



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

A meeting of the Tualatin Hills Park & Recreation District Board of Directors was held electronically on Wednesday, November 10, 2021. Work Session 5 pm; Executive Session 5:30 pm; Regular Meeting 7 pm.

Present:

Tya Ping	President/Director
Heidi Edwards	Secretary/Director
Barbie Minor	Secretary Pro-Tempore/Director
Felicita Montebianco	Director
Alfredo Moreno	Director
Doug Menke	General Manager

Agenda Item #1 – Work Session: Board Values & FY 2022/23 Budget Priorities

A Work Session of the Tualatin Hills Park & Recreation District Board of Directors was called to order by President Tya Ping on Wednesday, November 10, 2021 at 5 pm.

This work session is being held as a continuation of the discussion at the board's retreat on October 13, 2021, held to set the board's values and FY 2022/23 budget priorities. Holly Thompson, Communications director, shared a draft of the updated values and priorities based on the board's input at their October retreat, noting that the management team feels that the updated language reflects the intent of the board's discussion that evening.

The proposed updated values for the board's consideration are as follows:

- Equity
- Environmental Stewardship
- Commitment to Community Vision

And the proposed updated 2022/23 budget priorities for the board's consideration are as follows:

- Investing in our Employees and Technology. We are committed to attracting and retaining exceptional employees and prioritizing employee development and support. We must also ensure we are investing in technology to operate more efficiently, stay current, provide staff the tools they need to be effective, and to provide improved customer service to THPRD patrons.
- Rebuilding Programming with an Emphasis on our Access for All Work. This will continue to be a rebuilding year for the district, as we focus on trying to return programming to pre-pandemic participation levels and offerings. As we prioritize expanding program offerings, we will continue to leverage and integrate our Access for All work. We will continue to provide FREE community programming and expand our efforts through grant-supported partnerships, community events, and broaden our financial aid services to people from various racial and ethnic backgrounds and underrepresented groups.
- Planning for Future Natural Areas, Facility and Trail needs, and Funding Resources. We are committed to planning for our future through investments that will expedite the development and financial sustainability of parks, trails, and other facilities.

President Ping opened the floor for board discussion.

Barbie Minor expressed gratitude for having the opportunity to speak into this topic as she was absent from the October board meeting. She described the advantage of being able to watch the video of the retreat and having to time reflect on the discussion. While she agrees with the updated budget priorities as proposed, she would like to revisit the board's discussion regarding calling out racial equity as a value. She described how the same thought process behind the board's clarification in adjusting their value of Sustainability to Environmental Stewardship could be applied to their value of Equity in clarifying the intent as racial equity. She believes now is the time to be specific and stand in this value. Asking who is being left out by a value of racial equity is ironic to her in that centering racial equity is welcoming those who have always been left out. She described how the district's recent work in updating its Equity & Inclusion Statement as well as its visioning process leads her to believe that the district is being seen for this intentional work. She asked if there is a way to tie racial equity to the value of Equity with "Yes, and" phraseology.

- ✓ Alfredo Moreno stated that he would be comfortable with adding to the value of Equity in leading with race in order to clarify that this is the board's most urgent focus. He referenced his concerns expressed during the board retreat that retaining a value simply stated as Equity could be too broad.
- ✓ Heidi Edwards commented that while she would be comfortable with adding to the value of Equity, and understands the concern that the term Equity could be considered too broad, she also does not want to lose sight of the other pieces of equity and access that the district tries to champion beyond race.
- ✓ Felicita Monteblanco noted that she is excited that the board is having these conversations and expressed agreement with Barbie's comments. She described the limitations in definitions and words, noting that access is not equity and that while it is a priority, it's not the same thing. She would also like to see a conversation on disability justice in the future.
- ✓ President Ping commented that, while she agrees that racial equity is a focus for the board, she feels that it is different than the conversation that occurred around Sustainability in that the board's value of Sustainability was referring to multiple unique action areas under the same term. To her, a value of Equity means that the district is committed to looking at any type of barrier, whether financial, physical or mental, and that racial equity is a part of that.

Holly suggested that the value could be stated as "Equity with an emphasis on racial equity" noting that this was how it was articulated and communicated with the public and staff last year, as well.

