



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, March 13, 2024, at the Tualatin Valley Water District Headquarters, 1850 SW 170th Avenue, Beaverton, Oregon. Executive Session 5:45 pm; Regular Meeting 6:00 pm.

Present:

Alfredo Moreno	President/Director
Barbie Minor	Secretary/Director
Felicita Monteblanco	Director
Miles Palacios	Director
Doug Menke	General Manager

Absent:

Tya Ping	Secretary Pro-Tempore/Director
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Agenda Item #1 – Executive Session (A) Land

President Alfredo Moreno 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 Moreno noted that the news media and designated staff may attend executive session. Representatives of the news media were directed not to disclose information discussed during executive session. No final action or final decision may be made in executive session.

Agenda Item #2 – Call Regular Meeting to Order

A Regular Meeting of the Tualatin Hills Park & Recreation District Board of Directors was called to order by President Alfredo Moreno on Wednesday, March 13, 2024, at 6:00 pm.

Agenda Item #3 – Action Resulting from Executive Session

There was no action resulting from Executive Session.

Agenda Item #4 – Proclamations

A. National Developmental Disabilities Month

The board members read into the record a proclamation declaring March as National Developmental Disabilities Month.

B. Women’s History Month

The board members read into the record a proclamation declaring March as Women’s History Month.

President Moreno provided a brief overview of some activities and events THPRD is hosting in honor of National Developmental Disabilities Month and Women’s History Month. Board members Minor and Monteblanco also provided comments recognizing THPRD founder, Elsie Stuhr, in honor of Women’s History Month.

Agenda Item #5 – Audience Time

President Moreno welcomed those in attendance this evening for the purpose of providing public testimony.

Members of the West Slope Neighborhood Association Committee (NAC) provided the following testimony regarding naming the new Neighborhood Park at SW Pointer Road. Written testimony was also submitted, a copy of which was entered into the record.

Joe Whittington, 7840 SW Walnut Lane, Portland, shared a detailed overview of the history of the SW Portland area and the historical significance of Canyon Road (est. 1849), as well as the local geography including the canyon and creek, and the prevalence of the name Canyon throughout this area. He also provided an overview of the West Slope NAC's multi-year involvement in lobbying for THPRD to purchase the property on which the new Neighborhood Park at SW Pointer Road will be located, as well as the park design and naming process. In recognition of its history and geographical location, the West Slope NAC requests that the new Neighborhood Park at SW Pointer Road be named Canyon Park.

Dieter Lobner, 2550 SW 83rd Avenue, Portland, described his experience as a first-generation immigrant and the changes that this can prompt to a person's identity, noting that he has since established new relationships with the people and culture of the West Slope neighborhood. He detailed the prevalence of the name Canyon throughout the neighborhood, from multiple roadways to restaurants and businesses, noting that without planning it, the name Canyon has become a part of his new identity. As a result of the efforts to acquire and design the new Neighborhood Park at SW Pointer Road, the West Slope neighborhood will now have a place to meet, relax and recreate, and will get there by traveling the many avenues that honor the canyon's role in the identity of this neighborhood. In closing, he humbly requests that the name Canyon be included in the name for the new Neighborhood Park at SW Pointer Road.

Terry Lawler, 8540 SW Gayle Lane, Portland, noted that the West Slope NAC's passion around naming the new Neighborhood Park at SW Pointer Road are founded on two facts they believe to be unique to their area in West Slope. The first being, they are one of the few enclaves within THPRD without a neighborhood park. She described how the neighborhood was constructed decades ago without sidewalks or park sites, noting that it is only due to a unique set of circumstances that the new neighborhood park is becoming a reality and described the anticipation and involvement of the neighborhood in bringing this reality to fruition. The second unique feature is the lack of a cohesive identity for the West Slope area. She described how the area sits on the borders of Washington and Multnomah counties, is fractured by school district boundaries and legislative districts with its own water district, has a Portland address within the City of Beaverton, and is without churches or elementary schools. Their hope is that this neighborhood park will become a focal point and offer the community cohesion that they seek. She stated that Canyon is their identity and connects them to the community at-large, whether considering the geographical attributes of the area or the local built environment with its prevalence of the name Canyon. Additionally, it is likely that the native inhabitants of this area recognized the canyon and used it as a passageway to the valleys. While the NAC understands that the district engaged in a thoughtful process to recognize native inhabitants of this land in the naming of future parks, they ask whether it is possible that the selection criteria resulting in the preferred naming conventions failed to recognize geographic features as an important component of a place's identity. The West Slope NAC offers Canyon as such a name that incorporates geographic and cultural relevance to the West Slope area and asks that the board consider this in the naming of the new Neighborhood Park at SW Pointer Road.

