



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, February 14, 2024, 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
Felicita Monteblanco	Director
Miles Palacios	Director
Doug Menke	General Manager

Absent:

Tya Ping	Secretary Pro-Tempore/Director
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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, February 14, 2024, at 6:00 pm.

Felicita Monteblanco moved that the board of directors amend this evening's agenda to add a New Business item pertaining to confirmation of the THPRD and Washington County representative on the Metro Policy Advisory Committee. Barbie Minor seconded the motion. Roll call proceeded as follows:

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

The motion was UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.

Agenda Item #3 – Action Resulting from Executive Session

There was no action resulting from Executive Session.

Agenda Item #4 – Proclamation: Black History Month

The board members read into the record a proclamation declaring February as Black History Month. President Moreno also provided a brief overview of the activities and events THPRD is hosting in honor of Black History Month.

Agenda Item #6 – Board Time

A. Committee Liaisons Updates

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

- ✓ Excited for next week's Parks & Facilities Advisory Committee meeting to welcome its new members.
- ✓ Looking forward to attending Centro's upcoming Gala de Cultura along with a few fellow board members.
- ✓ Visited the state capital with 40 high school students today, including students who live within THPRD boundaries, to advocate for interests important to them.

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

- ✓ The next Fiduciary Committee meeting will be taking place on February 21.
- ✓ Will provide her fellow board members a written update regarding the activities of the Metro Executive Advisory Committee for the Expo Future and her participation in the American Leadership Forum of Oregon.

Barbie Minor provided the following updates and comments during board time:

- ✓ Looking forward to next week's Nature & Trails Advisory Committee meeting.
- ✓ Expressed her sincere appreciation to district staff for their winter storm response efforts.

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

- ✓ Thanked his fellow board members who were able to attend the Beaverton Area Chamber of Commerce annual meeting which provided a great opportunity for networking.
- ✓ Recognized new Tualatin Hills Park Foundation Executive Director Gina Lobaco in attendance this evening and noted that the board of trustees will be meeting next week.
- ✓ Excited to see the permanent restroom project underway at Greenway Park.

Agenda Item #7 – Consent Agenda

Barbie Minor moved that the board of directors approve consent agenda items (A) Minutes of January 10, 2024 Regular Board Meeting, (B) Quarterly Financial Report, (C) Resolution Amending System Development Charge 5-Year Capital Improvement Plan, and (D) Resolution Appointing Budget Committee Member. Miles Palacios seconded the motion.

Roll call proceeded as follows:

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

The motion was UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.

Agenda Item #8 – Unfinished Business

A. Maintenance Operations Update – Winter Storm Response

Aisha Panas, deputy general manager, introduced Jon Campbell, Maintenance Operations manager, and Keith Watson, Support Services manager, to provide an overview of the work being done in response to a week of severe winter weather in mid-January.

Jon and Keith provided photos of the impacts the winter weather had on district property and a detailed overview of staff's on-going efforts to clean up storm debris and repair damage, via a PowerPoint presentation, a copy of which was entered into the record, and offered to answer any questions the board may have.

Felicita Monteblanco expressed gratitude for staff's efforts and inquired about the repair timeline for damaged play equipment.

- ✓ Aisha explained that the repair timeline will be influenced by whether the damage is covered by the district's insurance and how soon the parts can be received and will be evaluated against the district's other priority needs.

Barbie Minor wondered, in the coming months as we continue to move past the repair and recovery phase, if there are ways in which the board can better support or prepare the district for extreme weather events as these are occurring on a more frequent basis.

- ✓ Aisha referenced the work of the Climate Action Plan, which will be before the board next month for consideration of adoption, and which includes direction in terms of how the district should be planning for the future recognizing the more extreme weather.

Miles Palacios expressed gratitude for the staff who were the district's frontline response during and in response to this storm.

President Moreno commented that the extent of damage is eye-opening and that he appreciates staff's response. He also appreciated hearing about how technology was able to assist. He inquired about the morale of staff considering the amount of work this has been.

- ✓ Jon agreed that it has been a lot of physical labor and described some of the ways staff are periodically being given less intense work in order to be conscious of burnout and lessen the chance of injury.
- ✓ Aisha added that although staff is tired, they are also proud of what they have been able to accomplish.