- ✓ General Manager Doug Menke described the benefit in having a value that would allow staff the ability to press into racial equity, but also retain some flexibility in being able to impact other areas.

Board discussion followed regarding the proposed value statement of "Equity with an emphasis on racial equity."

- ✓ Barbie and Alfredo expressed agreement with the proposed language.
- ✓ Felicita expressed agreement with the proposed language as well, and described how racial equity does not exclude anyone; it is inclusive. She appreciates these conversations and acknowledges that everyone is on their own journey in this work and everyone has work to do.
- ✓ Tya and Heidi expressed the preference for leaving the value as Equity, noting that the simplicity in the term helps in being able to communicate with the public, and that the district's mission is to advance equity for all who are marginalized.

Board discussion continued, with each board member further expanding upon their viewpoints:

- ✓ Alfredo stated that his priority is to see more BIPOC community members using our parks, trails and facilities; not at the expense of others, but that is a specific priority for him.

Although he agrees with Felicita's comment that racial equity does not exclude anyone, as a standalone value, it would take a lot of conversations with the public to explain that. However, a value statement of "Equity with an emphasis on racial equity" retains the broader term of Equity.

- ✓ Felicita acknowledged the complexity of this conversation and hopes that the board can have a deeper discussion in the next year around what these definitions mean to the board within the scope of their work. She agreed to the proposed value statement of "Equity with an emphasis on racial equity."
- ✓ Barbie expressed agreement with Alfredo's comments and explained the benefit in having a specific focus area called out in order to clarify priorities in acknowledgement that we can't do it all.
- ✓ Heidi expressed the need for additional discussion and finding a way to better communicate the intent of this value with the community.
- ✓ Felicita commented that she believes the proposed value statement would align with the community's values, and that we have a community that understands the value of racial equity.

General Manager Doug Menke stated that this conversation has helped further clarify the board's intent, and suggested that he work with President Ping to schedule another work session for additional discussion.

Holly Thompson, Communications director, asked for confirmation that the board agrees with the proposed budget priorities as presented.

- ✓ Heidi replied that she does not want to lose the focus on employees within the messaging of technology. While she likes how the priority is framed, the original intent was to invest in employees outside of technology, such as through employee development and wellbeing.
- ✓ President Ping confirmed that the proposed budget priorities captured the board's intent.

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

President Tya Ping called executive session to order for the following purposes:

- To conduct deliberations with persons designated by the governing body to carry out labor negotiations,
- 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, and
- To conduct deliberations with persons designated by the governing body to negotiate real property transactions.

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

President Ping 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 Tya Ping on Wednesday, November 10, 2021, at 7 pm.

President Ping requested a moment of silence to recognize the recent loss of Bob Wayt, who served as the district's Director of Communications and Outreach for more than 11 years before his retirement three years ago. Bob passed away unexpectedly on October 29.

- ✓ General Manager Doug Menke offered comments regarding Bob's career with the district, noting that he had many gifts, including a passion for photography. A slide show of some of Bob's photos were shown during the moment of silence.

Agenda Item #4 – Action Resulting from Executive Session

There was no action resulting from executive session.

Agenda Item #5 – Audience Time

Secretary Heidi Edwards read written testimony received, copies of which were entered into the record:

Cynthia Jackson provided testimony regarding the status of the district's swim centers, specifically Aloha Swim Center. She noted that Aloha Swim Center has been closed for nearly 18 months and the district's website has no information regarding a plan to reopen, only stating it is closed until further notice. She has reviewed the minutes from previous Parks & Facilities Advisory Committee meetings and THPRD board meetings that are available on the website and was unable to determine how a decision was made regarding which swim centers would reopen and which would remain closed. She asks how those decisions were made and what the review process is for determining which facilities will continue to remain closed. She also asks if there is a timeline or action plan for reopening facilities.

- ✓ General Manager Doug Menke noted that a written response has been provided to Cynthia detailing the district's fiscal constraints and reduced participation levels. Another operations update will be provided to the board at the December meeting to review the fiscal results of the first quarter.

