



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, April 9, 2025, at the Tualatin Valley Water District Headquarters, 1850 SW 170th Avenue, Beaverton, Oregon. Executive Session 5:30 pm; Regular Meeting 6:00 pm.

Present:

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

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

President Barbie Minor called executive session to order for the following purposes:

- To conduct deliberations with persons designated by the governing body to carry out labor negotiations, and
- 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)(d) and (e).

President Minor 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 Barbie Minor on Wednesday, April 9, 2025, at 6:05 pm.

Agenda Item #3 – Action Resulting from Executive Session

Alfredo Moreno moved that the board of directors authorize staff to adjust the purchase price for the property in the northwest quadrant as discussed in executive session, using system development charge fees in escrow, and to acquire a second property in the northwest quadrant of the district for the price discussed in executive session, using system development charge fees in escrow as well as cash, subject to the standard due diligence review and approval by the general manager or designee. Felicita Monteblanco seconded the motion. Roll call proceeded as follows:

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

The motion was UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.

Agenda Item #4 – Proclamations

A. Arab American Heritage Month

President Minor welcomed this evening's guests to read the Arab American Heritage Month proclamation on behalf of the THPRD Board of Directors:

- Rita Salmo, office tech at the Garden Home Recreation Center, is a passionate community advocate whose work at THPRD has been invaluable. She played a key role in championing Marhaba, a now-signature THPRD event that celebrates Arab heritage and culture, uplifts Arab-owned businesses, and fosters community connection. Rita also leads outreach efforts for Centro de Bienvenida within Arab-speaking communities and is a co-lead for the Women-Only Swim program.
- Sahar Wilson with the Portland Refugee Support Group has been a driving force as a volunteer, leader, and supporter of the Marhaba celebration. She is constantly working in partnership with THPRD to better inform and support community members.
- Nadine Elbitar with Lutheran Community Services Northwest has been a dedicated partner and enthusiastic supporter of THPRD events and initiatives. Lutheran Community Services Northwest also supported the launch of the Women-Only Swim program and are currently working with THPRD to explore meaningful ways to celebrate Mother's Day with the women and families Nadine serves.
- Ahmed al Zubidi with Arabic House has collaborated with THPRD and the Garden Home Recreation Center for many years. He was a co-creator of the Marhaba celebration and played a key role in piloting the Women-Only Swim program. Ahmed is also a strong advocate for Centro de Bienvenida, the Financial Aid Program, and is a strong promoter and connector to all THPRD offerings and opportunities.

Each reader provided brief comments regarding their backgrounds and ties to THPRD before taking turns reading the Arab American Heritage Month proclamation in English and Arabic.

President Minor thanked Rita, Sahar, Nadine and Ahmed for sharing their time with the district this evening.

B. Autism Awareness and Acceptance Month

President Minor welcomed this evening's guests to read the Autism Awareness and Acceptance Month proclamation on behalf of the THPRD Board of Directors:

- Chelsea Huber, inclusion assistant for THPRD, is also a patron of THPRD's programs and services and an autistic person. Chelsea has worked with various populations of people experiencing disabilities, including autism spectrum disorder, throughout her life. She strives to be an advocate for people in the autism community and the larger disability community.
- Sofia Nichols, inclusion program specialist at Garden Home Recreation Center.

Chelsea and Sofia took turns reading the Autism Awareness and Acceptance Month proclamation.

President Minor thanked Chelsea and Sofia for sharing their time with the district this evening.

C. National Volunteer Month

President Minor welcomed this evening's guests to read the National Volunteer Month proclamation on behalf of the THPRD Board of Directors:

- Natasha Fisher with PGE who helps staff lead volunteer projects as a stewardship leader.
- Margaret Robinson, president of the Friends of Elsie Stuhr Center and a volunteer on the district's Levy Task Force.
- Jeff Wehrman, a regular THPRD volunteer for track and field and cross-country activities with local middle schools.
- Basel Saleh, a junior lifeguard at Conestoga Recreation & Aquatic Center for about the last 3 years, who has contributed over 620 hours of his time since he started.

- Angie Trieu, a RISE Youth Leader with THPRD and who has spent three summers volunteering with camps at Cedar Hills Recreation Center.
- Karishma Chidambaram, a member of the district's Programs & Events Advisory Committee, as well as the Levy Task Force.

