



Tualatin Hills Park & Recreation District Minutes of a Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors

A Regular Meeting of the Tualatin Hills Park & Recreation District Board of Directors was held on Wednesday, November 8, 2023, at the Tualatin Valley Water District Headquarters, 1850 SW 170th Avenue, Beaverton, Oregon. Executive Session 5:30 pm; Regular Meeting 6:00 pm.

Present:

Alfredo Moreno	President/Director
Barbie Minor	Secretary/Director
Tya Ping	Secretary Pro-Tempore/Director
Felicita Monteblanco	Director
Miles Palacios	Director
Doug Menke	General Manager

Agenda Item #1 – Executive Session (A) Legal (B) Land

President Alfredo Moreno called executive session to order for the following purposes:

- To conduct deliberations with persons designated by the governing body to negotiate real property transactions; and
- To consult with counsel concerning the legal rights and duties of a public body with regard to current litigation or litigation likely to be filed.

Executive Session is held under authority of ORS 192.660(2)(e) and (h).

President Moreno noted that the news media and designated staff may attend executive session. Representatives of the news media were directed not to disclose information discussed during executive session. No final action or final decision may be made in executive session.

Agenda Item #2 – Call Regular Meeting to Order

A Regular Meeting of the Tualatin Hills Park & Recreation District Board of Directors was called to order by President Alfredo Moreno on Wednesday, November 8, 2023, at 6:05 pm.

Agenda Item #3 – Action Resulting from Executive Session

There was no action resulting from Executive Session.

Agenda Item #4 – Proclamation: National Native American Heritage Month

The board members read into the record a proclamation declaring November as National Native American Heritage Month.

President Moreno provided a brief overview of the activities and events THPRD is hosting in honor of National Native American Heritage Month.

Agenda Item #5 – Audience Time

Tammy Carpenter, 8405 SW Power Ct., Portland, is before the board of directors this evening to express appreciation for the district's proclamation in honor of National Native American Heritage Month. She stated that a reckoning is long overdue regarding how Native Americans have been treated since Europeans arrived. She read aloud the definition of Genocide, noting that the actions taken against Native Americans amounted to such. While some knew that such actions were wrong, not enough of those people acted. She believes that if she were alive during those times, that she would have done whatever it would take to end the genocide and hopes that people can look at the ways we've treated people in the past and consider how we want to treat them in the present.

Joe Martin Cantrell, 3445 SW 124th, Beaverton, is before the board of directors this evening regarding land acknowledgements. He stated that he carries the name of Joe Martin who died on the Cherokee Trail of Tears. He described his background as a journalist and artist, noting that never once was the Trail of Tears brought up during his college education in Oklahoma. He demonstrated with rope the timeline of Native Americans, noting that every millimeter of rope represents a year that Native Americans have inhabited America. He pointed out some of the historical moments on the timeline in relation to the genocide of Native Americans as well as the overwhelming length of rope representing the Native Americans' existence in America over the past 18,000 years at least. He is sharing this display with the board this evening out of respect as he knows that they care, and knowledge makes strength.

Agenda Item #6 – Board Time

A. Committee Liaisons Updates

Barbie Minor provided the following comments during board time:

- ✓ Expressed gratitude for this evening's public testimony and for the powerful reminder that the district's proclamations represent real people, oftentimes with a shared collective trauma and who have historically been and continue to be marginalized. She fully supports giving voice to celebrate Native American Heritage Month. However, she also encourages the board to hold itself accountable in doing the hard work of dismantling systems of oppression as called out in the district's mission statement and board values, noting that it feels disingenuous in this moment to acknowledge the legacy of a displaced people and the harm it caused as we are all witnessing a genocide take place right now in the war on Palestine. She named the local elected officials who are demanding a cease fire now, adding that it is upsetting to see how many other local elected officials have chosen to remain silent as scores of lives continue to be killed. She stated that those in public service have an increased responsibility to hold each other accountable in advocating for the values they so often tout when the time comes to speak truth to power and amplify the voices of those most harmed. She fears that the limiting trap of binary thinking only makes the moment more complicated, when at the heart it is simply denouncing terrorism in all of its forms and protecting innocent lives. She asked that her fellow board members please join her in demanding a cease fire now.