Nadia Hasan provided testimony regarding the district's Día de los Muertos event held last weekend at Garden Home Recreation Center. She expressed appreciation for the vendors, entertainment, and crafts, noting that it was a great example of the culturally-specific programming needed as we think about how to better meet the needs of our diverse community. Pre-pandemic, members from the Muslim community had wanted to consider a partnership for an Eid Festival in the Park. Our community represents cultures across India, Pakistan, Somalia, Saudi Arabia, Libya and more. While it is unknown what this event may look like today due to the pandemic, she hopes that more events can be planned around various festivals and cultures to show our community that representation matters. She thanked the board for their commitment to equity.

- ✓ Heidi thanked Nadia on behalf of the board for her testimony. She described the board's focus on equity, noting that the board looks forward to partnership opportunities.

Agenda Item #6 – Board Time

A. Committee Liaisons Updates

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

- Although she was unable to attend the most recent Programs & Events Advisory Committee meeting due to technical difficulties, she understands that the committee is focused on membership recruitment.

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

- She will share the PowerPoint used at the most recent Washington County Preschool for All task force meeting. A presentation on this subject is expected for our December board work session.
- Encouraged everyone to learn more about Metro's redistricting efforts underway based on 2020 census information and how it might impact THPRD.

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

- Referenced Tualatin Hills Park Foundation's Help a Senior fundraising campaign in which funds are being raised to help seniors purchase monthly passes for the Elsie Stuhr Center. The Friends of Elsie Stuhr have committed to matching the funds raised up to \$5,000 through November 19.

- Attended the most recent Parks & Facilities Advisory Committee meeting. Topics discussed included membership recruitment and a park bench installation in partnership with an Eagle Scout at Jackie Husen Park.

Heidi Edwards provided the following updates and comments during board time:

- Along with a few fellow board members, she attended a tour of the Patricia Reser Center for the Arts building currently under construction, with Mayor Beaty and Beaverton School District board members.
- The next Fiduciary Committee meeting will be held in early December.

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

- Referenced the joint meeting held between the THPRD Board of Directors and City of Beaverton Council in late October. Discussion topics included parks and open spaces within the city, Metro’s local share projects program, and childcare services.
- There are currently two open positions on the district’s budget committee for which four applications were received. After a brief discussion about the appointment process used in the past for this committee, the board agreed to complete a scoring matrix to determine which candidates to interview. Interviews would be conducted outside of a public meeting by a subcommittee made up of two board members and a budget committee member.

Agenda Item #8 – Unfinished Business

A. Beaverton Creek Regional Trail Segments 3 & 4 Funding

Gery Keck, Design & Development manager, and Rene’ Brucker, park planner, provided an overview of the approved concept plan for the Beaverton Creek Trail Segments 3 & 4 project in central Beaverton via a PowerPoint presentation, a copy of which was entered into the record. Staff is seeking board support to proceed with Phase II of the project. A Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Program – Regional Flexible Funds Allocation (MTIP-RFFA) grant would be the preferred source of funding for the Project Engineering and Construction Phase of the project. However, until this grant is secured, approximately \$1.6 million in undesignated system development charge (SDC) funds are needed to cover the project budget shortfall. If the grant is not awarded, additional grant opportunities would be pursued. If agreed to by the board, staff will return in December with a formal request to reallocate undesignated SDC funds to the Beaverton Creek Trail Segments 3 & 4 project. Gery and Rene’ offered to answer any questions the board may have.

Heidi Edwards inquired whether there is anything the board can do to assist in securing the grant funding.

- ✓ Gery replied that he will ask the district’s grant specialist.

President Ping asked for confirmation that the SDC fund would be reimbursed if the grant is awarded and inquired why the project is over budget.

- ✓ Gery confirmed that it would, minus the matching funds required, and noted that the project is over budget mainly due to the escalation in costs that have occurred over the time it has taken to move through the design process for this project.

Agenda Item #7 – Consent Agenda

Heidi Edwards moved that the board of directors approve consent agenda items (A) Minutes of October 13, 2021 Regular Board Meeting, (B) Monthly Bills, and (C) Monthly Financial Statement. Felicita Monteblanco seconded the motion. Roll call proceeded as follows:

Barbie Minor	Yes
Alfredo Moreno	Yes
Felicita Monteblanco	Yes

Heidi Edwards Yes
Tya Ping Yes
The motion was UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.

