



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, October 13, 2021. Board Retreat 4 pm; Executive Session 6:30 pm; Regular Meeting 7 pm.

Present:

Tya Ping	President/Director
Heidi Edwards	Secretary/Director
Felicita Montebianco	Director
Alfredo Moreno	Director
Doug Menke	General Manager

Absent:

Barbie Minor	Secretary Pro-Tempore/Director
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Agenda Item #1 – Board Retreat

A Retreat of the Tualatin Hills Park & Recreation District Board of Directors was called to order by President Tya Ping on Wednesday, October 13, 2021 at 4 pm.

General Manager Doug Menke introduced facilitator, Thomas Bruner, with Bruner Strategies, as well as the district staff in attendance this evening.

A. District Updates

Aisha Panas, Park Services director, provided a detailed overview of the current state of the district via a PowerPoint presentation, a copy of which was entered into the record, and which included the following topic areas:

- Operations Update
 - Budget Overview
 - Spending Plan Observations
 - Staffing
 - Facility Reopening Schedule
- Long Range Planning Update
 - Comprehensive Plan
 - Strategic Plan
 - CAPRA

Holly Thompson, Communications director, provided a detailed overview of the accomplishments of the district over the past year via a PowerPoint presentation, a copy of which was entered into the record, and which included the following highlights:

- Resilient Programming & Shifting Services
- Community Engagement & Partnerships
- Park & Trail Construction
- Trails & Natural Area Improvements
- Building Internal Capacity
- Leading with Our Values

Thomas opened a discussion regarding what the board's proudest accomplishments are over the past year, either on behalf of the district as a whole or as board members. Comments included:

- District staff innovation, perseverance, and teamwork through such a difficult time. Thank you Team THPRD!
- Continued growth and intentionality in the district's community engagement efforts.
- The district's work in supporting affordable housing for the community.
- Enduring and even thriving during such a challenging time in the district's history.
- Completion of the district's Vision Action Plan and how this document will help the district rebuild from the pandemic in the right ways as outlined by the community it serves.
- The board's legislative work and outreach to secure American Rescue Plan Act funds.
- Providing support and clear direction to district staff through the board's commitment to its stated values and budget priorities.

Thomas opened the floor to discussion regarding the board's Parking Lot and Decision-Making Tool intended to be used as a mechanism by which to thoughtfully evaluate ideas, suggestions, requests and opportunities identified by both the board and staff in an equitable and transparent manner.

General Manager Doug Menke proposed an expansion of the district's child care services program for evaluation via the decision-making tool, which could then be brought back to the board for additional discussion at their December meeting. The possibility to leverage funding from partner agencies presents a unique opportunity that warrants further exploration.

- ✓ The board expressed agreement, including comments regarding the importance of having adequate child care available for the community and district (in retaining district staff) and the potential to leverage our partnerships, while also being mindful of district staff workloads.

B. Board Values

Thomas referenced the three core values reaffirmed by the board at their retreat last year: Equity, Sustainability and Community Vision. He noted that organizational values typically shouldn't change year-to-year and should be able to withstand budget cycles, as well as board and staff member transitions; their value is in their consistency over time.

Thomas opened the floor to discussion regarding the board's core values and whether the board wishes to reaffirm these values once again or discuss new/updated values. Discussion followed:

- Felicita Monteblanco proposed that the value of Equity be further specified as Racial Equity, noting that all of the decisions the district has made over the last year show that this is the board's value, and that the district leads with race and a commitment to addressing racial inequities.
- Alfredo Moreno asked how this change would impact our Access for All program and equity for those experiencing disability. Felicita replied that it is not an either/or situation, but that disparities based on race are the most imbedded in our history. She also hopes that the board can begin to focus past access, to disability justice, and that all of these are well-aligned. A focus on racial justice would benefit all who are marginalized.
- Heidi Edwards agreed that while it is important to specify Racial Equity, she also does not want to lose focus on other equity areas. She wonders if there is a way to further articulate this value.
- President Ping indicated that while she agrees with Racial Equity as a focus area, she also likes the broadness in using the term simply as Equity for the purpose of their values as it helps the community understand and also gives staff the space to focus on equity for a broad variety of populations.
- Alfredo noted that while he supports the proposal and is wary of organizations that use broad terms as their values, he also recognizes that the use of more narrow terms can impede flexibility and lead to having too long a list of values.

