

Thurston Nature Center Committee (TNCC) Meeting, held at Traverwood Library, June 20, 2024

The meeting was called to order at 6:50pm.

Committee members attending were: Jeffery Hamilton, Jim Vallem, Holly Zechar, Emily Eisbruch, Beth Caldwell, Colin Brooks, Hannah Smith.

A quorum was achieved. Rachel Oram attended representing the PTO (see below).

Discussion was primarily about committee membership and our by-laws, with discussion going back and forth between them, as they affect each other.

Two people are leaving the committee:

- Rachel (water steward), who is now the Thurston PTO President, and
- Hannah (OHAC representative), who is handing over that position to Amy Creten effective June 21, 2024.

We voted 7-0 to add Praveena Ramaswami to the committee.

We confirmed that we are okay with having more than 11 voting committee members (we have been at 11, and our by-laws say we need at least 11).

We discussed how to select Executive Board members (chair, possibly vice-chair, secretary and treasurer), as the current two-year terms are ending. It was decided that an official vote was needed to document this selection, even where a candidate was unopposed. Emily will confirm with Jeff and Praveena if they both want to run for chair. People in the other positions are currently interested in continuing and no other candidates have stepped up. Emily will set up online voting for July.

Once school resumes, and new parents are added to the Thurston Elementary email list, Rachel will provide info on the Nature Center and solicit parents to become involved. She requested a summary of TNC activities for the monthly school newsletters. Hannah also indicated that OHAC can distribute updates monthly.

We received word that Mr. Cory McElmeel has been appointed the new Principal of Thurston Elementary. We will be reaching out to him about the Nature Center and requesting his participation on the committee.

Holly confirmed that she will be providing the annual financial report to the PTO treasurer, and copying the rest of our committee. She also indicated that we currently have \$16,400.34 in the TNCC account.

We set up a sub-committee consisting of Jim (chair), Colin and Jeff to make recommendations for TNCC by-law changes, to be voted on later by the committee and

then submitted to the PTO for approval. We will also solicit feedback from Elizabeth Morehead, as TNCC past-chair.

Colin will set up a new Google email group for just the committee members, with Emily as a second group admin. Subsequent to the meeting, this was done, with a few Google-list-incompatible emails to resolve yet. Anyone who wishes to change the email address used should contact Colin.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:47pm.

Submitted by Jim Vallem