Agenda Item #8 – Unfinished Business

B. 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:

- ✓ Safety Services Update
 - Mark Pierce, Safety Services manager, and Angel Ruelas, Safety Services lead, shared a Safety Services program update.

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

Felicita Monteblanco expressed appreciation for the mediation work being done with juveniles.

Agenda Item #9 – New Business

A. Baker Loop Neighborhood Park Concept Plan

Gery Keck, Design & Development manager, and Tim Bonnin, senior park planner, provided a detailed overview of the proposed Baker Loop Neighborhood Park Concept Plan via a PowerPoint presentation, a copy of which was entered into the record. The proposed concept plan fulfills a district goal to deliver a new neighborhood park to an underserved area. The design best reflects the inherent quality of the site and conversations with the community. The estimated project cost of approximately \$2.8 million for the preferred concept plan exceeds the project budget and may require additional system development charge (SDC) funds to complete. Gery and Tim offered to answer any questions the board may have.

Felicita Monteblanco expressed support for exploring the concept of movable picnic tables.

Alfredo Moreno expressed support for the concept plan as proposed, noting that this park will reflect a great investment in this community and that this walkable park will be a gem for the area.

President Ping inquired how many trees will be removed through the development of this site. She appreciates that the design utilizes existing trees in order to provide shade for the play areas as sun protection is a concern for parents.

- ✓ Gery agreed that it is a unique opportunity to be able to design a park utilizing the trees as shade.
- ✓ Tim replied that currently there are about nine trees that will be removed, perhaps a few more along with the removal of the house. They are focused on preserving the larger, high-value trees, and worked with the city on the design of the cul-de-sac in order to curve it away from trees.

Tya asked if the picnic shelters will be large enough to facilitate outdoor programming, such as fitness in the park.

- ✓ Tim replied that Design & Development staff will work with Recreation staff to determine what size of shelters will be most appropriate to accommodate outdoor programming.

Tya referenced the public preference for two smaller shelters rather than one larger shelter, and wondered if the public realized the opportunities for outdoor play and programming that could happen during inclement weather with a larger shelter. She also appreciates the exploration of movable picnic tables.

- ✓ Gery noted that another issue to keep in mind when designing and programming park sites is the parking availability for the area.

Barbie Minor moved that the board of directors approve the preferred concept plan for Baker Loop Neighborhood Park. Heidi Edwards seconded the motion. Roll call proceeded as follows:

Alfredo Moreno	Yes
Felicita Monteblanco	Yes
Heidi Edwards	Yes
Barbie Minor	Yes
Tya Ping	Yes

The motion was UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.

B. Resolution Naming New Neighborhood Parks

Gery Keck, Design & Development manager, and Liana Harden, Engagement & Partnerships specialist, provided an overview of the memo recommending names for the district's two new park sites as included within the board of directors' information packet, via a PowerPoint presentation, a copy of which was entered into the record. Highlights included:

- Names Catalog Development
 - List of names aiming for equity between our communities and our site names
 - Focus on underrepresented communities and experiences
 - Intentional outreach to specific individuals and organizations
 - Engagement through in-depth discussions, historic and photographic archives
 - Honor diverse experiences and identities, and cultivate a sense of welcome
- Naming Process
 - Internal naming committee selected names from names catalog
 - Presented names to management team for input
 - Presented names to community and collected input
 - Presented names and input to Parks & Facilities Advisory Committee
 - Presenting names to board for final approval this evening
- Naming Recommendations
 - Parivār Park (formerly New Park in Highlands area)
 - La Raíz Park (formerly New Park at SW Baker & Lombard)

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

The board members congratulated district staff on this work, as well as the recent Oregon Recreation & Park Association planning award recognizing the district's naming process.

Alfredo Moreno moved that the board of directors approve Resolution No. 2021-15, naming two new park sites as Parivār Park and La Raíz Park. Felicita Monteblanco seconded the motion. Roll call proceeded as follows:

Barbie Minor	Yes
Heidi Edwards	Yes
Felicita Monteblanco	Yes
Alfredo Moreno	Yes
Tya Ping	Yes

The motion was UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.

Agenda Item #10 – Adjourn

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:15 pm.

Tya Ping, President

Heidi Edwards, Secretary

Recording Secretary,
Jessica Collins