



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, September 11, 2024, at the Tualatin Valley Water District Headquarters, 1850 SW 170th Avenue, Beaverton, Oregon. Work Session 5:30 pm; Executive Session 6:00 pm; Regular Meeting 7:00 pm.

Present:

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

Absent:

Alfredo Moreno	Secretary/Director
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Agenda Item #1 – Work Session: Equity Strategy

A Work Session of the Tualatin Hills Park & Recreation District Board of Directors was called to order by President Barbie Minor on Wednesday, September 11, 2024, at 5:30 pm.

Holly Thompson, Communications director, and Lulú Ballesteros, Equity & Engagement manager, provided a detailed overview of the proposed development of a districtwide equity strategy via a PowerPoint presentation, a copy of which was entered into the record. The equity strategy would be a living document, co-created annually by a dedicated interdepartmental staff team with a goal to organize and support both ongoing and upcoming equity initiatives, ensuring that they align with the evolving needs of our community. The team will consolidate resources, projects, efforts, and community needs into one adaptable and responsive equity strategy with focus areas around programming and events, partnerships, community-led engagement, accessibility, and staff development. The timeline is to draft a final strategy by the end of October, with plans to roll it out and promote it internally from November through December, in preparation for it to go into effect in January 2025 with a first report back to the board in July 2025. Holly and Lulú offered to answer any questions the board may have.

Miles Palacios commented that he is happy to see that the equity strategy is being built for the community it is focused on, not the other way around. He asked if there is space for community involvement from volunteers to be engaged either with events or other aspects of this work.

- ✓ Holly referenced the transition of the Programs & Events Advisory Committee to the Equity & Engagement Advisory Committee, noting that part of this committee's focus will be developing a cohort of advisory committee members that are champions around equity and innovative ways to do community engagement. This committee will also have a strong role to play in helping to articulate the strategies and meeting the objectives, which will be an in-depth way to be involved in this effort as a volunteer. In the end, the strategy will be a tool for the district and board to be able to communicate what the district is doing around equity, what it is trying to achieve, and the results that have been made, in an accessible way that people can understand and would want to engage with.

Tya Ping inquired whether the development of language-specific volunteer activities will be part of this effort, noting that such opportunities serve as great ways to welcome people to the district and can provide a space for those who speak another language to feel more comfortable and

able to contribute to their community, adding that cosponsoring such efforts with a community-specific organization could be helpful in bringing people together. She loves the flexibility in the strategy and described the need for checks and balances through outside resources to review ideas before they are initiated, but without slowing down the process too much.

- ✓ Holly noted that, regarding English-language abilities being a barrier to volunteer participation, starting this year the advisory committee application has been translated into Spanish and staff is committed to providing interpretation services if there are people interested in serving on the district's advisory committees when English is not their first language. Staff also made some progress in providing language-specific volunteer opportunities, but there is more work to be done in this area. She described the desire to always be listening deeply to what the community's needs are and working together to coproduce the solutions that bring people into THPRD.

Felicita Montebalanco expressed support for this work and described her initial thoughts after hearing this presentation, noting that development of the district's new registration system came to mind and thinking about this in terms of access from the broadest perspective, whether that is language access or serving people with disabilities. She would also like to think more about board accountability and the potential for measurements for the board to consider for themselves. She is excited to hear about offering interpretation services for advisory committee members and hopes that there are community members who step forward to apply.

- ✓ Holly described how, in the end, the equity strategy should be a digestible, easy-to-understand and relatable tool that reflects how the district is living its values in terms of what has been accomplished and what is coming up.

President Minor inquired if there would be an opportunity for the board to review a rough draft before the first report is distributed in July, noting that she is particularly interested in reviewing the information around accountability and applying measurements in a quantifiable manner. She is excited about this work and would welcome the opportunity to help shape the information.

- ✓ Holly replied that the intent is, after the board's work session this evening, to assemble the interdepartmental staff team that will lead this work and as the draft is developed it will be shared with the board at an upcoming regular meeting for feedback. The board's input is desired and welcomed as part of the generation of this work.

Barbie asked if the Equity & Engagement Advisory Committee would be involved in the development of the report, as well.

- ✓ Holly confirmed that they will.

