



**Tualatin Hills Park & Recreation District**  
**ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**

**Parks & Facilities Advisory Committee Meeting**  
**Date: February 15, 2023; Time: 6:00 PM**  
**Location: Virtual**

**In Attendance**

Committee Members: Nisha George (Chair), Nanda Siddaiah (Secretary), Jane Leo, Jacqui Orenda-Weber, Kate Nelson, James Terwilliger, Hilary Blum, Carolina Martins

Staff: Keith Watson (Support Services Manager), Aisha Panas (Deputy General Manager)

Board Liaison: Alfredo Moreno

Absent: Erica Soto

- I. **Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order by Keith Watson at 6:04 pm.
- II. **Approval of Minutes:** The minutes from the January 2023 meeting were emailed to the committee. One correction was made (change date on Greenway proposal from 2020 to 2022 in section IV, E, 3) Jane Leo moved to accept the minutes following the edit and seconded by James Terwilliger. Approved unanimously.
- III. **Public Comment:** No public comment was received prior to the meeting.
- IV. **Welcome/Member Check-in**
  - A. **Keith** visits Mitchell Park frequently. Good to see folks out and about with dry weather. **Kate** visited Pirate Park and kids had a blast, also commented that it's very difficult for parents to view children in dance class at CHRC and wondered if there was a way to improve viewing (larger window or video monitor). **Nisha** and kids did Knee High Naturalists class at nature park and commented it was great and the teacher was very knowledgeable. **Alfredo** visited Camille Park and wondered if there was an opportunity to improve access across Denney Road as it is dangerous
- V. **New Business**
  - A. 2023 Comprehensive Plan Update (Aisha Panas, Deputy General Manager)
    1. Aisha shared how the Park Services Division is structured
    2. Vision Action Plan developed in 2020 with over 10,000 community members contributing and over 12,000 ideas submitted. This was shortlisted down to 108 themes and became the framework for the 2023 Comprehensive Plan update. The Comp plan is a 20-year big picture plan to guide THPRD. Goals for the Comp plan include Welcoming & Inclusive, Play for Everyone, Accessible & Safe, Environmental Stewardship, DEIA, Technology & Innovation, and Financial Sustainability.
    3. Currently in development is the Strategic Plan which is a 3-5-year plan detailing what the district plans to do. This informs the Functional Plans which details how we will do things.
    4. An example of how the committee can contribute is the work done previously to define criteria and considerations for dog run expansion that was ultimately included in the Parks Functional Plan.
    5. There may be a similar opportunity for the committee to assist with the expansion of pickleball courts across the district.
    6. James asked for an example of the technology & innovation goal. Aisha noted our outdated registration system, virtual meeting conference rooms, and remote work infrastructure as examples.
    7. Nisha asked about land-use considerations and THPRD influence in developing communities. Aisha confirmed that THPRD was involved in the development phase

for N Bethany. There is an intent to connect the trail corridors. In some areas THPRD said that the park 'has' to exist in certain areas; and two fixed parks (east and west) where we purchased land from developers. We acknowledge these have been on the smaller end (close to 2 acres) of the size requested (2-5 acres) for such neighborhood parks, due to the high demand for land in that area. We have learned from this experience and had a better planning process with S. Cooper Mtn area and future developments.

**B. Pickleball Expansion Discussion**

1. Pickleball is very popular and THPRD is getting many requests to expand their court inventory
2. Keith gauged the groups interest in providing advice/feedback on how the district may move forward with the many requests
3. Carolina: We get a lot of requests for different things from the community. What does 'lot' mean in this case in terms of ex: volume of requests vs other requests. Why is this a priority?
4. Keith: Will check with the Sports department on the statistics. In general, there is a huge demand for Pickleball and is currently our fastest growing sport – and THPRD does not have the infrastructure to support it as of now.
5. Hilary: Do we have indication of how long the emphasis on pickleball is going to last?
6. Keith: National trends seem to be very positive. Leagues are being formed and lot of athletes and celebrities are lending their name
7. Nanda, James: Does THPRD consider mixed use courts – if we plan to setup additional facilities to support this growing community. Have open spaces with multisport court abilities
8. Keith: as an example - we do have the futsal + pickleball facility on Cedar Hills Blvd
9. Jane: Shared some info from a recent PBS report that pickleball is the fastest growing sport
10. Though it is a shared court, have noticed pickleball players haven't vacated the courts even after their time window has expired. This is to be considered as part of the mixed-use courts consideration
11. Nisha: Talk to other parks districts – how have they done it. Should include in the research process of this consideration
12. Carolina: agree with checking with other parks districts – on how much demand they're seeing; as well as do a co-ordinated effort on how they're addressing them
13. Kate: Family plays – pickleball courts are being planned into newer developments. This maybe would be easier to digest as the courts will 'already be there'
14. Keith will communicate with Sports department staff to determine next steps and how the committee may be able to assist with criteria, considerations, and our community outreach for pickleball expansion efforts by THPRD.

**VI. Old Business:**

**A. Challenge Grant Project Discussion**

1. Keith shared a guide on the Challenge Grant process (will email to members)
2. Next proposal due is September 1, 2023
3. James: can the \$10K budget be mitigated/supplemented by fundraising? Keith indicated that it may be a possibility and/or could involve partnerships
4. James: would love to see a solar panel on one of the fixed shade structures and address several of our values simultaneously
5. Jane: did we get an update on Bethany Lake issues that were identified? Keith indicated that updates were safety related and were addressed by maintenance staff.

But, no plans at this time for any major improvements. Jane was referring to challenging access to a specific park bench near the dam. Keith will ask staff to investigate. Jane will also follow up with PGE regarding location of potential tree planting for improved shade at the site.

6. Alfredo: perhaps we could consider funding a mural or artwork? La Raiz Park might be a consideration as it is being constructed next summer
7. Jane: how much does a shade structure cost? Keith responded that it depends on the application and that he would investigate. Nisha recalls that her research showed they potentially cost >\$10,000 for a medium sized structure.
8. Carolina: How do we make a decision on one fo these choices? For example: if we decide on a shade structure, how do we choose a site? Consideration should include data on where the most need is and not necessarily where the team “thinks” it should go.
9. Keith: this will be team decision but THPRD can provide input on feasibility, demographics, need, etc..).

## **VII. Wrap Up**

- A. Next Meeting: March 15, 2023 at 6 PM

## **VIII. Adjourn**

- A. Meeting adjourned at 7:24 PM
- B. Minutes respectfully submitted by Nanda Siddaiah, Secretary