



## 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, May 8, 2024, at the Tualatin Valley Water District Headquarters, 1850 SW 170th Avenue, Beaverton, Oregon. Executive Session 5:30 pm; Regular Meeting 6:15 pm.

Present:

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

### Agenda Item #1 – Executive Session (A) Legal (B) Land

President Alfredo Moreno called executive session to order for the following purposes:

- To conduct deliberations with persons designated by the governing body to negotiate real property transactions; 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)(e) and (h).

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, May 8, 2024, at 6:15 pm.

### Agenda Item #3 – Action Resulting from Executive Session

There was no action resulting from Executive Session.

### Agenda Item #4 – Proclamations

#### C. National Water Safety Month *(taken out of order)*

The board members read into the record a proclamation declaring May as National Water Safety Month.

#### A. Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month *(taken out of order)*

The board members read into the record a proclamation declaring May as Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month.

#### B. Jewish American Heritage Month *(taken out of order)*

The board members read into the record a proclamation declaring May as Jewish American Heritage Month.

President Moreno provided comments on the significance of this month's proclamations, including: water safety is one of the most urgent things THPRD does in protecting people of all ages around water and the district's efforts to increase outreach to those who have not been traditionally served due to language barriers or other factors; it is vital to remember that Asian

American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month encapsulates a huge portion of the world, including individual countries and the distinct cultures within; and, in relation to our Jewish community members, that these are heavy and emotional times and he is proud of THPRD for being a place where people can go to decompress and recreate. Additionally, he provided a brief overview of some of the activities and events THPRD is hosting in honor of this month's proclamations.

#### **Agenda Item #5 – Audience Time**

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

Nancy Chang, 6317 34<sup>th</sup> Avenue SW, Seattle, Washington, is before the board of directors this evening representing F Minus, a climate action nonprofit that tracks lobbyists who play both sides of the climate crisis. She complimented the district's recently adopted Climate Action Plan and thanked the district for being leaders in this work and helping reach the 2050 Net-Zero Emissions Goals. She knows that the board members care about the climate, and this is why F Minus would like to bring to light the incompatible relationship with the district's current lobbyist, Kylie Grunow, who is also a fossil fuel lobbyist representing British Petroleum (BP). She noted that BP is infamous for their negligence in causing environmental damage and health issues and paid out \$7.8 billion to victims of the 2010 Deepwater Horizon disaster. In June 2023, Oregon fined BP for inaccurately reporting their renewable fuel volume amount and last year Multnomah County opened a lawsuit suing fossil fuel companies, including BP, for \$50 billion for their role in creating a heat dome in the Pacific Northwest. She described a protest held in April at the Portland Art Museum calling on the museum to disassociate from their lobbyist that also represents fossil fuel companies, noting that when prestigious institutions like the Portland Art Museum and THPRD are associated with fossil fuel lobbyists, it upholds the narrative that oil and gas are ok. She asked that the district send a message to the fossil fuel industry and legislators that climate work is not performative and encouraged THPRD to not let gas and oil undermine its commitment to the climate and to cut ties with the district's fossil fuel lobbyist. Informational handouts were provided and entered into the record.

President Moreno thanked Nancy for her testimony this evening.

#### **Agenda Item #6 – Board Time**

##### **A. Committee Liaisons Updates**

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

- ✓ Attended last month's budget committee work session and expressed gratitude to the budget committee members for their work in reviewing the information provided and to staff for providing such a thorough document. The budget committee's next meeting will be taking place next week.
- ✓ Attended the most recent joint advisory committee meeting, which featured a local option levy update, discussion on proposed names for upcoming new parks and trails, the proposed concept plan for a new neighborhood park and trail at NW Heckman Lane, and the district's recently adopted Climate Action Plan.
- ✓ Has been busy handing out local option levy informational fliers at her family's recreational activities around town.

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

- ✓ Has attended some events to promote the local option levy and has handed out informational fliers as well, noting that most of the conversations have been great.
- ✓ The Fiduciary Committee will be meeting tomorrow.