Barbie expressed appreciation that there will be multiple touchpoints in the development of this strategy, as what an equity strategy means will be different from person to person and there will be many different perspectives to consider.

- ✓ Holly agreed, adding that there are also different measurements of success to consider, from qualitative to quantitative, and that many times in government the focus is on the quantitative. However, she believes that in relational work it is important to elevate the qualitative work as well, noting that public testimonials can be very powerful.

Agenda Item #2 – Executive Session (A) Legal (B) Land

President Barbie Minor 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 Minor 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 #3 – Call Regular Meeting to Order

A Regular Meeting of the Tualatin Hills Park & Recreation District Board of Directors was called to order by President Barbie Minor on Wednesday, September 11, 2024, at 7:05 pm.

Agenda Item #4 – Action Resulting from Executive Session

There was no action resulting from Executive Session.

Agenda Item #5 – Proclamations

President Minor provided opening comments welcoming those in attendance this evening to participate in reading this month's proclamations, noting that in a continued effort to live its values, the district is reaching out to our already established relationships with community-based organizations with the intent to strengthen the local connection to our proclamations by inviting their participation.

A. National Hispanic and Latinx Heritage Month

Mónica Estrella, a longstanding THPRD and City of Beaverton volunteer, partner from WakeUp Beaverton, and community leader, commented that it is an honor to be here this evening and expressed appreciation for the THPRD services provided to the Latino community. She then read the National Hispanic and Latinx Heritage Month proclamation in English.

Manuela Lazaro Cisneros, a partner from Latino Network, an Anahuac dancer, and community leader, commented that she is proud of her community and honored to be here this evening. She then read the National Hispanic and Latinx Heritage Month proclamation in Spanish.

President Minor thanked Mónica and Manuela for being here this evening. Felicita Monteblanco added that three of the district's board members identify as Latino as well as several THPRD leadership team members, noting that she appreciates the reference to the political power of this community that was included within the proclamation.

B. Emergency Preparedness Month

Mark Pierce, Safety Services manager, and members of the THPRD Incident Command Leadership Team took turns reading the Emergency Preparedness Month proclamation.

Agenda Item #6 – Audience Time

There was no public testimony during Audience Time.

Agenda Item #7 – Board Time

A. Committee Liaisons Updates

Miles Palacios provided the following updates and comments:

- ✓ Attended the most recent Parks & Facilities Advisory Committee meeting which focused on the committee's Challenge Grant work. The committee is interested in hearing whether the district would consider increasing the funding for the Challenge Grant program.
- ✓ Met with Metro Policy Advisory Committee staff to discuss the committee and his role as the representative for special districts. He is missing tonight's meeting, but his alternate will be attending in his absence. Some of the work being done right now is focused on the Urban Growth Report with anticipated action on this topic later this month.
- ✓ Excited to be participating on a THPRD softball team.

Felicita Montebianco provided the following updates and comments:

- ✓ Shared that the district's three new permanent restroom facilities that were funded through the American Rescue Plan Act have officially opened.
- ✓ This Friday, she and General Manager Doug Menke will participate in the Policy Makers Bike Ride which will feature many THPRD assets, like the Tualatin Hills Nature Park.

President Minor provided the following updates and comments:

- ✓ Represented THPRD in the Beaverton Celebration Parade along with some staff members, noting that parades do such a great job of bringing the community together and that it was wonderful to see so many people cheering for parks as they walked past.
- ✓ The Tualatin Hills Park Foundation annual meeting is taking place tomorrow afternoon.

Agenda Item #8 – Consent Agenda

Tya Ping moved that the board of directors approve consent agenda items (A) Minutes of August 14, 2024 Regular Board Meeting, (B) Quarterly Financial Report, (C) Metro 2019 Nature Bond Local Share Project List Amendment to Add Cooper Mountain Land Acquisition, (D) Metro 2019 Nature Bond Local Share Fund Transfer Intergovernmental Agreement between Metro, Washington County and THPRD for Cooper Mountain Acquisition, and (E) Intergovernmental Agreement for Right-of-Way Services and Resolution Exercising the Power of Eminent Domain for Beaverton Creek Trail. Miles Palacios seconded the motion. Roll call proceeded as follows:

Miles Palacios	Yes
Tya Ping	Yes
Felicita Montebianco	Yes
Barbie Minor	Yes

The motion was UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.