President Moreno thanked those who provided public testimony this evening, noting that district staff would follow up with them soon.

Agenda Item #6 – Board Time

A. Committee Liaisons Updates

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

- ✓ Attended this year's first THPRD Budget Committee meeting and is excited to learn more about the district's budget process as we move through it.
- ✓ The most recent Parks & Facilities Advisory Committee meeting included welcoming and learning more about its new members.
- ✓ Listened in on Metro's most recent Policy & Advisory Committee meeting.
- ✓ Attended the City of Beaverton's State of the City event and was interested to learn more about the focuses and accomplishments of the mayor and city councilors.
- ✓ Attended Centro's Gala de Cultura which provided a great opportunity to build community connections.

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

- ✓ Also attended the City of Beaverton's State of the City event and was proud to see our Maintenance team honored.
- ✓ Also attended Centro's Gala de Cultura and expressed agreement with Miles that it was a great community building opportunity.
- ✓ The most recent Fiduciary Committee meeting focused on making updates to the district's investment policy that are reflective of our current ability to address short-term obligations. As the district no longer needs to invest in short-term bond funds, it will instead direct a similar percentage of allocations to fixed income and slightly increase our portfolio percentage in US and international equity.

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

- ✓ The most recent Nature & Trails Advisory Committee meeting included welcoming their new members, an update on the winter storm damage, a review of the district's functional plans, and continuing their work in identifying existing trail gaps. She expressed gratitude for the tremendous amount of work by this committee's volunteers, noting that a proposal will be brought forth soon regarding ideas for closing trail gaps.

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

- ✓ Along with district staff, attended the Beaverton Area Chamber of Commerce's Business Advocacy Council meeting to present information regarding the district's upcoming local option levy request. He is pleased to announce that the council will endorse the request.
- ✓ In honor of Women's History Month, he expressed gratitude to be serving the district alongside its strong female board members and staff, as well as for the support he receives from his wife and daughter to be able to participate in this role.

Agenda Item #7 – Consent Agenda

Felicita Montebalanco moved that the board of directors approve consent agenda items (A) Minutes of February 14, 2024 Regular Board Meeting, (B) Resolution Authorizing Application to Local Government Grant Program, and (C) Mountain View Champions Park Sport Court Construction Contract. Barbie Minor seconded the motion. Roll call proceeded as follows:

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

The motion was UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.

Agenda Item #8 – Unfinished Business

A. Cooper Mountain Community Plan Update

Gery Keck, Planning & Development manager, introduced City of Beaverton staff members, Brian Martin, Long Range Planning manager, and Lauren Russell, Associate Planner, to provide an update on the Cooper Mountain Community Plan, which will establish a long-term vision for the

area's growth and development to support welcoming, walkable neighborhoods that honor the unique landscape and ensure a legacy of natural resource protection and connection.

Brian thanked THPRD for their collaboration on this project and provided a detailed update on the status of the Cooper Mountain Community Plan via a PowerPoint presentation, a copy of which was entered into the record, and which included the following information:

- Project Overview
 - Determine how future growth will occur (homes, roads, parks, trails, utilities, etc.)
 - Anticipated 5,000 homes
 - Nine new parks & trail system
 - Racial equity framework
- Project Goals
 - Create equitable outcomes for residents, including underserved and underrepresented communities
 - Provide new housing in a variety of housing types and for all income levels
 - Preserve, incorporate, connect, and enhance natural resources
 - Improve community resilience to climate change and hazards
 - Provide public facilities and infrastructure needed for safe, healthy communities
 - Provide safe, convenient access to important destinations while supporting transportation options, including walking and biking
 - Provide opportunities for viable commercial uses
 - Identify feasible, responsible funding strategies to turn the vision into a reality
- Draft Zoning Map
- Park Components
 - Games and activities (bocce court, dog run)
 - Gathering places (event space, water feature)
 - Nature (natural area, open water)
 - Paths and trails (bike or fitness course)
 - Playgrounds
 - Sports (diamond field, tennis court)
- Alternative Park Location
 - Most of park site must be suitable (relatively flat and not in natural resource area)
 - Minor: Move 1,100 feet outside overlay
 - Major: Move farther
- Resource Overlay
 - Resource overlay protects:
 - Streams and associated riparian areas
 - Floodplains & wetlands
 - Upland habitat (areas near streams/wetlands or important tree groves)
- Tree Preservation & Canopy Requirements
 - Preservation
 - Native trees
 - 65% of canopy inside overlay
 - 40% of canopy outside the resource overlay
 - Minimum canopy inside overlay
 - 65% canopy inside overlay
 - Existing or newly planted native trees
- Project Schedule
 - March 19 – City council work session: infrastructure funding plan
 - May – Planning commission work sessions: review updated code and comprehensive plan updates
 - June 18 – City council work session: draft code
 - Fall – Adoption process

At the conclusion of the presentation, Brian and Lauren offered to answer any questions the board may have.