Felicita Montebianco provided the following updates and comments during board time:

- ✓ In response to Secretary Minor's comments, she noted that as of this morning, no one had asked her to sign onto a ceasefire letter besides Barbie; however, she is mindful of the topics that she is hearing about from her constituents, such as Cooper Mountain and pickleball courts. She is also mindful of who hasn't signed onto the letter, and this gives her serious pause. She has given thought to what it means to be a park director and what they can influence, such as the expansion of Cooper Mountain Nature Park. She profoundly appreciates Barbie sharing her voice.
- ✓ Volunteered at Newt Day and it was a wonderful event with over 350 attendees.
- ✓ Provided an update on Metro's Executive Advisory Committee for the Expo Future project, which is tasked to explore building something that will appeal to people across the country, support the economy, and honor the horrific past of the area, which includes Japanese American incarceration.
- ✓ Attended the City of Beaverton's groundbreaking ceremony for the year-round shelter being built next to Griffith Park. She is appreciative of the work taking place around the homelessness crisis.

Tya Ping provided the following updates and comments during board time:

- ✓ Referenced the board's recent retreat and expressed appreciation to staff for listening to the board's thoughts and guiding the district in step with their values and budget priorities.

- ✓ The recent joint advisory committees meeting included presentations on a potential operating levy, the Sunset Station Community Plan, and a Parks & Facilities Advisory Committee challenge grant project to purchase an induction cooktop for Cedar Hills Recreation Center.

Miles Palacios provided the following updates and comments during board time:

- ✓ Along with President Moreno and Director Monteblanco, he attended a tour of Willamette Falls arranged by Metro which presented a relationship building opportunity with other elected officials in the area.
- ✓ Attended Representative Pham’s constituent outreach event; a big issue on the mind of the community is the houselessness epidemic and conversations around how we can address it with a renewed emphasis on housing both at the state and local levels.

President Moreno provided the following updates and comments during board time:

- ✓ Provided an update on the recruitment efforts for a new executive director for the Tualatin Hills Park Foundation, noting that he is optimistic regarding the candidates.
- ✓ Attended a networking event for staff of color at the Oregon Recreation & Park Association annual conference.
- ✓ Thanked district staff for their work on recent events like Día de los Muertos and the Halloween event at Conestoga Recreation & Aquatic Center.
- ✓ Recognized and offered words of support to Secretary Minor for speaking her truth, noting that she and he have had some thoughtful conversations and that as long as we as community leaders are bringing our authentic selves to the table, good things will happen. He encouraged giving each other grace to learn and taking the time to consider others’ opinions when different from our own.

Agenda Item #7 – Consent Agenda

Tya Ping moved that the board of directors approve consent agenda items (A) Minutes of October 11, 2023 Regular Board Meeting, (B) Minutes of October 24, 2023 Board Retreat, (C) Monthly Bills, (D) Monthly Financial Statement, and (E) Board Values & FY 2024/25 Budget Priorities. Felicita Monteblanco seconded the motion. Roll call proceeded as follows:

Barbie Minor	Yes
Miles Palacios	Yes
Felicita Monteblanco	Yes
Tya Ping	Yes
Alfredo Moreno	Yes

The motion was UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.

Agenda Item #8 – Unfinished Business

A. Levy Task Force Update

At the board’s August 10, 2023 meeting, staff provided a detailed overview regarding plans to form a community-led Levy Task Force to help advise the district on preparing for a potential operating levy. On September 13, 2023, the board appointed 13 community members to the task force, comprised of 12 at-large people and one liaison from the district’s budget committee. Since then, the task force has met twice. The first meeting was an in-depth overview of the district’s budget, revenue sources, expenditures, causes of pressure on the budget leading to a funding shortfall, and options the district has considered to fill that shortfall. In the second meeting, the task force reviewed public opinion research on likely voter’s views of the district and their likely support for a local option levy. The task force has one final meeting planned in November, where they anticipate voting on their recommendations. Task force representatives then plan to present their findings and recommendations for the board’s consideration at the December 13, 2023, regular board meeting.

Holly provided a detailed overview of the work of the district's Levy Task Force, and the public opinion research that has been conducted, via a PowerPoint presentation, a copy of which was entered into the record, and which included the following information:

- Levy Task Force Charge
 - Should we ask voters for an operating levy?
 - What is the appropriate amount?
 - When should we go to the voters?
- Levy Task Force Meetings
 - Meeting #1 focus: THPRD budget
 - Meeting #2 focus: Public opinion research
- Public Opinion Research
 - 76% of people are satisfied with THPRD services
 - 75% of people are unaware THPRD is facing a funding shortfall
 - 60% of people would support a \$0.50 levy per \$1,000 assessed value for five years to preserve park and recreation services
 - \$0.50 levy will preserve what we have today, plus new registration system
 - Areas of largest concern:
 - Reductions in garbage collection
 - Closures of public restrooms
 - Elimination of afterschool programs
 - Loss of staff leading classes and performing maintenance
 - Less funding for parks/trails and routine maintenance
- Next Steps
 - November 15: Final Levy Task Force meeting
 - December 13: Levy Task Force presents to board
 - January 10: Board vote
 - March 2024: File with county
 - May 21, 2024: Election Day

Holly concluded her presentation and offered to answer any questions the board may have.