- Felicita encouraged continued dialogue on this in the future, noting that values help staff make choices and set the tone of the organization, which is worthy of additional discussion in the future.
- Tya suggested that this may be a better fit as a budget priority. Changing the board's value to focus only on race could marginalize groups that already feel marginalized and to not be reflected in the district's values doesn't send the right message in her opinion.
- General Manager Doug Menke noted that when the board's value of Equity is referenced or discussed, such as within the district's budget document, it is always stated as "Equity, with an emphasis on racial equity." This creates focus, but doesn't leave behind other groups. Felicita expressed agreement that leading with race has been exemplified in the district's recent efforts.
- Heidi referred to the district's newly updated Equity & Inclusion Statement noting that it leads with systemic racism. She feels that the district has a responsibility to provide equitable services and opportunity beyond only race. She thanked Felicita for her leadership in this area, noting that these conversations are necessary and valuable.
- Thomas concluded that while there appears to be interest in the suggestion and for continued discussion, there does not seem to be a consensus for updating the value at this time.

Thomas referenced the board's value of Sustainability and inquired whether there are any board comments or feedback. Discussion followed:

- Heidi commented that she struggles with this value as the term Sustainability can refer to so many different areas. Is there a means by which to further articulate this value?
- Alfredo noted that, while broad and somewhat bland, he feels that the intent is understood, but would be willing to revisit it.
- Discussion occurred regarding what the board's true intent is behind using the term Sustainability as a value (environmental, financial, etc.) and the past board discussion that led to identifying this term as a value. Thomas recalled that the context under which it was championed was more environmental sustainability and less institutional sustainability, but that it may have evolved to be more inclusive of institutional sustainability. Doug read from the district's budget document, which defined Sustainability as our "daily responsibility to be good stewards of our resources. The incorporation of environmental and financial sustainability principles includes: using resources and materials wisely, respecting and conserving natural systems and educating ourselves and our patrons."
- Heidi noted that the same question comes to mind as in the previous discussion regarding the value of Equity in that it can mean so many things and there are many layers.
- Tya expressed support for further defining this value as environmental sustainability in order to be more future-forward and innovative, as well as to offer clarity for staff. Felicita expressed agreement.
- Heidi added that while environmental sustainability is important, so is fiscal sustainability, as has been clearly shown through the pandemic. She does not want to lose sight of this.
- Alfredo commented that he would support narrowing this value to environmental sustainability, noting that the values of environmental and financial sustainability may not always neatly overlap in that it may, at times, be more financially sustainable not to be environmentally sustainable. They could be opposing values depending on circumstance.
- Tya reiterated her support for narrowing the focus of this value to environmental sustainability, noting that she would like to see a stronger focus on this area for the district in everything we do, and for environmental stewardship to be one of the first things staff thinks about.
- Discussion occurred regarding the terminology to use for this value, with a suggestion that perhaps Environmental Stewardship is a better fit than Environmental Sustainability. The board members expressed agreement with this suggestion.

- Thomas concluded that there appears to be board consensus for updating the value of Sustainability to Environmental Stewardship.

Thomas referenced the board's value of Community Vision and inquired whether there are any board comments or feedback. The board members agreed to retain the value of Community Vision as-is.

The board confirmed Equity, Environmental Stewardship, and Community Vision as their core values.

C. FY 2022/23 Budget Priorities

Thomas referenced the three budget priorities for FY 2021/22 that the board identified at their retreat last year:

- *Investing in our Future through Technology* includes improvements that will enable us to operate more efficiently, and provide programs and services more effectively and equitably.
- *Planning for Future Natural Areas, Facility and Trail Needs, and Funding Resources* includes investments that will expedite the development and financial sustainability of parks, trails and other facilities.
- *Investing in our Employees and Volunteers* includes ensuring robust learning and development, internal and external training, succession planning, and consideration of space needs.

Thomas opened the floor to discussion regarding development of the board's budget priorities for FY 2022/23.