- ✓ Hearing no questions, President Moreno thanked city staff for the informative presentation.

B. Climate Action Plan

Bruce Barbarasch, Nature & Trails manager, provided an update on the Climate Action Plan proposed for consideration of board adoption this evening, a copy of which was included within the board of directors' information packet. Bruce provided an overview of the changes made to the plan since the initial presentation to the board in January, via a PowerPoint presentation, a copy of which was entered into the record. Updates were made in the areas of Waste Reduction (made the rationale more proactive); Water Usage (included recycled water and cisterns), and Education (added signs). Bruce offered to answer any questions the board may have.

Felicita Monteblanco commented that she appreciates that the plan acknowledges that the impacts of climate change do not adhere to jurisdictional boundaries. Other highlights for her included the mitigating greenspace preservation; having the opportunity to update and reflect on results every five years; and the accountability and expectations included within the plan. She inquired who on staff is the district's Sustainability Manager.

- ✓ Bruce replied that his position will be transitioning into that role and provided a brief overview of his work as a coordinator of multi-disciplinary projects in the areas of financial sustainability as well as environmental sustainability.

Barbie Minor acknowledged fellow board member Tya Ping's previous feedback provided on this plan and expressed gratitude for the readability and accessibility of the document.

Miles Palacios congratulated district staff on the plan and especially appreciates the intentionality around the five-year updates taking into consideration the continually changing information around this topic.

President Moreno expressed appreciation for the accessibility and design of the document. He referenced page 24, *Adapt 6: Wildfire Reduction*, and asked whether the district has worked or partnered with tribal groups around land stewardship approaches in terms of how to better manage land to make them more wildfire resilient.

- ✓ Bruce replied that the district has worked with Metro and TVF&R on this topic and is slowly trying to make inroads with the tribal communities here via a land acknowledgement program as well as through his work with a group at PCC Rock Creek. The hope is that by making connections and building trust, we can bring some of those partnerships to other sites that the district stewards.

Alfredo noted that the impact our fleet vehicles have and the way we've designed our maintenance hubs also stood out to him. Lastly, he referenced *Adapt 4: Fostering Community Resiliency, Strategy B: Offer facilities for partner needs such as cooling and warming shelters during extreme events*, and expressed gratitude to Congresswoman Bonamici for her support in securing federal funding for the district in this area to enable the district to better serve the community when they need it the most.

Barbie Minor moved that the board of directors adopt the 2024 Climate Action Plan. Miles Palacios seconded the motion. Roll call proceeded as follows:

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

The motion was UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.

C. General Manager's Report

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

- Local Option Levy Update
 - Holly Thompson, Communications director, provided an update on public information and outreach efforts underway for the district's local option levy that will be before voters in May 2024 via a PowerPoint presentation, a copy of which was entered into the record.
- Recreation Services
 - Julie Rocha, Sports & Inclusion director, and Sabrina Taylor Schmitt, Recreation & Aquatic director, provided detailed information regarding Recreation Services via a PowerPoint presentation, a copy of which was entered into the record.

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

Local Option Levy Update

Felicita Monteblanco asked if the mailing list for the districtwide informational levy postcards will be the same as what is used for the district's registration postcards.

- ✓ Holly confirmed that every address in the district will receive the levy postcard and described the informational details that will be provided. She noted that the most common questions she has been receiving during outreach is whether the request represents the continuation of an existing levy and an overall interest in the impacts of Measure 50 and taxation reform. She described the tax sensitivity being experienced in the community and the community's desire that THPRD be a part of working toward solutions.

Recreation Services

Miles Palacios asked for additional information regarding why the budgeted number of full-time equivalent (FTE) hours is not being met. Is this due to recruitment issues or something else?

- ✓ Sabrina replied that this is due to a combination of issues, including recruitment difficulties and training needs, but that the wage increase for part-time staff has helped, as will the addition of some benefits, such as paid time off and holiday pay. She described how rebuilding staff takes time, especially in aquatics, for recruitment as well as training, but that improvements are being seen.
- ✓ Julie added that there is a lot more competition for part-time staff now throughout all business sectors and that the pandemic changed how people want to work. There is also burnout experienced in certain positions, such as inclusion assistants, for which the district is continually recruiting.

