



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, February 9, 2022. Executive Session 5:15 pm; Regular Meeting 7 pm.

Present:

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

Agenda Item #1 – 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 conduct deliberations with persons designated by the governing body to negotiate real property transactions;
- To consider information or records that are exempt by law from public inspection; 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)(d)(e)(f) 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 #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 Tya Ping on Wednesday, February 9, 2022, at 7 pm.

Agenda Item #3 – Action Resulting from Executive Session

Felicita Monteblanco moved that the board of directors authorize the acquisition of a trail easement in the northwest quadrant of the district for consideration discussed in executive session, subject to the standard due diligence review and approval by the general manager. Heidi Edwards seconded the motion. Roll call proceeded as follows:

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

The motion was UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.

Agenda Item #4 – Proclamation: Black History Month

The board members read into the record a proclamation declaring the month of February as Black History Month.

Agenda Item #5 – Audience Time

There was no testimony during Audience Time.

Agenda Item #6 – Board Time

A. Review Parking Lot Items

President Ping opened the floor for discussion regarding the board's "Parking Lot" provided this evening as a handout, a copy of which was entered into the record. The Parking Lot is a list of ideas or suggestions that board members would like to be further considered. Currently, there are ten items in the Parking Lot:

- Child care/afterschool programming expansion
- More pickleball lines
- Permanent moveable pickleball courts
- Trial Spanish-only preschool kid activity/class
- More trees in open spaces
- Child care for all
- Board support of Beaverton School District bond measure
- Explore building and development code changes to support environmental protections
- Explore ways to amplify/support the Crown Act
- Bee City

General Manager Doug Menke provided background information regarding the Parking Lot process, noting that staff is seeking whether there is a board consensus to further evaluate any of the items submitted. If so, district staff would return to the board at a future date with additional information, after which the board would determine whether to move forward with the concept based on the staff research and recommendation, including how the concept can be accommodated financially if a budgetary impact exists.

Board discussion occurred on each Parking Lot submission as follows:

Child care/afterschool programming expansion

- ✓ General Manager Doug Menke noted that this topic is an active discussion item with the City of Beaverton, Washington County and Beaverton School District. The concept is moving forward, and updates will be provided to the board as they become available.

More pickleball lines & permanent moveable pickleball courts

- ✓ President Ping provided information regarding this submission, noting that she would like to see more pickleball lines drawn on our existing tennis courts as well as more moveable pickleball nets, like what used to be provided at the multi-sport court at Cedar Hills Park. She has noticed that the only people using the Cedar Hills Park sport court for pickleball are those who can afford to purchase their own nets, creating an access issue.
- ✓ General Manager Doug Menke replied that district staff would be happy to research these suggestions further and described issues with the pickleball nets going missing.

Trial Spanish-only preschool kid activity/class

- ✓ President Ping provided information regarding this submission, noting that as the district begins to rebuild its programming after the pandemic, she would like to see an opportunity for Spanish-only programming, such as introductory art or music classes, in order to increase the diversity of our staff as well as to provide more opportunities for the community. Classes could be marketed at Centro de Bienvenida to gauge interest and grow the programming from there.
- ✓ Alfredo Moreno stated that he is fully supportive of increasing the district's program offerings that result in more community members using our services and providing an access point to all the district has to offer. He wonders how we would consider marketing these programs, especially if they are culturally specific, and how to ensure that the types of programs being offered are the types of programs that are desired.

- ✓ Heidi Edwards described the concept of partnering with culturally specific organizations in hosting programs at their locations, with THPRD going out to the community versus expecting them to come to us. This could also potentially encourage participants to eventually engage more with the district at district facilities.

More trees in open spaces

- ✓ President Ping provided information regarding this submission, noting that the district has some open spaces that seem not to be readily used that could accommodate more trees, such as around the splash pads at Cedar Hills Park and Timberland. Planting more trees has many benefits, including environmental and offering shade to park users.

Child care for all

- ✓ Barbie Minor noted that this is her submission and that it is sufficiently addressed via the first item: Child care/afterschool programming expansion.

Board support of Beaverton School District bond measure

- ✓ Barbie provided information regarding this submission, noting that the Beaverton School District is expected to have a bond measure before voters at the May election. She would like the board to consider endorsing this measure as the school district is a great partner to THPRD and our service areas overlap.
- ✓ General Manager Doug Menke explained that if there is a consensus of the board, this item can be easily managed. He noted that, as a public agency, it is the board's prerogative whether to support and endorse a measure, but public resources cannot be used in the process. He suggested that the board reach out to the appropriate party to secure a template of endorsement for placement on the board's next consent agenda.

