



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, March 10, 2021. Executive Session 4:30 pm; Regular Meeting 5 pm.

Present:

Ashley Hartmeier-Prigg	President/Director
Tya Ping	Secretary/Director
Heidi Edwards	Secretary Pro-Tempore/Director
Wendy Kroger	Director
Doug Menke	General Manager

Absent:

Felicita Montebianco	Director
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Agenda Item #1 – Executive Session (A) Land

President Ashley Hartmeier-Prigg 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 Hartmeier-Prigg 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 Ashley Hartmeier-Prigg on Wednesday, March 10, 2021, at 5 pm.

President Hartmeier-Prigg made comments recognizing the one-year anniversary of the first reported case of COVID-19 in Washington County. The board members, district staff and meeting attendees observed a moment of silence to reflect upon the lives lost and families impacted throughout our community, our state, our nation, and the world, by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Agenda Item #3 – Action Resulting from Executive Session

Wendy Kroger moved that the board of directors authorize the acquisition of property in the southwest quadrant of the district for the price discussed in executive session, using system development charge funds, subject to the standard due diligence review and approval by the general manager. Tya Ping seconded the motion. Roll call proceeded as follows:

Heidi Edwards	Yes
Tya Ping	Yes
Wendy Kroger	Yes
Ashley Hartmeier-Prigg	Yes

The motion was **UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED**.

Agenda Item #4 – Proclamations

A. National Developmental Disabilities Month

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

B. National Women’s History Month

The board members read into the record a proclamation declaring the month of March as National Women’s History Month. A video commemorating the district’s founder, Elsie Stuhr, was also shown.

Agenda Item #5 – Audience Time

There was no public testimony received for audience time.

Agenda Item #7 – Consent Agenda *(taken out of order)*

Heidi Edwards moved that the board of directors approve consent agenda items (A) Minutes of February 10, 2021 Regular Board Meeting, (B) Monthly Bills, (C) Monthly Financial Statement, (D) Highland Park Construction Contract, (E) Raleigh Park Stream Daylighting & Enhancement Improvement Project, (F) Amendment to Intergovernmental Agreement with Clean Water Services for Fanno Creek Greenway, and (G) Amendments to Intergovernmental Agreements for System Development Charge Collection with City of Beaverton and Washington County. Tya Ping seconded the motion. Roll call proceeded as follows:

Wendy Kroger	Yes
Tya Ping	Yes
Heidi Edwards	Yes
Ashley Hartmeier-Prigg	Yes

The motion was UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.

Agenda Item #6 – Board Time

A. Committee Liaisons Updates

Wendy Kroger provided the following updates and comments during board time:

- Attended the recent Pension Committee meeting. Topics included an update on the district’s transition to US Bank, which is going smoothly with thanks to Lori Baker, director of Business Services, and a quarterly pension review.
 - ✓ General Manager Doug Menke acknowledged the efforts of Cindy Hopper, fiscal operations manager, noting that her work is integral in this area, as well.
- Attended the recent Parks & Facilities Advisory Committee meeting. Topics included goal setting and presentation requests for 2021, as well as a review of the Vision Action Plan to see how the committee can help carry forward some of the action items within the plan.
- Attended the recent Greenway Neighborhood Association Committee meeting, which included an update by City of Beaverton staff on the city’s affordable housing initiatives.
- Thanked district staff for working to apply a protective covering to the new mural installation at Greenway Park which is part of the district’s Talking Walls initiative.
- Complimented Maintenance staff on their cleanup efforts after the ice storm in February.

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

- The Tualatin Hills Park Foundation’s holiday giving drive enabled the purchase of 300 recreation kits for children, which are currently being distributed. She recognized the service of trustee members, Mike McMurray and John Jones, who are stepping down from the board of trustees and welcomed new member Scott Tumbleson.
- Attended the recent Nature & Trails Advisory Committee meeting. Topics included goal setting and presentation requests for 2021, reviewing the Vision Action Plan to inform an

update to the Natural Resources Functional Plan, and Challenge Grant opportunities, which are due at the end of June.

- Complimented district staff on the recent Talking Walls event, as well as the Westside Trail Bridge public outreach event.