President Alfredo will be presenting under his THPRD capacity to his daughter's classroom on election day.

### **Agenda Item #7 – Consent Agenda**

**Miles Palacios moved that the board of directors approve consent agenda items (A) Minutes of April 10, 2024 Regular Board Meeting, (B) Metro Policy Advisory Committee Representative and Alternate Representative Nominations, (C) Request for Reallocation of Funds Between Projects Within the 2023-24 System Development Charges Fund Budget, and (D) Abbey Creek Phase 2 Construction Contract. Barbie Minor seconded the motion.**

**Roll call proceeded as follows:**

<b>Felicita Monteblanco</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Tya Ping</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Barbie Minor</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Miles Palacios</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Alfredo Moreno</b>	<b>Yes</b>

**The motion was UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.**

### **Agenda Item #8 – Unfinished Business**

#### **A. General Manager's Report**

General Manager Doug Menke recognized Julie Rocha, Sports & Inclusion director's, appointment as a mentor in the National Recreation & Parks Association's Hispanic Professionals in Parks and Recreation mentorship program, one of only 11 mentors in the country. 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 a brief update on the public information and outreach efforts underway for the district's local option levy that will be before voters later this month on May 21, 2024.
- Aquatic Update
  - Josh Norton, Harman & Sunset Swim Centers supervisor, provided an overview of the district's aquatic special events and spring programming via a PowerPoint presentation, a copy of which was entered into the record.
- Tualatin Hills Park Foundation Update
  - Gina Lobaco, Tualatin Hills Park Foundation executive director, provided an overview of the history and future goals for the park foundation 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

The board members thanked Holly for her leadership and work on this effort.

President Moreno inquired, beyond tax sensitivity issues, has there been other less than positive feedback received from the public?

- ✓ Holly replied that unfavorable feedback has been primarily fixated on tax sensitivity, but some comments have reflected disappointment that additional funding won't result in expanded hours or offerings.

#### Aquatic Update

President Moreno commented on the impressive aquatic events and programming currently being offered by THPRD, especially considering the challenges that were posed to the district's aquatic programs post-pandemic, and thanked district staff for their diligence and creativity in encouraging people to return to the pools.

#### Tualatin Hills Park Foundation

Felicita Monteblanco commented regarding the possibilities around workforce investment grants and investing in young people's ability to work. She loves the ideas around cultivating bequests

as such gifts are typically the largest that someone will ever be able to make and people have such strong connections to the district, but she acknowledges that this type of work takes years.

- ✓ Gina described working in partnership with the Elsie Stuhr Center in the area of bequests and some ideas she has around promoting this area, noting that the chair of the Friends of Elsie Stuhr is going to start attending the foundation meetings to build that connectivity.

President Moreno commented that he is a huge fan of THPF, and is also the board liaison, and that he is excited to see what's next. He described how the symbiotic relationship between THPRD and THPF is increasingly critical, noting that it is important for the board to help create awareness of the work the foundation is doing.

- ✓ Gina requested that the board members pass along any names of people who they think would be interested in hearing about the foundation or are big fans of the district, noting that there is a lot of potential here to do great things.

Alfredo agreed that there are a lot of great stories within the district to share and that the more awareness of these stories and the required investment, the better for the community as a whole.

- ✓ Gina thanked the monthly donors and Legacy Circle members in attendance this evening.

## **Agenda Item #9 – New Business**

### **A. Resolution Naming New Neighborhood Parks & Trails**

Gery Keck, Planning & Development manager, introduced Nicole Paulsen, Planning supervisor, to present an overview of the community outreach conducted and the resulting proposed names for three new parks and three new trails in the South Cooper Mountain area. Staff is requesting board consideration of approval of a resolution this evening naming these sites.

