



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

A Special Meeting of the Tualatin Hills Park & Recreation District Board of Directors was held on Thursday, September 6, 2018, 6:00 pm at the HMT Recreation Complex, Dryland Training Center, 15707 SW Walker Road, Beaverton, Oregon.

Present:

Ali Kavianian	President/Director
Felicita Monteblanco	Secretary/Director
Wendy Kroger	Secretary Pro-Tempore/Director
John Griffiths	Director
Doug Menke	General Manager

**Agenda Item #1 – Call to Order**

The Special Meeting of the Tualatin Hills Park & Recreation District Board of Directors was called to order by President Ali Kavianian on Thursday, September 6, 2018, at 6:05 pm.

**Wendy Kroger moved that the board of directors amend this evening’s agenda in order to add an opportunity for public testimony. Felicita Monteblanco seconded the motion. Roll call proceeded as follows:**

<b>John Griffiths</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Felicita Monteblanco</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Wendy Kroger</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Ali Kavianian</b>	<b>Yes</b>

**The motion was UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.**

**New Agenda Item – Public Testimony**

There were no comments received during public testimony.

**Agenda Item #2 – Interviews with Applicants for Board of Directors Position #3**

President Ali Kavianian provided opening comments regarding the process leading up to this point in filling the vacancy that currently exists on the THPRD Board of Directors for Position #3. He noted that this past July, Holly Thompson submitted a letter of resignation from the board of directors that was officially accepted by the board at their August regular meeting, during which the board discussed its options for obtaining a quality replacement for the vacancy. The decision was made to interview and appoint a replacement board member from a current list of board applicants. Several items were considered by the board in coming to this determination:

- The constraint of Oregon law pursuant to filling vacancies on governing boards in that a special election is not a legal option for filling a special district board vacancy. Elections of governing board members for special districts may only be held in May of odd numbered years, the next of which would be May 2019.
- The district has qualified candidates from a comprehensive and recent process used to fill another open board seat. The process sought applications from throughout the THPRD service area and produced 26 candidates who fulfilled the set qualifications, ten

of whom were interviewed by the board. This process provided a candidate list for the board to return to in the consideration of filling this most recent vacancy. The first and second runner-ups, Todd Duwe and Heidi Edwards, are still interested in being considered for the position. The decision to interview the top two finalists was based upon trust of the process used to identify competent board members and respect of the time and energy invested by community members.

- A public election will be held May 2019 to determine who will serve the remainder of the open seat's term, which expires June 30, 2021. The board weighed the impact of the length of time needed in order to conduct another recruitment process against the short amount of time available until the next election.

A coin toss determined the order in which the candidates were interviewed:

First interview - Heidi Edwards

Second interview - Todd Duwe

Both candidates were asked the following interview questions:

1. How do your views of board service align with the district's mission? Do you believe the district's mission adequately serves today's needs?
2. The National Recreation and Park Association identifies three pillars of community wellness directly impacted by parks and recreation providers: Conservation, Health & Wellness, and Social Equity. Of these three pillars, which are you the most passionate about and tell us how you, as a board member, could lead in strengthening the district's efforts in that area?
3. As a special service park district, THPRD has its own taxing authority; but collaboration with other local governing bodies can extend the provision of facilities, programs, services and natural areas to the community that they all serve. How would you enhance that collaboration process?
4. The THPRD Board of Directors recently heard the Coalition of Communities of Color present their report: *Leading with Race: Research Justice in Washington County*. Included within that report were eight Calls to Action aimed at improving outcomes in the county for communities of color. Through which of the Calls to Action could THPRD have the greatest impact?
5. THPRD is a proponent of access for all. Please recount your own experiences in which you helped expand outreach and increased involvement for under-represented communities.
6. THPRD will likely consider future opportunities, including a potential bond measure and additional public/private partnerships, that would require major capital expenditures, such as a new recreation/aquatic facility, in order to serve the district well into the future. What would you be most concerned and excited about when it comes to these kinds of long-term investments?
7. As a board member, how would you assess and make decisions, taking into consideration various pressures to fund immediate projects, in light of long-term commitments to financial sustainability?
8. Affordable housing is an ongoing concern for our community and the THPRD Board of Directors continues to have discussion on how to be involved. What role do you believe the district should play in the development of affordable housing?

### **Agenda Item #3 – Board Discussion**

President Ali thanked both candidates for their continued interest and participation in this process and opened the floor for board discussion.

General Manager Doug Menke noted that in addition to the multiple letters of support received for each candidate, copies of which have been provided to the board and entered into the record, he also received two phone calls today in support of candidate Todd Duwe from community members Todd Spears and Tyrone Henry.