Agenda Item #9 – Unfinished Business

A. General Manager's Report

General Manager Doug Menke introduced Julie Rocha, Sports & Inclusion director, who shared the sad news that THPRD recently lost a beloved staff member, Brian Yourstone, supervisor for the Babette Horenstein Tennis Center, after his 20-month battle with cancer.

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

- Summer Recap and Fall Update
 - Keely Haugen, Customer Engagement specialist; Jeff Lee, Tualatin Hills Athletic Center supervisor; and Corey Tramel, Tualatin Hills Aquatic Center supervisor, provided a summer recap and fall update, including registration numbers and a special events overview, 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.

The board members offered congratulatory remarks and expressions of gratitude to district staff around the welcoming atmosphere the district strives to provide, the number and variety of classes and events such as the eternally popular Big Truck Day, the overall popularity and accessibility of drop-in activities, and the efforts contributing to registration numbers trending up.

Tya Ping offered a registration tip that if a patron pre-populates their classes in the class search, they can then register for all the classes at once rather than having to do so individually.

General Manager Doug Menke commented on the professionalism of district staff and the recognition that our part-time staff are absolutely critical for the district. Additionally, the board's commitment to and finger on the pulse of the community is impressive, as well.

Agenda Item #10 – New Business

A. Resolution Establishing Legislative Advocacy Procedures and 2025 Advocacy Priorities

Deputy General Manager Aisha Panas provided a detailed overview of suggested updates to the district's state and federal legislative platforms as well as a resolution outlining the procedures for legislative priorities and advocacy efforts via a PowerPoint presentation, a copy of which was entered into the record, and which included the following information:

- Legislative Advocacy Priorities
 - Position statements guide advocacy efforts
 - Changes suggested for both federal and state legislative platforms
- Legislative Advocacy Procedures Resolution
 - Outlines the district's legislative priorities
 - Describes and streamlines advocacy and reporting process
 - Identifies "district officials" who may advocate on behalf of THPRD
- Current Process
 - Monitor
 - Review pending bills
 - Confer with other agencies, ORPA and SDAO
 - Study
 - Determine district's position based on priorities
 - If unclear, raise to board of directors for review
 - Act
 - Submit letters consistent with position
 - Report regularly to board of directors
- Federal Priorities
 - Active Transportation
 - Additional Federal Priority: Westside Trail bridge Funding
 - Social Equity
 - Climate Adaptation & Community Resiliency
 - Natural Resource Conservation
 - Additional Federal Priority: Cooper Mountain Nature Park Expansion
 - Community Health & Wellness
- State Priorities
 - Local Agency Control & Authority
 - Additional State Priority: Recreational Immunity Fix
 - Additional State Priority: Annexation Strategy
 - System Development Charges
 - Climate Adaptation & Community Resiliency
 - Equitable Access to Park & Recreation
 - Funding for Parks, Recreation & Trails
 - Additional State Priority: Tax Reform
 - Additional State Priority: Westside Trail Bridge Funding
 - Additional State Priority: Cooper Mountain Nature Park Expansion
- Request for Proposals (RFP) for Lobbying Services
 - 9/4: Published on district website
 - 9/25: Due date for proposals
 - 11/1: Anticipated start date

Aisha noted that staff is seeking board consideration of approval of Resolution No. 2024-16 regarding legislative advocacy procedures and 2025 advocacy priorities and offered to answer any questions the board may have.

Miles Palacios expressed support for the additional priorities, noting that the question of revenue as well as the protections and local control conversations will be important to the district.

Felicita Monteblanco expressed support for the additional state priority of Tax Reform, noting that she hopes that as the conversations begin, those involved will see THPRD as an asset to the process and that we're invited to be a part of the discussion. Regarding the additional priorities of funding for the Westside Trail Bridge and Cooper Mountain Nature Park expansion, she advised that this will require board member presence in the capitol building multiple times and suggested a minimum of two lobby days, as well as attendance at town halls, and more. She understands through conversations with legislators that there will not be anything new funded through the big transportation package being discussed, but there will be other funding opportunities to pursue.