Each reader provided brief comments regarding their backgrounds volunteering with THPRD before taking turns reading the National Volunteer Month proclamation.

President Minor thanked the guest readers for sharing their time with the district this evening.

Agenda Item #5 – Audience Time

President Minor welcomed those in attendance to provide public testimony and provided an overview of an update regarding the district's audience time process, which is being limited to 30-minutes for all non-board agenda related topics.

Jane Tram is before the board this evening representing the Tualatin Hills Swim Club. She spoke about concerns relating to a lack of transparency in changes made to the district's Affiliate Policy in 2022 and requests Affiliate Policy content 7.16 be restored to the District Compiled Policies.

Sidney McReynolds is before the board this evening representing the Tualatin Hills Swim Club (THSC). She spoke about the diverse demographics of THSC in relation to the district's equity and engagement work and THSC's willingness to continue their partnership with THPRD.

Agenda Item #6 – Board Time

A. Committee Liaisons Updates

Alfredo Moreno provided the following updates and comments:

- ✓ Expressed gratitude for the public participation around this evening's proclamations and the positive impacts of these involved community members.

Felicita Montebalanco provided the following updates and comments:

- ✓ Echoed Alfredo's comments of gratitude to this evening's proclamation readers.
- ✓ Expressed gratitude for area leaders and district staff's efforts to bring together the recent Eid al-Fitr celebration at the HMT Recreation Complex.
- ✓ Attended Representative Mari Watanabe's first townhall.
- ✓ The board is invited to tour the Washington County courthouse at the end of the month.
- ✓ Shared an update regarding her personal journey in learning how to swim with THPRD.

President Minor provided the following updates and comments:

- ✓ Echoed the comments of gratitude for this evening's proclamation readers and referenced the breadth of touchpoints THPRD has within the community.
- ✓ Attended the recent Nuevo Mexika event at Conestoga Recreation & Aquatic Center and the Eid al-Fitr celebration, two very well-attended events for which she heard many compliments to staff around the intentional collaboration and meaningful partnerships.
- ✓ Encouraged the community to keep updated via the district's website regarding the many more upcoming events and celebrations organized by or in partnership with THPRD.

Agenda Item #7 – Consent Agenda

Tya Ping moved that the board of directors approve consent agenda items (A) Resolution Amending Affordable Housing System Development Charges Waiver Policy, (B) Intergovernmental Agreement with Metro for Nature in Neighborhood Grant at Saqsaqa Park, (C) Serenity Park Construction Contract, and (D) Fanno Creek Trail - Scholls Ferry Road Pedestrian Crossing Construction Contract. Felicita Montebalanco seconded the motion. Roll call proceeded as follows:

Felicita Montebianco **Yes**
Alfredo Moreno **Yes**
Tya Ping **Yes**
Miles Palacios **Yes**
Barbie Minor **Yes**

The motion was UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.

Agenda Item #8 – Unfinished Business

A. Equity Strategy

Holly Thompson, Communications director, and Lulú Ballesteros, Equity & Engagement manager, provided an update on the development of a districtwide equity strategy via a PowerPoint presentation, a copy of which was entered into the record, and which included the following information:

- Districtwide Equity Strategy
 - Adapting in a thoughtful, respectful and adaptive manner
 - Responding proactively to community needs
 - Being transparent and accountable with our efforts
- Traditional Planning Doesn't Fit Our Needs
 - Timeframe is too long (5, 10, 20 years+)
 - Partners, people, opportunities change quickly with this work
 - Not very flexible or adaptive to emerging needs and trends
 - We need to modify our approach to better align with how we do this work
- THPRD's Commitment to Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, Access & Belonging (DEIAB)
 - Honoring our unwavering commitment to equity
- Who is Involved
- Staff Feedback & Engagement
 - Brainstorming sessions
 - Elements contemplated for brainstorming, data collection & prioritization:
 - Identifying current equity-focused work already in progress
 - Anticipate new initiatives for the upcoming fiscal year
 - Collect and document "wish list" items – aspirational goals that may not happen immediately but may reflect our long-term vision
- Research: Tools and Metrics
 - Identify tools, methods and metrics to help us better understand, track and evaluate equity work across the district
 - Aim to build a framework that not only supports accountability and transparency but also helps tell the story of THPRD's ongoing commitment to equity
- Organizing the Work Under Four Areas
 - Access to Programs, Activities, and Spaces
 - Programming with an Equity and Inclusive Approach
 - DEIAB Partnerships
 - Strengthening Organizational Capacity for Equity Work
- Dimensions of Equity Success
 - Access & Participation
 - Experience & Inclusion
 - Organizational Change & Learning
- Access to Programs, Activities and Spaces
- Organizing and Finalizing the Strategy
 - Develop and prepare a final Districtwide Equity Strategy document
 - Incorporate tools for tracking progress and analyzing impact
 - Articulate and share "THPRD's Equity Story" in a meaningful and accessible way