Miles asked for confirmation that even with the recruitment difficulties being experienced, the district is still close to meeting its desired service levels pre-pandemic.

- ✓ Sabrina described the overall comparative stats, noting that it is not a completely apples-to-apples comparison.
- ✓ Julie agreed and added that the district is operating differently, as well. Facilities are operating under different hours and programs are being expanded based upon need and staffing levels.

Miles congratulated staff on the positive trajectory, noting that it is a good reason why the district needs the levy in order to continue to be able to provide this level of service.

Barbie Minor asked for additional information regarding registration numbers for sports and whether staff has a sense of why this area hasn't rebounded in the same way as other programs.

- ✓ Julie noted that these areas are not necessarily down but are being programmed differently and cited some examples.

Barbie congratulated staff on the overall positive trajectory, as well.

Felicita Monteblanco expressed appreciation to staff for preparing these department-specific presentations that have been provided to the board over the past few meetings during a time when they'll be asking the voters to continue to invest in the district. She's grateful for the opportunity to learn more about the details of how THPRD continues to be successful and doing great work.

President Moreno commented that everyone interacts with the district in different ways and that the district's offerings are so expansive that it would be nearly impossible for someone to intersect with everything that the district provides. He echoed previous sentiments that this information helps them to better advocate. He referenced the Athletic Center revenue chart and asked whether this is the ideal mix, as well as what our optimal level of rentals should look like.

- ✓ General Manager Doug Menke replied that this is what will be studied through reviewing our resource allocation models, by asking questions such as whether there are options that the district could be offering and whether the mix is appropriate for our community.

President Moreno thanked district staff for the informative and thorough presentation.

Agenda Item #9 – New Business

A. Intergovernmental Agreement with Washington County for Urban Road Maintenance District Pedestrian & Biking Improvement Project at Waterhouse Trail

Aisha Panas, deputy general manager, introduced Nicole Paulsen, Planning supervisor, to provide information regarding an intergovernmental agreement (IGA) with Washington County for long-needed improvements to the Waterhouse Trail to complete design and construction of five road crossings and, if constructed, assume maintenance of a connector pathway.

Nicole provided a detailed overview of the projects that would occur under this IGA via a PowerPoint presentation, a copy of which was entered into the record. Washington County approached THPRD with a partnership opportunity to design and construct road crossing treatments at five locations along the Waterhouse Trail (NW Brandberry, NW Laidlaw, NW Charlais, NW Somerset, and NW Paisley). In response, the district allocated funding in the FY22/23 Budget to help facilitate these important crossings. Along with the district's funding, the Washington County Board of Commissioners approved funding for the project through the Urban Road Maintenance District Pedestrian and Biking Improvement program. In addition to the crossings, Washington County may install a new connector path to the Waterhouse Trail near NW Avondale to increase safe routes to school. Should this connection be constructed, Washington County would fund the design and construction while the district would provide the ongoing maintenance. Nicole offered to answer any questions the board may have.

President Moreno opened the floor to public testimony.

Kevin O'Donnell, former Citizen Participation Organization #7 chair, Trails Advisory Committee member and Bond Oversight Committee member, is in attendance this evening to express support for the proposed IGA with Washington County as described this evening. He described how the proposed improvements would benefit active transportation, increase accessibility for all trail users, and represents the last steps in the completion of this trail system. He requested that the district explore working with the county to use these crossings as templates in the future in order to reduce costs and review time. Although working to get these improvements has taken quite some time, it will be fantastic when it's done and he hopes that the district continues to focus on these types of improvements for its entire trail system.

Miles Palacios expressed support for trail crossings with rapid flashing beacons and is happy to see that more will be added.

Felicita Monteblanco commented that she would like to learn more about the process involved in getting these treatments. She expressed gratitude to district staff for their efforts and the Washington County Board of Commissioners for their support.

President Moreno noted that he would like to learn more about the process as well in order to figure out how to maximize efficiency.

Miles Palacios moved that the board of directors authorize the general manager or designee to execute an intergovernmental agreement with Washington County for road crossing assessments and upgrades to the Waterhouse Trail. Barbie Minor seconded the motion. Roll call proceeded as follows:

Felicita Monteblanco Yes

Barbie Minor Yes

Miles Palacios Yes

Alfredo Moreno Yes

The motion was UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.

Agenda Item #10 – Adjourn

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:45 pm.

Alfredo Moreno, President

Barbie Minor, Secretary

Recording Secretary,
Jessica Collins