President Minor expressed agreement with her fellow board members' comments and extended gratitude to staff for making sure the board is updated and brought along in these conversations.

Miles Palacios moved that the board of directors approve Resolution No. 2024-16 establishing legislative advocacy procedures and 2025 advocacy priorities. Tya Ping seconded the motion. Roll call proceeded as follows:

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

The motion was UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.

B. Resolution Naming New Neighborhood Parks

Gery Keck, Planning & Development manager, introduced Nicole Paulsen, Planning supervisor, to present an overview of the community outreach conducted and the resulting proposed names for two new neighborhood park sites (formerly identified as Future Park at NW Heckman Lane and Future Park at SW Pointer Road). Staff is requesting board consideration of approval of a resolution this evening in naming these two new neighborhood parks.

Nicole provided a detailed overview of the proposal to name these two new parks via a PowerPoint presentation, a copy of which was entered into the record, and which included the following information:

- Process Overview
 - Cultural partners and researchers identify name options
 - Internal Naming Committee matches name options to sites
 - Present names to Management Team for input
 - Present names to community and gather input
 - Present names and input to advisory committee
 - Present all new names to THPRD Board of Directors for final approval
- Names Catalog
 - Create a list of potential site names to better represent communities and histories
 - Intentional outreach to those who helped identify names with a focus on identities and experiences among whom government systems have failed to represent
 - Engagement through in-depth discussions, historic and photographic collections
 - Honor and value diverse experiences and identities
- Consider
 - Pay attention to the feeling each name evokes or inspires
 - The community will be engaged around these names in many ways
 - Names can resonate with community and communities change
- Future Park at NW Heckman Lane
 - Nature-based Neighborhood Park
 - Proposed Name: Saqsaqa Park
 - Pronounced: sahk/sahk/a, this is the Arabic onomatopoeia for the “chirp chirp” sound that birds make.

- Aligns with the community’s vision for a park where they can see and hear birds and other wildlife.
 - Prompts visitors to listen and hear the frequent singing of birds.
 - Offers a learning opportunity for all ages that onomatopoeia sounds we have for different animals are not universal across languages.
 - Lends to interpretive signage and art.
- Future Park at SW Pointer Road
 - Neighborhood Park
 - Proposed Name: Serenity Park
 - The terms serenity and serene are derived from Middle French and Latin meaning clearness, peaceful, calm, unclouded, and tranquil.
 - This name captures one of the many reasons community members enjoy visiting THPRD parks, trails, and natural areas.
 - Finding a sense of serenity through play, relaxation, the sounds of nature, and the openness of the outdoors.
 - Community members shared their hope to have a peaceful and tranquil place to rest, relax, and gather with friends and family in a natural setting.

Gery and Nicole noted that staff is seeking board consideration of approval of Resolution No. 2024-17, naming two new park sites as Saqsqa Park and Serenity Park, and offered to answer any questions the board may have.

Felicita Montebalanco praised the thoughtfulness that has gone into the naming process and described how she felt, as a person that grew up around the Spanish language, when THPRD named Pío Pío Park and hopes that the same warm feelings of inclusiveness are experienced by our Arabic community with Saqsqa Park. She is enthusiastically supportive of this work.

Tya Ping commented that this is a great example of the wonderful work being done by THPRD to help people feel welcomed, seen, and that they have roots here even if they’ve come from another place.

President Minor noted that the district’s naming process is a great reflection of how far ahead THPRD is in its work towards thoughtfully approaching such processes while continuing to get better and more refined. She expressed gratitude to staff for their continued work and listening to feedback from the board to ensure that we find the names that are the best fit for the community.

Tya Ping moved that the board of directors approve Resolution No. 2024-17, naming two new park sites as Saqsqa Park and Serenity Park. Felicita Montebalanco seconded the motion. Roll call proceeded as follows:

Miles Palacios	Yes
Tya Ping	Yes
Felicita Montebalanco	Yes
Barbie Minor	Yes

The motion was UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.

Agenda Item #11 – Adjourn

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

Barbie Minor, President

Alfredo Moreno, Secretary

Recording Secretary,
Lindsay Lambert

Transcribed by,
Jessica Collins