Agenda Item #5 – Audience Time (taken out of order)

Eduardo Ambriz, 16191 NW Kenton Street, Portland, is before the board of directors this evening to make a statement not only on behalf of himself, but on behalf of the disability experiencing community, those who identify as BIPOC, and his faith-based roots, to expose conditions by which services, programs and facilities within THPRD are in noncompliance of the Americans with Disabilities Act, as well as to expose a hate/bias crime that he was a victim of perpetrated by Cedar Hills Recreation Center staff. He described an incident that took place on December 1, 2023, at Cedar Hills Recreation Center where he was the victim of discrimination and racial profiling by district staff while attempting to use the showers and restroom facilities along with his service animals. He stated that district staff accosted him, saying that his appearance and service animals were a cause for suspicion and that there had been complaints. After putting his service animals in the car, he continued to use the gym facilities and restroom when he was asked to leave by district staff. He did not return for three weeks under fear of suffering more bias crimes and discrimination. He has since been refused access to the restroom by district staff on three separate occasions during business hours. To further define the non-compliance of Cedar Hills Recreation Center, he would like to point out the regular practice of locking the bathrooms and the disability accessible entrance points during business hours.

Felicita Monteblanco requested a response from district staff within the next few days for the board's consideration regarding this evening's testimony.

- ✓ General Manager Doug Menke confirmed that this would be provided.

B. General Manager's Report

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

- Local Option Levy Update
 - Holly Thompson, Communications director, provided an update on public information and outreach efforts underway for the district's local option levy that will be before voters in May 2024 via a PowerPoint presentation, a copy of which was entered into the record.

- Dog Run Update
 - Holly Thompson, Communications director, and Liana Harden, engagement & partnership specialist, provided an update on community engagement efforts to support siting dog runs in parks and the outcome of the outreach process for Garden Home Park via a PowerPoint presentation, a copy of which was entered into the record.
- Adaptive & Inclusion Services
 - Emily Kent, Sports & Inclusion manager, Juan Caez, assistant center supervisor, and Jared Grafenauer, Adaptive & Inclusion specialist, provided information regarding adaptive and inclusive services via a PowerPoint presentation, a copy of which was entered into the record.

Doug and the presenters offered to answer any questions the board may have.

Local Option Levy Update

Felicita Montebianco inquired about the availability of lawn signs.

- ✓ Holly confirmed that these are in process and will be designed from a public information standpoint.

President Moreno asked for additional information regarding outreach efforts on social media.

- ✓ Holly noted that there is a robust advertising budget for public information so there will be a good investment in boosting social media posts and paid advertisements.

Miles Palacios asked for additional information regarding the various groups that district staff has presented to or plans to.

- ✓ Holly replied that she would provide a fully updated list to the board in the next week or two after scheduling has settled, noting that all of the traditional civic organizations are covered, but that there is also a strong focus on presenting to THPRD-specific partners, such as our affiliated sports leagues, friends groups, and peer organizations that work closely with the district in order to activate those bases.

Dog Run Update

Felicita Montebianco expressed sincere appreciation for staff's leadership through this process and pondered how the district might include dog runs for new parks in developing neighborhoods so that those who are considering living there can choose whether to live near one or not.

- ✓ Holly expressed that although she agrees it is easier to install dog runs when neighborhood development is occurring before or simultaneously with park development, the district has a lot of existing properties that need them, as well. She noted that the greatest potential for the expansion in meeting the community's needs is by continuing to work with the City of Beaverton to encourage them to change their development codes around dog parks that double the district's costs of installing them within city boundaries as compared to unincorporated Washington County. Once the code is changed, it will make a big difference in allowing the district to expand these amenities, but this will likely take board involvement as the staff-led discussions have been happening for quite some time without results. Until the City of Beaverton changes their code, the district will be following the Parks & Facilities Advisory Committee's recommendation to limit dog runs to parks within unincorporated Washington County.

President Moreno thanked district staff for their leadership on the dog run meeting at Garden Home Recreation Center which required a lot of nuanced communication and organization. The demographics of the attendees were varied, including in terms of support and opposition. He expressed agreement with the staff decision not to place the dog run at Garden Home Park after evaluating the core arguments against it and congratulated district staff on putting forth a process that left participants feeling heard.