Nicole provided a detailed overview of the proposal to name these six new park and trail sites via a PowerPoint presentation, a copy of which was entered into the record, and which included the following information:

- Process Overview
  - Cultural partners and researchers identify name options
  - Internal Naming Committee matches name options to sites
  - Present names to Management Team for input
  - Present names to community and gather input
  - Present names and input to advisory committee
  - Present all new names to THPRD Board of Directors for final approval
- Names Catalog
  - Create a list of potential site names to better represent communities and histories
  - Intentional outreach to those who helped identify names with a focus on identities and experiences among whom government systems have failed to represent
  - Engagement through in-depth discussions, historic and photographic collections
  - Honor and value diverse experiences and identities
- Consider
  - Pay attention to the feeling each name evokes or inspires
  - The community will be engaged around these names in many ways
  - Names can resonate with community and communities change
- South Cooper Mountain Proposed Park Names
  - Meeting Point Park
  - Sequoia Plaza
  - Harmony Park
- South Cooper Mountain Proposed Trail Names
  - Chahelim Trail
  - Oregon Oak Trail
  - Sandhill Crane Trail

Gery and Nicole offered to answer any questions the board may have.

President Moreno opened the floor to board comments and questions.

Miles Palacios commented that he loves the three proposed trail names as well as that of Sequoia Plaza; however, he expressed concerns regarding the proposed name of Meeting Point Park sounding too generic, noting that similar views were expressed during the recent joint advisory committees meeting during which these names were reviewed. While he loves that the district worked with the Immigrant and Refugee Community Organization (IRCO) in identifying this name, he wondered if they suggested any other names that could be considered for this site.

- ✓ Nicole noted that IRCO had proposed a few different names during the naming catalog development process and described how the names within the catalog are attempted to be matched with sites based on the proposed amenities, qualities and intent of the site. The names Harmony Park and Progress Park were also considered for this site, although those names were not provided by IRCO.

Tya Ping observed that the overall support for the name Meeting Point Park in the public survey was low but acknowledged that there were not many respondents; she described the need to evaluate how to get more public participation if the district will be holding itself to acting on the results of the surveys. Although she likes the name Meeting Point Park more now that she knows the background behind the name, it might be better suited to a larger park site that brings people and different communities together from across the district. Overall, she feels like the district should consider a different name for this site that might get a better response from the public.

Felicita Monteblanco expressed agreement with Tya's comments, noting that she loves the name Meeting Point Park now that she better understands the intentionality behind it, but agrees that it would be a better fit for a larger site or one with site amenities that specifically encourages gatherings and draws people together from different areas.

Barbie Minor expressed agreement with the previous comments, adding that she is excited about the work being done in leaning into storytelling and placemaking for site names. She acknowledged the thoughtfulness and intentionality behind this process and appreciated the opportunity to preview the proposal during the recent joint advisory committees meeting.

President Moreno commented that, while he appreciates the thoughtfulness around the naming catalog and that it is a beautiful starting point for which the board is very proud, their responsibility is to use it as a muse, not as the constitution. He acknowledged that the work of matching appropriate names with places is challenging, and although it's not necessarily a democratic process where the public chooses by popular vote what a name should be, if people aren't excited about a name at all, perhaps we've missed the mark. He noted how interpretive signage and storytelling can bolster a site name and wondered if the term Meeting Point in another language could help it take on a greater sense of belonging for this location. He described the balance of taking into consideration community feedback while not being limited by it and advised that the district continue to lean into the names catalog, but with some flexibility.

Tya requested that consideration also be given to other ways that the public surveys could be offered that enable more flexibility for the board in terms of acting upon the responses, such as by offering multiple names for consideration instead of just one.

- ✓ General Manager Doug Menke described the significant naming process that was undertaken in order to name Mountain View Champions Park, noting that naming a site is a delicate balance in listening to public feedback, consideration of the overall purpose and meaning of the site, and the community it is intended to serve.

Tya agreed, noting that the board had approved all of the names within the names catalog so multiple options could be offered to the public already having a base level of board support.

Felicita asked if the joint advisory committees meeting participants had similar feedback.

- ✓ Barbie confirmed that the board's discussion this evening is representative of what she heard during the joint advisory committees meeting.