Explore building and development code changes to support environmental protections

- ✓ Barbie provided information regarding this submission, and referenced the public testimony received by the board at their January meeting regarding a gas station development proposed adjacent to THPRD's Rock Creek Greenway. She noted that although this project appears to be adhering to current codes, she questions whether the codes in their current form are the best for the environment and asks if this is an area the board would like to advocate for code changes in relation to additional environmental protections.
- ✓ General Manager Doug Menke commented that this could be addressed statewide as well as locally through the county. He requested the opportunity for district staff to further evaluate what the process might look like and the staff resources that would be needed.
- ✓ Alfredo noted that before the district begins advocating for code changes, he would like to better understand the opinion of the community at-large for that area regarding a new gas station. President Ping clarified that a code change wouldn't be specific to this location only, it would apply everywhere. Alfredo agreed, adding that he wants to ensure that the district wouldn't be going into this process in order to address only one specific area.
- ✓ President Ping questioned whether THPRD should be the organization spearheading these types of changes versus playing a supportive role for changes under consideration.

Explore ways to amplify/support the Crown Act

- ✓ Barbie provided information regarding this submission, noting that the Crown Act is a national movement to regulate racially-based hair discrimination. Nineteen states have signed on, including Oregon. She would like to better understand whether the district can be more explicit in our hiring and recruiting practices in letting the community know that THPRD won't discriminate based on hair style.
- ✓ General Manager Doug Menke noted that district staff would be happy to report back to the board regarding our current practices and protections in this area.

- ✓ Felicita Monteblanco commented that she is interested in hearing what the district is doing now in order to be in compliance, and exploring whether there is more to be done in reflection of the district's values.

Bee City

- ✓ Barbie provided information regarding this submission, noting that although she doesn't know the extent of work that this designation would require, she would like to explore how the district can become more active in supporting pollinators, such as through the support of legislation limiting pesticide use and/or other protections.
- ✓ General Manager Doug Menke noted that district staff would be happy to report back to the board regarding our current efforts in supporting pollinators and learning whether more is desired by the board.

Felicita observed that many of these submissions appear to be policy issues and she wonders if they could be addressed collectively through allocating more resources toward the district's legislative efforts. For example, as legislative issues arise that speak to the district's values, additional resources could empower the district's lobbyists to draft and submit letters on the board's behalf and to be more proactive in general. This board is very engaged and has room to grow in the ways it can support its community and broaden its reach through legislative efforts. Securing the American Rescue Plan Act funds this past year was a great example of the results of such efforts.

- ✓ General Manager Doug Menke noted that if this is of interest to the board, district staff can explore what additional resources might be warranted.
- ✓ Barbie expressed agreement, noting that this is an insightful way to actualize the district's ability to more directly speak into policy and engage at the upstream level.

Heidi commented that some of these submissions could also fall under the purview of our advisory committees and she wonders if those committees might be a good resource to further research and vet some of these ideas. The committees also have grant funds available to them that could be a resource for improvements such as those related to pickleball.

- ✓ General Manager Doug Menke expressed agreement, noting that if it is the consensus of the board, the committees' feedback could be part of the information brought back to the board. He also referenced a discussion with President Ping regarding a proposed work session on the topic of park development that would provide a detailed overview of the process and all of the steps the district goes through to get from vacant land to developed park site. This work session could help inform several of these submissions.

Heidi referenced previous discussions by the Nature & Trails Advisory Committee on the topic of pollinators and what recommendations that committee may have for the district.

General Manager Doug Menke commented that there is already work being done in a lot of these areas and reporting that information back to the board will be helpful. A program development work session would also be helpful, as would a work session on code changes. After this additional, in-depth information has been provided, the board can then start targeting in on the specific focus areas to further pursue.

B. Committee Liaisons Updates

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

- Recently visited Tualatin Hills Nature Park and observed the ongoing Clean Water Services sewer project taking place in the park. The signage was informative, and the area was kept as clear as possible. She thanked the district staff involved in this project.

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

- Attended the most recent Programs & Events Advisory Committee meeting, during which the committee welcomed its newest members and received updates on the topics of

preschool and child care programming and the district's financial aid policy. The committee will be discussing summer programming and events next.

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

- Attended the most recent Nature & Trails Advisory Committee meeting, during which the committee welcomed its newest members. The committee will be discussing its goals at their next meeting.
- Forwarded the latest Preschool for All PowerPoint presentation to the board members for their information and review.

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

- Expressed gratitude for the work of Eileen Kravetz, Executive Director for the Tualatin Hills Park Foundation.

Agenda Item #7 – Consent Agenda

Barbie Minor moved that the board of directors approve consent agenda items (A) Minutes of January 12, 2022 Regular Board Meeting, (B) Monthly Bills, (C) Monthly Financial Statement, (D) Addendum to the Employment Agreement for the District General Manager, and (E) Resolution Authorizing Application to Local Government Grant Program. 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.

Agenda Item #8 – Unfinished Business

A. 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:

- Financial Aid Policy
 - Juan Caez, financial aid specialist, shared recent updates the district has made to the financial aid policy, 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 expressed appreciation for this work and thanked Juan for the informative presentation.