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

- Attended the recent Programs & Events Advisory Committee meeting. Topics discussed included goal setting for 2021, which included a goal set around creating more volunteer opportunities, and the possibility of exploring a parks passport program.
- Participated in virtual meetings with newly-elected legislators along with a few of her fellow board members which resulted in dynamic conversations.
- Registered her family for spring programs, noting that tennis filled very quickly. She joined the waitlist and advised others to do the same in order to have a chance at securing a spot if someone drops out.
- Referenced the increase in violence and hate crimes against the Asian American and Pacific Islander community happening nationwide, and described instances of racism experienced by herself and her family. She stated that THPRD is committed to equity and social justice, and that there is no place or tolerance for hateful rhetoric or violence, noting that by not saying anything or standing up against such hate gives it space and power to continue. Say something if you see something; it needs to be a communitywide initiative to stand up for each other. She encourages the district to continue advancing the practices of inclusiveness, understanding, and compassion, and that we do our part in promoting respect and cultural understanding.
 - ✓ President Hartmeier-Prigg thanked Tya for her powerful comments and reiterated that THPRD stands against hate.

Agenda Item #8 – Unfinished Business

A. 2021 Legislative Update

Aisha Panas, director of Park & Recreation Services, announced that a federal stimulus bill passed today, noting that \$360 billion has been allocated to state and local aid, and although special districts are not listed as direct recipients, we are eligible for passthrough funding; Washington County will receive \$116 million and the City of Beaverton will receive \$17 million. Aisha introduced Kylie Grunow, state legislative consultant for the district, to provide a follow-up presentation to the board's December work session, and January and February board meetings. This evening's presentation will provide updates and any new information on the bills of interest to the district as they progress through the 2021 legislative season. Kylie provided an update on the legislative session deadlines and the following areas of interest:

- Right to Rest
 - HB 2367: Establishes Oregon Right to Rest Act.
 - HB 3115: Provides that local law regulating sitting, lying, sleeping or keeping warm and dry outdoors on public property that is open to the public must be objectively reasonable as to time, place and manner with regards to persons experiencing homelessness (The Speakers Bill).
- Relating to Homelessness
 - SB 410: Requires state agencies to develop and implement policies to ensure humane treatment of homeless individuals; includes provisions for storage of homeless individuals' property assumed through camp site cleanup efforts.
 - HB 3124: Increases time that written notice must be posted before removal of homeless individuals from established camping site.
- Children's Service Districts
 - SB 299: Authorizes formation of children's service districts. A meeting was held with Senator Riley to discuss the board's feedback provided at the February board meeting regarding the lack of equity and access in the bill language and in the

development of the bill. During the meeting, Senator Riley mentioned that there had been members of the BIPOC community and different culturally specific organizations at the table from the beginning. He noted the involvement of two specific organizations, and President Hartmeier-Prigg volunteered to reach out to those organizations for their feedback on this bill. The bill moved out of committee last week without any changes to address these issues and is expected to pass the Senate. However, some opposition is expected when it goes before the House.

- System Development Charges
 - HB 3040: Directs Legislative Revenue Officer to study system development charges and report findings to interim committees related to local government (Placeholder Bill). Senator Lively announced that he has been working on bill language to address four areas: the need for a comprehensive study; transparency; timing of payment; and, considerations for manufactured homes. Bill language has not yet been released for review; once the language is available, a more substantive discussion can be had.

Kylie concluded her presentation by noting that, as a follow-up to the board's recent meetings with newly elected legislators, she would like to schedule meetings with the rest of the district's legislators to take place during the last two weeks in April. She thanked the board members for their time and interest dedicated to these meetings.

Heidi Edwards thanked Kylie for her hard work in coordinating the recent legislator meetings, and to Doug and Aisha for their participation in those meetings.

President Hartmeier-Prigg referenced SB 299 and the outreach she volunteered to do, noting that she is waiting to hear back from the groups she contacted and will provide an update once they respond.

B. Westside Trail Bridge

Jeannine Rustad, Planning manager, provided a detailed update on the Westside Trail bridge project over Highway 26 via a PowerPoint presentation, a copy of which was entered into the record. The board's feedback was sought regarding the following alignment recommendations:

- Cornell Road Approach (perpendicular vs straight alignment)
 - Staff Recommendation: Option 1 (perpendicular alignment at NW Cornell Road)
 - Reasoning: This approach is safer, with better visibility. While slightly longer, it is not uncommon on existing trails in the district, such as the Waterhouse Trail at SW Walker Road.
 - Board feedback:
 - After some discussion regarding what exactly makes Option 1 safer, the board expressed agreement with the staff recommendation.
 - Wendy Kroger added that a curved approach would also slow down bicycle traffic in approach of the crossing at Cornell Road.
- North Section of Trail from Columbia Way to NW Cornell Road (grade considerations)
 - Staff Recommendation: Option 2
 - Reasoning: While both options meet ADA requirements, Option 2 maintains a grade of less than 5%.
 - Board feedback:
 - The board expressed agreement with the staff recommendation.
 - Wendy inquired if there is a cost difference between the two options. Jeannine replied that, although cost estimates have not yet been provided, Option 2 is expected to be slightly more expensive than Option 1, although not by a substantial amount.
- Bridge Structure (straight versus curved alignment)
 - Staff Recommendation: Option 1 (straight alignment)