**Tya Ping moved that the board of directors approve the resolution naming five new park and trail sites as Sequoia Plaza, Harmony Park, Chahelim Trail, Oregon Oak Trail, and Sandhill Crane Trail. Barbie Minor seconded the motion. Roll call proceeded as follows:**

<b>Miles Palacios</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Felicita Monteblanco</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Barbie Minor</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Tya Ping</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Alfredo Moreno</b>	<b>Yes</b>

**The motion was UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.**

President Moreno inquired what the process will be at this point for the site proposed as Meeting Point Park.

- ✓ General Manager Doug Menke replied that staff will develop a plan to move forward and will return to the board with a new proposal for consideration.

#### **B. New Neighborhood Park & Trail at NW Heckman Lane Concept Plan**

Nicole Paulsen, Planning supervisor, presented a detailed overview of the proposed concept plan for a new neighborhood park and trail at NW Heckman Lane, as well as the community outreach in the development of the plan, as included within the board of directors' information packet, via a PowerPoint presentation, a copy of which was entered into the record. The 2.39-acre site is located in North Bethany and the nature-inspired design includes all ages play areas, gathering spaces, shade features including shelter and larger trees, gleaning gardens, fitness opportunities, hard and soft surface pathways, water play, pollinator and education gardens, and wildlife viewing. The trail connection will complete 1,250-feet of paved surface from NW 159th Avenue to NW Kaiser Road in the Bethany Creek Trail community trail system. The budgeted amount for the project is \$3,641,867 and funding was awarded through Metro's 2019 Parks and Nature Bond Measure Local Share Program. Although the estimated construction cost at this time exceeds the total project budget in the concept plan phase, the district has applied for two grants totaling \$1.3 million, and if received, these funds will cover the shortfall. Staff is requesting board consideration of approval of the concept plan as presented this evening.

Miles Palacios expressed support for the concept plan as presented, and particularly likes the educational and gathering components. He is also proud of the work district staff is doing in seeking out grant funding for this project.

Tya Ping inquired whether there are any potential legal consequences in terms of people experiencing allergic reactions from bee stings at the pollinator garden or getting sick from consuming something from the gleaning garden, noting that perhaps appropriate signage could be considered.

- ✓ Nicole replied that she would double check the potential legal liabilities and described staff discussions around pollinator gardens being distanced from play areas and managed appropriately. A volunteer with experience in maintaining orchards maintains the gleaning garden at Recuerdo Park; there may be similar opportunities for partnership at this site.

Tya requested that accessibility and neurodivergent needs be considered when selecting the specific play equipment and site amenities.

Barbie Minor expressed enthusiastic support for the concept plan as presented and the many unique aspects included, adding that it seems to be the culmination of so much of the board's

feedback on other site plans showing up here, from play equipment for different ages, to the pollinator garden, fitness area, gleaning garden, and more.

✓ Tya added that she will continue to advocate for a four-seasons amenity.

Felicita Monteblanco commented that she loves the concept plan as well and expressed agreement with Barbie's comments, noting that this feels like a destination park with unique features and a site shape that presented opportunities and challenges. She thanked Metro for the Local Share Program funding that will be used in bringing this site to fruition.

President Moreno noted that it is great to see the district using a site's topography in terms of seating and hillside slides and thanked district staff for their work on this plan.

Tya described potential conflicts with the play area for children aged 2-5 being located in between the water play area and the play area for children aged 5-12 and suggested that the water play area be located in the middle.

**Felicita Monteblanco moved that the board of directors approve the preferred concept plan for the Future Park and Trail at Heckman Lane. Barbie Minor seconded the motion. Roll call proceeded as follows:**

<b>Miles Palacios</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Tya Ping</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Felicita Monteblanco</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Barbie Minor</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Alfredo Moreno</b>	<b>Yes</b>

**The motion was UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.**

**Agenda Item #10 – Adjourn**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:55 pm.

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Alfredo Moreno, President

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Barbie Minor, Secretary

Recording Secretary,  
Jessica Collins