Agenda Item #9 – New Business

A. 2022 Legislative Platform & Update

Aisha Panas, Park Services director, provided a brief update regarding the district's efforts in securing American Rescue Plan Act funding for three permanent restroom structures, noting that the paperwork has been submitted and the grant funds are anticipated soon. She introduced Kylie Grunow, state legislative consultant for the district, to provide an overview of the district's topic areas for the 2022 legislative short session via a PowerPoint presentation, a copy of which was entered into the record, and which included the following position statements proposed to guide the district's advocacy efforts:

- Local Agency Control & Authority
 - Maintain local agency control and authority to implement statewide policies within the context of agency and community needs.

- Request careful consideration of the full impact of mandates on park and recreation agencies and services, especially unfunded mandates.
- Systems Development Charges (SDCs)
 - THPRD proactively seeks to address our region's need for affordable housing through locally-designed efforts that apply to all cost impacts.
 - Building upon tools and policies developed by THPRD, maintain local agency autonomy on policy decisions regarding local SDC resources.
 - Preserve ability to utilize SDCs to ensure that new growth is financially self-sustaining.
 - Support efforts to secure state funding of infrastructure.
- COVID-19 Relief
 - Ensure that special districts, like THPRD, can participate in federal funding opportunities related to COVID-19.
 - Underscore the critical need for financial relief to special districts that have experienced unforeseen expenditures, decrease in revenue, or both, as a result of the COVID-19 health crisis.
- Funding
 - State and federal funding to support THPRD efforts to deliver child care and preschool programs.
 - State funding for parks & recreation and trails, including the preservation and enhancement of funding levels for Local Government Grant, state parks & recreation department, and other programs; as well as prioritizing parks & recreation in funding decisions by Connect Oregon and maintain ownership of decision-making.
 - Federal funding opportunities available through the Infrastructure Investment & Jobs Act and for climate resilience planning.

Kylie also provided a high-level overview of bills, themes, and trends observed during the first days of the short session, and offered to answer any questions the board may have.

Felicita Montebianco referenced the legislator meet-and-greet hosted by the district a few years ago and suggested that consideration be given to hosting another such event later this year in order to continue building these relationships prior to next year's long session. She may wish to add this concept to the board's Parking Lot.

Felicita asked if there are opportunities for the district within the Governor's workforce plan.

- ✓ Kylie replied that she will provide some additional information on this topic within the bill report that will be forwarded to the board after this evening's meeting.

Heidi Edwards referenced the potential for THPRD to benefit from increased funding of AmeriCorps in Oregon in further instituting our internships and volunteer services. She volunteered to assist in seeking out and evaluating these opportunities.

- ✓ Kylie replied that this is helpful information and that she appreciates any leads from the board and staff regarding potential funding resources for her to look into.

Felicita inquired about the timelines and steps to consider should the board wish to do something more proactive for next year's long session.

- ✓ Kylie replied that the deadline for bill concepts to be given to the legislative council to draft is generally sometime in mid-November. There are legislative days in September that provide a good opportunity for informational sessions to present the issue. If there is particular legislation or an idea that the board wishes to work on proactively, discussions should begin after the short session concludes in order to put a strong proposal together and secure partners over the summer. The concept would then be shopped to our legislators in order to head into September with a strong, fairly well-drafted proposal.

President Ping thanked Aisha and Kylie for their work in this area and the informative presentation.

B. Sport Court at Mountain View Champions Park Concept Plan

Gery Keck, Design & Development manager, and Matt Kilmartin, park planner, provided a detailed overview of the proposed concept plan for a sport court at Mountain View Champions Park, via a PowerPoint presentation, a copy of which was entered into the record. In November 2017, the district completed the Mountain View Champions Park bond project. However, in June 2015 and March 2017, the district had acquired two additional properties located directly adjacent to the park for future expansion. In October 2018, the board approved the use of SW Quadrant Youth Athletic Field bond project funds to develop a multi-purpose sport court at Mountain View Champions Park on the newly acquired properties. A public engagement process led to the preferred concept plan being presented for approval this evening that best reflects the inherent quality of the site and input from the community. Gery and Matt offered to answer any questions the board may have.

Felicita Monteblanco expressed support for this project and asked for additional information regarding the expansion opportunities mentioned.

- ✓ Matt described the potential expansion opportunities to the east for additional courts, and to the south for additional parking, including opportunities to improve the traffic flow.

Felicita commented that she appreciates the parking considerations being given to this expansion as this is a heavily-used site. She also appreciates the community outreach that was conducted.

Alfredo Moreno moved that the board of directors approve the preferred concept plan for the Multi-Purpose Sport Court at Mountain View Champions Park bond improvement project. Heidi Edwards seconded the motion. Roll call proceeded as follows:

Barbie Minor	Yes
Felicita Monteblanco	Yes
Heidi Edwards	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 8:20 pm.

Tya Ping, President

Heidi Edwards, Secretary

Recording Secretary,
Jessica Collins