The board members discussed whether the board wishes to reaffirm the same budget priorities or consider updated priorities. Comments and board discussion included:

- How to reflect within the budget priorities the district's continued recovery from the pandemic. Thomas explained that budget priorities are not intended to remove focus from other areas; their intent is that as the board evaluates how to allocate resources, the budget priorities will be an important lens through which the board looks. However, they do not oblige the board.
- Tya commented that she supports the first and third priorities as-is, but feels that the second priority needs to be expanded as it is currently entirely focused on land acquisition and physical amenities. She would like to see it have a reference to investing in community needs, such as more programming, financial aid, and the various community-building free events that have taken place over the past year that have done such a great job in bringing the community together.
- Alfredo expressed agreement with keeping the first and third priorities as-is. He noted that the second priority is more future-focused and that it may be more appropriate at this time to have a short-term-focused goal regarding the needs of the community. He agreed with Tya's comments in that he, too, greatly values the district's role as a community builder. Additionally, he would like to see centering racial equity within the priorities.
- Felicita commented that she is comfortable with the three priorities stated as-is, as she has seen how they have shown up within the district's budget over the past two years in ways that make her proud and excited. But, she also agrees with Tya's comments in that the district is in a unique time period right now that while we need to think about the future, we also need to think about the immediate needs, as well.
- Discussion occurred regarding whether the second priority should be replaced, expanded upon, or a fourth priority added. Thomas provided background information regarding the development of the second priority, noting that the intent behind it was in relation to physical assets such as parks, trails and natural areas.

- Discussion moved to the first priority and whether it is still needed or could be expanded upon to include a community needs focus. Thomas encouraged the board to be mindful of keeping concise and clear priorities rather than expanding priorities to include multiple focus areas. The more the board expands existing priorities or adds additional priorities, the less practical guidance is given to staff. The value of the priorities is in their specificity and focus, and as a lens. It does not mean that only these focus areas will be funded.
- Heidi noted that she supports moving forward without the addition of a priority related to community programming as this is already a main focus area for which the district excels. She expressed concern with adding a fourth priority due to staff workload constraints.
- Alfredo noted that while he agrees with a limit of three priorities, the focus area that speaks to him the most is a continued emphasis on community building programming.
- Tya added that while staff already does a great job in using system development charge funds for the acquisition of physical assets, she believes that more space needs to be given via a budget focus in order to enable the district's work on racial equity, community building, and child care.
- Felicita expressed agreement with Heidi's comments, noting that the current priorities are strategic and that funds are needed to be set aside. She also agrees that having four priorities is not an option.
- General Manager Doug Menke commented that both planning for the future and community building are going to happen regardless of whether they are budget priorities. The second priority as-is pertains to the district's future planning efforts which are already well underway and critical in helping guide the district. While the focus on community building has enabled the district to reach a much greater depth in our connections with the community. He is comfortable with the three priorities as-is with the acknowledgment that the board will see a continued emphasis on community building programming.
- Heidi described how she sees her role as a board member in preparing and guiding the district into the future, which the second priority speaks to as-is. Tya replied that the budget priorities are for FY 2022/23 though, and that while system development charge funds can only be used for physical amenities, the district's general fund dollars have much more flexibility. She would like the focus this year to be on community building and less on land acquisition/development. She also believes that having a dedicated budget priority to community building better reflects the board's values.
- Thomas observed that there appears to be a two/two split of opinion regarding the second budget priority. After discussion regarding next steps, the board agreed to table this discussion to the board's November meeting in order to enable a full board discussion considering that board member Barbie Minor is absent this evening.

Thomas applauded the board's thoughtful conversation and recapped the conclusion of this evening's retreat as:

- The board has confirmed Equity, Environmental Stewardship, and Community Vision as their core values.
- The board has reaffirmed the first and third budget priorities (Investing in our Future through Technology and Investing in our Employees and Volunteers) for FY 2022/23.
- The board will reconvene on the second budget priority (Planning for Future Natural Areas, Facility and Trail Needs, and Funding Resources) at its November meeting.
 - ✓ The board expressed agreement and thanked Thomas for his facilitation services this evening.

Agenda Item #2 – Executive Session (A) Land

President Tya Ping called executive session to order 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)(e).

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, October 13, 2021, at 7 pm.

Agenda Item #4 – Action Resulting from Executive Session

There was no action resulting from executive session.

Agenda Item #5 – National Native American Heritage Month & Indigenous Peoples' Day

The board members read into the record a proclamation declaring October as National Native American Heritage Month and the Second Monday in October as Indigenous Peoples' Day.

Agenda Item #6 – Presentations

A. Visioning Task Force & National IAP2 Core Values Award Recognition

General Manager Doug Menke introduced Holly Thompson, Communications director, and Jaspreet Chahal, community engagement specialist, to recognize the district's recent awards from the International Association of Public Participation (IAP2) USA Chapter.