Felicita Monteblanco commented that both Heidi Edwards and Todd Duwe are extremely strong candidates, but when she reflects on what attributes are missing on the board, and what lenses need to be replaced as a result of Holly Thompson's resignation, as well as the caliber of letters of support received, she believes Heidi is the strongest candidate. In coming to this decision, she reflected on the campaigning she participated in with Holly when initially running for district office, and believes that in appointing a new board member, it is the duty of the current board members to take into consideration what the voters might be looking for. During those campaigning efforts, she recalled surprise from community members that there was not already a THPRD board member that was a mother with children actively engaged in district programs. She believes that Heidi having that particular lens is important, as well as is her connections with Beaverton School District. Felicita concluded by stating that although she thinks highly of both candidates, when she reflects on what the board needs, and what she believes the voters would like the board to do, she feels that Heidi is the strongest candidate.

Wendy Kroger thanked both Heidi and Todd for their participation in this process and expressed agreement with Felicita's comments that both are extremely strong candidates. She described her thought process in coming to a decision, noting that she reviewed both candidates' applications, reflected on the district's mission and vision, as well as the desires of the public that the district serves, and also thoroughly reviewed the recommendation letters submitted. She believes that the public desires collaboration and likes that THPRD works with other agencies and organizations, especially its relationships with the Beaverton School District and Portland Community College. She contemplated what skillset the board is currently missing, noting that the board has a great opportunity to give this ample consideration and that the voters will tell the district what they want via the May election. With that in mind, she considered what skillset would be beneficial to add to the board and was also personally interested in the candidates' opinions regarding affordable housing and how the district uses its system development charge funds. Although it was a difficult decision, especially given her respect for some of those who wrote recommendation letters, she believes that Todd Duwe is the strongest candidate because his skillset is needed on the board.

John Griffiths reflected on the process the board went through that resulted in 26 candidates for consideration, followed by a thorough review of the applications received and interviews, noting that by the time the board got to the point of identifying their top three candidates, it was dealing with very qualified and competent individuals; people who have a passion for the district and are willing to commit the time and emotional energy. He is honored that Heidi and Todd would take the time to be considered by the board, as both obviously have talents and abilities that are useful in a lot of areas. It is clear to him that both candidates have a heart for volunteering, are competent in their chosen fields, and have a sense of mission in what they are doing and are operating at a higher calling. However, he noted that board appointments create an unusual situation in that an opportunity is presented to the board to choose a member based on what it sees as the needs are of the district. For him, it boils down to what particular skillset the board needs going forward. He reflected on the escalating construction costs that have impacted the last projects of the district's 2008 Bond Measure, as well as looking toward the district's future. THPRD has two large aging facilities that are increasingly utilized and need to be redesigned and renovated, as well as the need for two additional recreation and aquatic centers, each of which may cost at least \$50 million. He personally lacks the knowledge in how to deliver the most efficient and effective structuring of deals necessary in order to deliver these projects at

the lowest possible cost. These projects will be larger than anything the district has ever done before and the board needs special knowledge in this area. For those reasons, he believes that Todd Duwe is the strongest candidate due to his unique skillset.

Felicita noted that the only requirements of someone to be a district board member are that they live within district boundaries and are a registered voter. While she appreciates Todd's construction expertise and acknowledges that there are big decisions coming up for the district in this area, construction expertise are also something that the district can pay for. She lauded the relationships Heidi has built, her commitment to the community, and expertise in helping Beaverton School District pass a bond measure, as well as her other board-related experiences. She would like the board to be conscious that although construction experience may be important, it shouldn't be the only thing that the board looks at in making this decision.

President Kavianian reflected on the board's retreat in November 2017 and the strength the board found in the realization that each board member offered a particular skillset. He acknowledged Heidi's involvement in the community and the caliber of recommendation letters she received, noting that he has a very high level of respect for her. However, he believes that the board is missing a critical area of knowledge needed when making policy-level decisions in the area of construction and development. For this reason, he believes that Todd Duwe is the strongest candidate.

Wendy provided additional comments regarding Todd's experience in the areas of minority-owned, women-owned and emerging small businesses (MWESB) and diversity and inclusion work and feels that the board will benefit from his perspectives on these issues as well. She was intrigued by his suggestion of a steering committee as well and believes that it might be another way to increase the district's involvement within specific communities.

John commented that there are so many similarities between the candidates that he has focused on the differentials. He believes that every board member is fully committed to access for all and that this ethic can currently be found throughout the board. He evaluated each candidate regarding what additive they could bring to help the district with a specific challenge.

President Kavianian opened the floor for a motion.

**Agenda Item #4 – Approve Resolution Appointing THPRD Board of Directors Member Position #3**

**John Griffiths moved that the board of directors appoint Todd Duwe as the board member to fill the empty seat. Wendy Kroger seconded the motion. Roll call proceeded as follows:**

<b>Felicita Monteblanco</b>	<b>No</b>
<b>Wendy Kroger</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>John Griffiths</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Ali Kavianian</b>	<b>Yes</b>

**The motion was APPROVED by MAJORITY vote.**

**Agenda Item #5 – Adjourn**

The Special Meeting was adjourned at 7:35 pm.

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Ali Kavianian, President

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Felicita Monteblanco, Secretary

Recording Secretary,  
Jessica Collins

A Special Meeting of the Board of Directors, September 6, 2018