - A strategy for recognizing the area’s critical need for trails and catalyzing opportunities for users of all abilities and ages to safely and comfortably use the area.
  - An agreement that the result will be a product that is consistent with the District’s overall vision for the area.
- More context should include:
  - A discussion of how trail use is planned for the area.
  - A discussion of the need for trail use in the area.
  - A discussion of the potential for trail use in the area.

**NUMBER OF MEETINGS**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>MEETING #2</th>
<th>NOVEMBER 6th</th>
<th>MEETING #3</th>
<th>FEBRUARY 11th</th>
<th>MEETING #4</th>
<th>APRIL 9th</th>
<th>MEETING #5</th>
<th>JUNE 17th</th>
<th>MEETING #6</th>
<th>AUGUST 11th</th>
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## Trail Users Working Group – Meeting #2 | November 13, 2020

### COMMENTS: SUSTAINABLE TRAILS PRESENTATION

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| **Conversion of legacy trails into sustainable trails is a worthy goal and one that all trail users should support.** | **What fraction of legacy trails are 20% graded?** | **Facts:** 
- Legacy trails can vary widely in conditions and accessibility.
- 20% graded trails suggest a moderate level of maintenance and accessibility.
- A high fraction of legacy trails could indicate a need for increased investment in trail maintenance. |
| **Ignore – can’t enjoy biking up or down 20% grades.** | **Such a grade can be a wash or part of the WHITE COURSE by Richmond Soil and Water.** | **Facts:** 
- Biking up or down steep grades is less enjoyable and can be challenging for many users.
- Grade restrictions can help ensure accessibility and safety for all users. |
| **Sustainable trails effort could be exciting and worthwhile. God to be part of this.** | **Hikers and equestrians overwhelmingly prefer single-track trails.** | **Facts:** 
- Sustainable trails can offer a variety of experiences for different user groups.
- Single-track trails can provide a unique and rewarding hiking experience. |
| **Well said Don – listening to others’ perspectives and finding common ground.** | **Our trail plans need to support multiple user experience trails designed primarily for local loop, dressage, recreation areas.** | **Facts:** 
- Involving diverse perspectives is crucial for creating trails that meet the needs of all user groups.
- Supporting a variety of user experiences can enhance the overall trail system. |
| **Hikers and equestrians overwhelmingly prefer single-track trails.** | **This trail packet is distributed to 100+ nature and sustainable trails.** | **Facts:** 
- Single-track trails are a popular choice for hikers and equestrians.
- Distribution of trail packets can help inform and engage users about trail maintenance. |
| **Hope we are able to reach common ground.** | **Certain elements constrain use of trails – many to manage use of water.** | **Facts:** 
- Reaching common ground is essential for effective trail management.
- Water management can be a critical concern for trail users. |
| **The sustainable trails concept is designed for bicyclists, hikers, and equestrians and everyone that uses the trail.** | **Many constraints to developing new trails.** | **Facts:** 
- The sustainable trails concept aims to cater to a wide range of users.
- Developing new trails can be constrained by various factors. |

### HIkers’ PERSPECTIVES

**ORINDA HIKING CLUB**

| Profile not to hike with bikes on narrow trails – safety concerns. | **Are there guidelines, rules & regulations that can they be applied to future parks?** | Response: Can be, but questions of resource protection might not be great stewardship. |
| **Fire roads okay, but can’t design narrow trails for both hikers and bikes.** | **Want trails to work for as many users as possible.** | **Facts:** 
- Fire roads may be more accommodating for hikers and bikes. 
- Balancing user needs can be challenging. |
| **Biggest complaint: facilities not maintained worse since COVID.** | **Webpage showing real-time status of facilities.** | **Facts:** 
- A lack of maintenance can impact the user experience. 
- Real-time information can help users plan their visits. |

### OUTDOOR AFRO

| In fact, I haven’t had many challenges with cyclists or off-leash dogs. | **Elements to slow bikes, not a problem for hikers and appreciated by other users.** | **Facts:** 
- Challenges with cyclists and dogs may vary. 
- bike and dog etiquette can enhance the trail experience. |
| **Loose dogs on trails is an issue for hikers and equestrians.** | **Issues often unresolved until specific funding identified.** | **Facts:** 
- Loose dogs can pose risks to other trail users. 
- Funding can help address issues. |
| **An issue is a long wait for a new trail.** | **Develop new trails to be more easily maintained.** | **Facts:** 
- Long wait times for new trails can be frustrating. 
- Proper maintenance is crucial for trail longevity. |

### GROUP MEMBER COMMENTS

| Sierra Club perspectives: hikers wish to enjoy nature without即可en, concerns for safety. | **Response: will bring in all perspectives.** | **Facts:** 
- Hikers’ perspectives are an integral part of trail management. 
- Engaging all perspectives can lead to more comprehensive solutions. |
| **Narrow trails for all — is that new District position?** | **What we’re here to do is multi-use trails for all!** | **Facts:** 
- Narrowing trails may be a district-wide position. 
- Multi-use trails can cater to a variety of user needs. |
| **The Ridge Trail between hikers to Sidney in some obits, no problem for hikers.** | **Facts:** 
- The Ridge Trail may be less accessible to some users. 
- Adjustments can make trails more accessible to a wider range of users. |
| **John Muir Land Trust is doing a GREAT job!** | **Facts:** 
- John Muir Land Trust’s efforts can contribute to trail improvements. 
- Recognition can motivate further efforts. |