Holly introduced the Visioning Task Force members in attendance this evening, and she and Jaspreet provided a brief PowerPoint presentation recognizing the work of the task force, which has been honored with two national IAP2 awards: the Public Involvement Project of the Year in the United States and the Core Values Award for Respect for Diversity, Inclusion, and Culture. Projects are evaluated by a panel of professionals in public involvement from throughout the U.S. As the winning project from the United States, THPRD will now advance to the international competition.

Visioning Task Force members Holly Van Houten and Shreya Jain commented on their experiences serving on the task force, and the opportunities it provided in serving their community. They described the uniqueness of this particular outreach process and the overarching goal of inclusive participation. They thanked the board members and district staff for their support throughout.

The board congratulated the Visioning Task Force members and district staff on this great honor, and commented on its testament to the power of community volunteers. Reference was made to the board's recommitment that took place earlier this evening to continue their work around the Vision Action Plan. Additional comments included how the process served to build connections and goodwill with the community, as well as establish a baseline for what is most important to the community as the district begins to rebuild from the pandemic.

B. Metro Parks & Nature Levy Renewal

General Manager Doug Menke introduced Metro Councilor Juan Carlos González and Jonathan Blasher, Metro's director of parks and nature, to provide information regarding Metro's potential Parks and Nature levy renewal.

Councilor González and Jonathan provided a detailed PowerPoint presentation, a copy of which was entered into the record, about Metro's Parks and Nature levy, which the council is considering asking voters to renew in 2022, making the funding available for five additional years. Councilor González and Jonathan offered to answer any questions the board may have.

President Ping thanked Councilor González and Jonathan for the informative presentation and commented on the value of the district's partnership with Metro.

Felicita Monteblanco commented that while THPRD and Metro share the same values, she is concerned about the potential for ballot measure fatigue and although this would be a request for a renewal, she would like to see some conversations take place regarding what measures will be put before the community in the near future with the acknowledgement that people are hurting. She is excited about Metro's focus on climate change and climate resiliency and is grateful for its partnership with THPRD.

- ✓ Jonathan spoke to the issue of voter fatigue and Metro's desire to be thoughtful in this process. He offered to share with the board some of the information received through their latest polling efforts.

General Manager Doug Menke noted that while the 2019 parks and nature bond effort has taken some time to launch, Metro is doing it differently this time, including specifically calling out language in the bond measure title ensuring that marginalized communities are appropriately addressed. That type of change takes time.

- ✓ Councilor González thanked Doug for his comments and agreed that doing things differently, but correctly, takes time and that they are also designing a few new program areas to deepen the impact of the bond. He hopes to have an update available for the board in the near future regarding the allocation process for the bond measure funds. He described the polling efforts that have taken place for the levy renewal, noting that they requested an oversample for voters of color as they acknowledge that traditional polling practices tend to leave out some voices. They saw some fascinating divergences in the polling and the answers people gave regarding how important parks and trails have been during the pandemic. Metro will be doing additional outreach leading up to the levy renewal request and would appreciate the assistance of THPRD in these efforts.
- ✓ Jonathan also thanked Doug and district staff for being active, fantastic partners with Metro, especially Doug in working to build connections with other park providers and jurisdictions regionwide. He is appreciative of having such a great partner as Metro works toward such big changes and revolutionizing how it provides these services to communities, while also looking at targeted universalism and catching those who have been left out of these processes in the past.

Agenda Item #7 – Audience Time

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

Wendy Kroger provided testimony encouraging completion of the Cooper Mountain Regional Park (CMRP) by adding an additional 250+ acres to the current park as envisioned in three separate Metro bond measures. CMRP completion has been promised, but not yet delivered. She noted that proximity is key to both equity and access. The area around CMRP is the last available land to create a large regional park closest to our diverse population centers. The City of Beaverton counts on the Cooper Mountain area to meet city-wide density standards and enhance affordable housing. A fully developed CMRP will serve many more diverse populations than Chehalem Ridge farther west. The public looks to THPRD as a community leader to protect, preserve, and enhance our remaining natural areas and reduce impacts of climate change. The effort to complete CMRP has been going on for 20 years and she asks how it can be done differently to enable success. The slow pace of implementing projects on the west side using 2019 Metro bond funds is worrisome. As time passes, new elected local officials come on board and there's no reason to assume they understand the longstanding public desire to complete CMRP as a natural area. While she understands the concept of "willing seller," she also understands that much work can be done to understand parameters/challenges/parties prior to an

actual purchase. When a willing seller comes forward, we (the public) need to be ready with cash in hand. This is a complex project requiring sophisticated conservation work done by an expert. She requests the following actions from THPRD:

1. Show public support for completion/expansion of CMRP to meet the 20-year vision of a large (450+ acre) nature park on Cooper Mountain.
2. Meet soon with Metro and City of Beaverton representatives to address next steps.
3. Secure purchase money and money to begin the process via identified line items within the budget.
4. Consider engaging an expert/consultant to take the lead in this complex project, working with multiple jurisdictions, financial backers, landowners, and the public. Part time attention has not worked.