- ✓ President Moreno thanked Holly for the update.

B. 2008 Bond Program Update

Bruce Barbarasch, Nature & Trails manager, and Tim Bonnin, development supervisor, provided an update on the remaining natural resources and capital projects in the 2008 bond program, via a PowerPoint presentation, a copy of which was entered into the record, and which included the following information:

- Four final construction projects remain and are scheduled for summer 2024
 - Design and development projects:
 - Multipurpose sport court at Mountain View Champions Park
 - Enhancements to water quality facility at Cedar Hills Park
 - Natural resources projects:
 - Stream daylighting, stream bank stabilization, new culvert installation, and native plant revegetation at Raleigh Park
 - Habitat enhancements and native plant revegetation at Bronson Creek Greenway
 - Staff expect to conclude all spending on the 2008 bond by the end of FY 2024-25
- Bruce and Tim offered to answer any questions the board may have.

Barbie Minor asked for additional information regarding why no bids were received for the sport court at Mountain View Champions Park and whether staff is more optimistic about bidding the project next year.

- ✓ Tim described an overall lack of contractors when the project was initially bid and re-bid, noting that staff are hoping to draw more interest by bidding it out again early in the year.

C. General Manager's Report

The following presentation was provided as listed within the General Manager's Report included in the board of directors' information packet:

- Changes in Financial Reporting
 - Jared Isaksen, Finance director, provided an overview of upcoming proposed changes to approval thresholds for procurements and contracts, and also sought board feedback regarding the content and frequency of the financial board reports, via a PowerPoint presentation, a copy of which was entered into the record.

Doug and Jared offered to answer any questions the board may have regarding the presentation.

Miles Palacios expressed support for the newly proposed thresholds, noting his trust in district staff and that it makes sense to move more in line with other agencies across the state.

Tya Ping expressed support for quarterly board reports as well as more information regarding personnel levels as compared to budget. She also has confidence in the district's stellar audit and budget committees.

Felicita Monteblanco expressed support for quarterly board reports as well and agreed that the current level for the monthly bills is too low. She appreciates Jared's suggestions around providing narratives with the information and calling out trends. The district's budget document is so clear and understandable due to our commitment to transparency, she hopes that the board packet information can become more accessible, as well.

Miles also expressed support for the suggestions around narrative information and drawing the board's attention to important information.

President Moreno expressed support for quarterly board reports, as long as they can return to monthly, if need be, and described the balance between district staff's financial expertise and the board's responsibility to oversee the district fiscally.

Jared proposed to skip the typical monthly financial reports in the December information packet and to use that time to prepare a quarterly report for the board's review in the January packet.

Agenda Item #9 – New Business

A. Trail Development Update

Gery Keck, Planning & Development manager, and Tim Bonnin, development supervisor, provided a detailed overview of the district's trail development strategy via a PowerPoint presentation, a copy of which was entered into the record, and which included the following information:

- Prioritization
 - Comprehensive Plan
 - Functional Plans
 - Vision Action Plan
- Trail Development Timeline
 - A typical trail segment takes three years from preparation/design to construction
- Common Challenges
 - Existing conditions
 - Slopes, natural areas & wetlands
 - Utilities (NW Natural, PGE, BPA)
 - Land ownership/easements
 - Accessibility
 - Topography
 - Street crossings

- Costs
 - Average regional/community trail costs \$4.3 million per mile
 - System Development Charges
 - Federal funding
- Trail Development Opportunities
 - Working with developers
 - Grant funding
 - Long-range planning

Gery and Tim offered to answer any questions the board may have.

Felicita Montebianco lauded the district's trail system and the connectivity it provides for the community and reaffirmed the district's commitment to continue to improve accessibility.

Tya Ping asked what the normal lifespan of a trail is and how the replacement and upkeep costs are funded.

- ✓ Gery replied that the typical lifespan for an asphalt trail is 15-20 years and that the district funds most of the replacement and upkeep costs through the General Fund, although grant funding is also sought whenever possible.

President Moreno described his exploration of the district's trail system and the variety of offerings, noting that the continual maintenance needs are something to be mindful of; while the district's trail system is impressive, it is not inexpensive.

Agenda Item #10 – Adjourn

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:20 pm.

Alfredo Moreno, President

Barbie Minor, Secretary

Recording Secretary,
Jessica Collins