Adaptive & Inclusion Services

Miles Palacios noted that these are important services from a communitywide as well as individual perspective and that he loves the ideas around partnerships with outside organizations who have capacity but not the facilities, which enables additional opportunities for the community.

Felicita Monteblanco commented that she would like to see the board have more disability justice training, noting that access is a big priority guided by the board's values and the need for learning how to go beyond that to justice and inclusion, as well.

President Moreno expressed appreciation for these services and loved seeing the quotes that help articulate the district's work, including in partnership with the Tualatin Hills Park Foundation.

Agenda Item #9 – New Business

A. Legislative Update

Aisha Panas, deputy general manager, and Kylie Grunow, state legislative consultant for the district, provided a detailed update on the 2024 legislative session via a PowerPoint presentation, a copy of which was entered into the record, and which included the following information:

- 2024 Legislative Calendar
- Session To-Date
 - Primary issues
 - Housing
 - Addiction & community safety
 - ~300 bills introduced to date
 - ~25% of bills are placeholders
 - Tracking 118 bills overall; tracking 23 bills for THPRD specifically
- THPRD State Priorities
 - Local agency control & authority
 - System development charges
 - Climate adaptation & community resilience
 - Equitable access to parks and recreation
 - State funding for parks, recreation & trails
- THPRD Issues To-Date
 - Recreational immunity
 - Summer learning funding
 - Micro-mobility/E-Bike Task Force
 - Representative Helm's wildlife package
 - System development charges

Aisha and Kylie offered to answer any questions the board may have.

Miles Palacios asked if there are opportunities for the board members to engage in these conversations and talk about their priorities with the legislators in Salem.

- ✓ Kylie replied that typically with the long session there is a THPRD Board of Directors visit to Salem scheduled, but due to the short session being so fluid and frantic, it may not be the best use of their time. However, depending on the continued discussions regarding recreational immunity, she may reach out to the board for their assistance.
- ✓ Felicita Monteblanco added that town halls are a critical way for the board members to engage with our legislators and are held nearby.

B. Metro Community Choice Grant Program

Gery Keck, Planning & Development manager, and Peter Swinton, urban planner, provided a detailed overview of three THPRD projects being considered by the Metro Council for its Community Choice Grant Program, via a PowerPoint presentation, a copy of which was entered into the record. This grant program helps fund community-led, identified, and supported park and

nature projects aimed at benefiting communities of color and people with low incomes by better connecting them to nature close to home, improving fish and wildlife habitat, and increasing climate resiliency. The three THPRD projects under consideration are:

1. To Make It All Good Again at Tualatin Hills Nature Park – This project will restore natural areas using traditional ecological knowledge led by a partnership with Indigenous community members. It will also help expand programming to connect more people to this place using a culturally specific lens.
2. Connecting People and Habitat in Aloha – This project will build additional gleaning gardens and natural areas at Recuerdo Park with the organization Adelante Mujeres. The project will make natural spaces more inclusive and increase health and welfare in diverse neighborhoods.
3. Pollinator Pathway – Located north and adjacent to Rock Creek Powerlines Soccer Fields and the Rock Creek Trail, this project will create a pollinator- and bird-friendly habitat and provide interpretive information along the trail.

Gery and Peter concluded their presentation by noting that the Metro Council will be considering the project recommendations at its meeting on February 22, 2024, and offered to answer any questions the board may have.

Barbie Minor expressed excitement for the Pollinator Pathway project.

- ✓ Gery noted that several pollinator-focused projects with other jurisdictions were selected for consideration, as well.

Felicita Monteblanco commented that this is great work and described the shift happening in how people are thinking about public budgeting, noting that it is something to be mindful of in terms of what the public is wanting and expecting. She has some logistical questions around what the district will need to agree to for these grant funds and the long-term costs associated that she will send via email, but she appreciates all of the work and is excited about the outcomes.

C. Metro Policy Advisory Committee Representative

Felicita Monteblanco moved that the board of directors approve Miles Palacios as the representative for THPRD and Washington County on the Metro Policy Advisory Committee. Barbie Minor seconded the motion. Roll call proceeded as follows:

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

The motion was UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.

Agenda Item #10 – Adjourn

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:10 pm.

Alfredo Moreno, President

Barbie Minor, Secretary

Recording Secretary,
Jessica Collins