Along with the written testimony in full, three attachments were also entered into the record: A Vision for South Cooper Mountain (SCM), a resolution by the THPRD Board of Directors in support of Metro Measure 26-203, and a map of the area referenced.

General Manager Doug Menke commented that a meeting with Metro and the City of Beaverton is in the process of being organized, noting that as these refinement programs continue, including the community planning process being led by the City of Beaverton, it is going to be critical to adequately protect attention to this effort of growing the parklands base in the greater Cooper Mountain area.

Agenda Item #8 – Board Time

A. Committee Liaisons Updates

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

- A work conflict kept her from attending the entire Audit Committee meeting, but she caught up with Courtney Wilton, interim Finance director, at the end. She provided an updated schedule of the audit proceedings, noting that the presentation of the audit report to the Audit Committee is anticipated for late December.
- Attended the most recent Fiduciary Committee meeting and appreciates the leadership of Christine Hoffmann, Human Resources director, as the committee's new chair, as well as the representation on the committee by the employee association.
- Represented THPRD at the National Honor Society Induction Ceremony at Mountainside High School. The honor students will be working on at least one volunteer project with THPRD.
- Attended the Tualatin Hills Park Foundation annual meeting, noting that it was a great event at Mountain View Champions Park.

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

- Also attended the Tualatin Hills Park Foundation annual meeting, and described the foundation's Help a Senior campaign in which funds are being raised for financial assistance to help 200 seniors purchase monthly passes for the Elsie Stuhr Center. He referenced the foundation's reoccurring donation program of which he is now a participant.

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

- Attended the most recent Nature & Trails Advisory Committee meeting during which topics of discussion included native species and committee member recruitment.
- Had a schedule conflict for the latest Washington County Preschool for All task force meeting. Once she has the meeting notes, she will share them with the board.
- She is looking forward to attending tomorrow evening's Talking Walls review committee meeting.

Agenda Item #9 – Consent Agenda

Alfredo Moreno moved that the board of directors approve consent agenda items (A) Minutes of September 8, 2021 Regular Board Meeting, (B) Monthly Bills, (C) Monthly Financial Statement, and (D) Intergovernmental Agreement with City of Beaverton and Beaverton Urban Redevelopment Agency for Downtown Beaverton Parks and Open Space Framework Plan. Heidi Edwards seconded the motion. Roll call proceeded as follows:

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

The motion was UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.

Agenda Item #10 – Unfinished Business

A. 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:

- Sports Affiliation Review Process
 - Julie Rocha, Interim Sports & Inclusion Services director, provided an update regarding the Affiliate Review Process discussions, feedback and expected next steps from the stakeholder workgroup. She noted that the recommendations are anticipated to come before the board for review in February or March 2022.
- Volunteer Program Update
 - Melissa Marcum, Volunteer Services specialist, presented the President’s Volunteer Service Award to one of our RISE Youth Leaders, Akshaya Arun. Melissa also provided an update on a partnership THPRD is cultivating with City of Beaverton to provide Little Free Libraries at four district sites.

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

Sports Affiliation Review Process

Felicita Monteblanco inquired if the outreach will be focused on the leadership of the affiliated groups, or if the district also wants to hear from parents, participants, and others.

- ✓ Julie replied that while there will be meetings geared specifically toward the leadership of the affiliated groups, there will also be a public meeting open to anyone, which is tentatively scheduled for November 16, 2021. Staff will be reaching out to any groups who have been seeking affiliate status during this time to invite them to that meeting.

President Ping asked whether the outreach will include groups that don’t necessarily want to affiliate with the district, but would still like to secure usage time occasionally.

- ✓ Julie confirmed this, noting that they have a running list of groups like this that they will invite to the public meeting, as well as follow the district’s broader public notification and outreach process working with Communications.

Volunteer Program Update

The board members congratulated Akshaya on receiving the President’s Volunteer Services Award and thanked her for her service to the district and community.

Agenda Item #11 – Adjourn

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:05 pm.

Tya Ping, President

Heidi Edwards, Secretary

Recording Secretary,
Jessica Collins