- Reasoning: Significant considerations supporting Option 1 include:
 - There is no impact to private property, whereas Option 2 encroaches over a private property to the north of the highway.
 - Option 1 can be constructed with a pre-fabricated bridge, whereas Option 2 will require a custom-made structure. The early cost range estimates are \$5.5-\$9.5 million for the Option 1 bridge, and \$6-\$10.9 million for Option 2.
 - Option 2 would be more challenging to construct around the power lines than Option 1 and may require a longer closure period of the highway.
 - It may be difficult to justify Option 2 for federal funding, as there is a more viable, less costly alternative.
 - The cost savings of Option 1 could allow for additional amenities, such as trailhead improvements, additional art in the surrounding area, and aesthetic components for the bridge and approaches.
 - Option 2 was considered to see if it would minimize wetland impacts; however, there was found to be little difference between the two options.
- Board feedback:
 - The board expressed agreement with the staff recommendation.
 - Tya Ping inquired whether either option has a greater impact on the wetland area underneath. Jeannine replied that studies will be completed to ensure that the district is mitigating any impacts the bridge may have on the wetlands. She described an issue with a culvert under the highway that affects private property outside of the project area that may be positively impacted through this mitigation work, as well. She noted that neither bridge style has a greater impact on the wetland area.
 - Wendy commented that some people may prefer Option 2 as it is more aesthetically pleasing. She is excited to see a pedestrian bridge across Highway 26 and hopes that Option 1 can be designed as aesthetically pleasing as possible; this is a great location to make a statement regarding the beauty of our area. She would like to see the cost savings as a result of choosing Option 1 used by making the bridge attractive, as well as putting in the trailhead as previously mentioned.

Secretary Tya Ping read the following written testimony received into the record.

Jeff Petrillo wrote that he supports the Westside Trail bridge over Highway 26 for the following reasons:

- The bridge will connect neighborhoods on the north and south sides of Highway 26 currently separated geographically, socially, and economically.
- The bridge will provide better pedestrian/bike access and commuting between the large number of new homes being constructed north of the highway and commercial services and places of employment on the south side of Highway 26. Highway 26 is an obstacle for many people considering commuting by bike. The lack of a dedicated pedestrian/bike bridge creates unnecessary out-of-direction travel routes over busy, unsafe interchanges.
- The bridge will enhance property values on both sides of the highway and increase local tax revenue. He previously lived in Atlanta and saw the amazing impact the Beltline trail system had on communities connected by those trails. Neighborhoods previously separated by race and income benefited from a trail system that cut across barriers of roads and water ways. The result, by any measure, was enhanced livability, public safety, and economic well-being for all communities along the trail.
- A well-designed, aesthetically-pleasing bridge dedicated as a pedestrian/bike trail will become a prominent landmark and placemaking element in our suburban communities that are sometimes marked by having no distinctive design features.

A copy of Jeff's letter in its entirety was entered into the public record.

Kevin O'Donnell wrote that he supports the Westside Trail bridge over Highway 26. In addition to his support, he requests that THPRD:

- Build with art and tourism in mind and recognize that this will be a long-term major landmark for THPRD, Beaverton, Washington County, Metro and the state.
- Build the bridge as soon as possible by winning grants and exploring corporate partnerships/funding.

He noted that this is an amazing opportunity to make this connector a true landmark and asked that we not only connect the community, but also build a beautiful bridge that millions of people will see and possibly experience. Additionally, Kevin submitted a four-page document into the public record containing information and research he compiled for the board's consideration relating to this project.

President Hartmeier-Prigg thanked Jeff and Kevin for their testimony this evening and referred to the public survey link (open until March 22, 2021) that Jeannine referenced earlier in her presentation, which provides a great opportunity for the public to give feedback on the bridge.

Wendy requested that district staff review the detailed information submitted by Kevin, noting that he provided a lot of interesting research.

- ✓ Jeannine confirmed that Kevin's information was received, and clarified that the StreetLight data he references within was commissioned by the district in order to show who would be using the bridge, which is a critical component as the district moves forward in seeking funding, as well as in relation to the district's commitment to racial equity.