Holly and Lulú offered to answer any questions the board may have.

General Manager Doug Menke acknowledged that the work we do together is remarkable, but staff can only do this work within the space provided by the board of directors and their value statements enable these efforts.

Tya Ping expressed support for this work, especially during a political time when others are stepping back, and the district is able to double down in expanding opportunities and creating welcoming spaces. She expressed appreciation for district staff's efforts in always managing to go above and beyond even the board's highest expectations.

Felicita Montebianco commented that she is proud of the board being so reflective of the community it serves and reflected on the beginning of she and Holly's journey with THPRD, adding that she has great appreciation for Holly's leadership. She hopes that the district can do some work around disability justice as well, including reviewing the tenets of disability justice and challenging themselves. She appreciates the inclusion of participation going in hand with access, as it is not just about access but also whether the participation occurs, as well.

Alfredo Moreno provided his thoughts around the current political climate offering an opportunity for the district to think deeply about what equity means to us. He has been taking this time to be thoughtful about how his opinions have evolved since he's been on the board to now. To him, equity is not an ideology; it is a practical approach to creating positive outcomes that benefit the greater community and serve the greater good. Outcomes-based equity work that shows actual results, not just words. He is looking forward to seeing the Districtwide Equity Strategy document and hopes that our excellent community engagement is leveraged to take it into the future as the thoughts and opinions of the community we serve ebbs and flows, while also finding those stories to tell, of which he thinks the board is a story in and of itself for which he is proud.

Mile Palacios expressed pride in the district doubling down on its values, leading with integrity, and defining equity with actions. He congratulated district staff on this work.

President Minor expressed agreement with her fellow board members' comments and is looking forward to seeing the next steps.

B. 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:

- Adaptive and Inclusion Update
 - Sofia Nichols, Adaptive and Inclusion program specialist, and Beth Imus, Adaptive and Inclusion program assistant, provided an update on Adaptive and Inclusion programs, events, and Camp Rivendale, via a PowerPoint presentation, a copy of which was entered into the record.
- Volunteer Program Update
 - Melissa Marcum, Volunteer Services specialist, provided an update on the volunteer program and honored six individuals recognized as THPRD Volunteer Champions, 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.

Adaptive and Inclusion Update

The board members expressed appreciation to staff for this work and commented on the growth of the program over the past few years, support for bilingual availability and cross training, the power in giving people the opportunity to participate in district programs as their true, authentic selves along with their families as well as finding their community, creating welcoming spaces, and offers to leverage the board to help further this work.

Volunteer Program Update

Melissa Marcum, Volunteer Services specialist, announced THPRD's 2025 Adult Volunteer Champions:

- Natasha Fisher, stewardship leader supporting volunteer events at district sites (for Park Services)
- Margaret Robinson, president of Friends of Elsie Stuhr Center and Levy Task Force member (tied for Recreation)
- Jeff Wehrman, a regular volunteer with track and cross-country activities, and a park steward at both nature parks (tied for Recreation)

And the 2025 Youth Volunteer Champions:

- Basel Saleh, junior lifeguard at Conestoga Recreation & Aquatic Center (for Aquatics)
- Angie Trieu, RISE youth leader at Cedar Hills Recreation Center (for Recreation)
- Karishma Chidambaram, former Programs & Events Advisory Committee and Levy Task Force member (for All Other Programs)

President Barbie Minor congratulated this evening's honorees and commented on the wide breadth of areas represented during this evening's board meeting and expressed appreciation for everyone in attendance.

Agenda Item #9 – Adjourn

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:50 pm.

Barbie Minor, President

Alfredo Moreno, Secretary

Recording Secretary,
Lindsay Lambert

Transcribed by,
Jessica Collins