C. General Manager's Report

The following presentation was provided as listed within the General Manager's Report included within the board of directors' information packet:

- Talking Walls
 - Lulú Ballesteros, cultural inclusion specialist, provided a detailed overview of the district's Talking Walls initiative in partnership with Color Outside the Lines and the Native American Youth and Family Center, via a PowerPoint presentation, a copy of which was entered into the record.

The board members complimented and expressed gratitude for this impactful and inclusive initiative celebrating diversity.

- ✓ General Manager Doug Menke acknowledged the efforts of Lulú, Holly and the district staff involved in these events.
- ✓ Heidi Edwards stated that these events were the highlight of her year serving on the board, and encouraged staff to share this experience with the National Recreation & Park Association, Oregon Recreation & Park Association, and Beaverton School District, as it is such a unique opportunity that has brought our community together.
- ✓ Tya Ping commented that the best way of fighting injustice is through education and by helping people to realize the beauty in our differences.
- ✓ Holly Thompson, Communications director, noted that an NRPA annual conference session proposal submission was made on the topic of how park and recreation agencies can be a partner in social justice, which included information about our Talking Walls and Message Gardens, as well as the district's work in supporting people experiencing homelessness. She expressed gratitude for Lulú and our staff's diligence in putting on these events, while having to reschedule the Talking Walls events multiple times due to the pandemic and the poor air quality during the wildfires.
- ✓ Wendy Kroger shared stories of Holly's vision for how blank walls could be better utilized within the district, and how participatory and inclusive the Talking Wall events are.
- ✓ President Hartmeier-Prigg commented that she loves seeing the district's values come to life like this.

Agenda Item #9 – New Business

A. Resolution Appointing Budget Committee Member

There is currently an open position on the district's budget committee due to the resignation of a committee member (Ryan Bansbach). The remaining term for the open position is through June 30, 2022. Notice of the vacancy was published and applications to serve on the committee were accepted from February 12-26, 2021. Seven applications were received. Board President Hartmeier-Prigg directed that each board member individually review and rank the applications received with the intent to conduct board interviews of the finalists. Based on the results of the scoring exercise, two candidates were selected for interviews: Li Lin and Teresa Payne.

President Hartmeier-Prigg opened the floor for interviews of candidates for the THPRD Budget Committee.

The two candidates were asked the following interview questions:

1. Why would you like to serve on the district's budget committee?
2. What do you believe is the role of the budget committee for the district?
3. What professional or volunteer experience do you have that would help in your role as a budget committee member?
4. What do you believe is the most important financial issue of the district, and why do you believe it is important?

After the interviews concluded, President Hartmeier-Prigg thanked each candidate for their participation and interest in serving the district, and opened the floor for board discussion regarding the appointment of one of the candidates to the budget committee.

- ✓ Heidi Edwards commented that she is thoroughly impressed with both candidates, and that both have impressive resumes, experience, and answered the interview questions thoughtfully. Although she wishes both candidates could be appointed to the committee, her recommendation is to appoint Li Lin as her experience with Bonneville Power Administration and educational background would be a great asset to the committee.
- ✓ Tya Ping provided comments on both candidates' impressive qualifications, noting that it is a hard decision, but in the face of the district's challenges in coming back from the pandemic, she believes Li Lin has a slight edge in her abilities to comb through the district's budget, but would be happy with either candidate.
- ✓ Wendy Kroger noted that the district is so fortunate to have two highly qualified individuals willing to give their time and expertise to the district. She expressed agreement with Heidi's comments, noting that she believes Li's federal experience will benefit the district as one of our major partners and sources of funding is the federal government and Li's knowledge of the federal system could be a great benefit to the district.
- ✓ President Hartmeier-Prigg stated that there are two stellar candidates for consideration this evening and that Li's financial expertise and experience is undeniable, but Teresa's comments regarding the accessibility and approachability of the district's budget process stood out to her. It is a complex topic, so to be able to talk about it with the community in an accessible way is important for transparency. Her choice is for Teresa.

President Hartmeier-Prigg announced that she believes there is a consensus and that she would entertain a motion.

Tya Ping moved that the board of directors approve Resolution 2021-07 appointing Li Lin to the budget committee, with a term expiring on June 30, 2022. Heidi Edwards seconded the motion. Roll call proceeded as follows:

Wendy Kroger Yes
Heidi Edwards Yes
Tya Ping Yes
Ashley Hartmeier-Prigg Yes
The motion was **UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.**

Agenda Item #10 – Adjourn

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

Ashley Hartmeier-Prigg, President

Tya Ping, Secretary

Recording Secretary,
Jessica Collins