



**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 Monday, June 6, 2016, at the HMT Recreation Complex, Dryland Training Center, 15707 SW Walker Road, Beaverton, Oregon. Executive Session 6:30 pm; Regular Meeting 7 pm.

Present:

Larry Pelatt	President/Director
Jerry Jones Jr.	Secretary/Director
John Griffiths	Secretary Pro-Tempore/Director
Ali Kavianian	Director
Bob Scott	Director
Doug Menke	General Manager

Agenda Item #1 – Executive Session (A) Land

President Pelatt called executive session to order to conduct deliberations with persons designated by the governing body to negotiate real property transactions. Executive session is held pursuant to ORS 192.660(2)(e), which allows the board to meet in executive session to discuss the aforementioned issue.

President Pelatt noted that representatives of the news media and designated staff may attend the executive session. All other members of the audience were asked to leave the room. Representatives of the news media were specifically directed not to disclose information discussed during executive session. No final action or final decision may be made in executive session. At the end of executive session, the board will return to open session and welcome the audience back into the room.

Agenda Item #2 – Call Regular Meeting to Order

The Regular Meeting of the Tualatin Hills Park & Recreation District Board of Directors was called to order by President Larry Pelatt on Monday, June 6, 2016, at 7:20 pm.

Agenda Item #3 – Action Resulting from Executive Session

There was no action resulting from executive session.

Agenda Item #4 – Audience Time

Bob and Cheri Adams, 19164 NW Northshore Court, Portland, are before the board of directors this evening regarding the Bethany Lake/Northshore Estates Final Draft Plan, which addresses future maintenance of a tree grove in Bethany Lake Park. They provided a copy of the plan, as well as a chronology of tree-related events that have affected their home, into the record. Bob and Cheri provided the following testimony regarding incidents where trees from the park have fallen on their home, as well as the district's response to these incidents and plans for the remaining trees:

- Over the past seven years, two trees have fallen from Bethany Lake Park onto the Adams's home.

- The first incident, in 2009, caused over \$35,000 of damage to their home and could have seriously injured their son, who was home at the time.
- The second incident, in March of this year, caused an estimated \$100,000 of damage to their home; however, the disruption to their lives cannot be quantified as they have been living in a hotel since April and will continue to do so until the end of June.
- In November 2014, four trees fell from within the park in the opposite direction of their home. Had the wind been blowing a different direction that day, their home likely would have been completely destroyed.
- They noted the physical harm that could have occurred to their son during the first incident, who witnessed the falling tree and who has since suffered emotional distress and anxiety about additional trees falling on their home.
- THPRD staff have provided a final draft plan regarding how to address the remaining trees that pose any additional threat to their home, but while the Adams were hoping for immediate removal of these trees, the plan recommends waiting months and considers whether an eagle in the area would be effected by the removal effort.
- The Adams described the worry they will experience during this delay every time there is wind and the negative impact it will have on their lives. They ask that the district fulfill its promises in a timely manner before another tree falls on their home.

Jerry Jones Jr. inquired what the process has been for notifying insurance agencies involved.

- ✓ Bob Adams replied that THPRD staff were notified immediately after the incidents. He noted that until recently, the district's arborist has expressed reluctance to take down seemingly healthy trees; however, this seems to have changed with the latest incident.

Jerry asked whether an arborist report was performed after the first incident in 2009.

- ✓ Bob Adams confirmed this and referred to the chronology handout for additional detail.

President Pelatt asked for additional information regarding the concern for the eagle as noted during the Adams's testimony.

- ✓ Bruce Barbarasch, superintendent of Natural Resources & Trails Management, explained that there are regulations in place around the removal of vegetation that may harm birds that are nesting, with a particular emphasis on eagles. District staff have not yet engaged the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service about this project. Eagles generally have fledged and moved away from the area by fall and that was the approximate timeline for tree removal in the draft plan. Once district staff hear back from the public during the public outreach process, for which the comment period is open until June 10, staff can begin to tighten the timeline for tree removal.

Larry asked if there is a known nesting eagle nearby or in that particular tree grove.

- ✓ Bruce replied that there are eagles currently nesting just north of West Union Road. The tree grove and lake at Bethany Lake Park would be part of the hunting area visited by those eagles. District staff do not know for sure whether this will be a concern that will affect the draft plan; only that it is part of staff's due diligence on this topic that needs to be further explored. Although district staff recognize the Adams's concerns regarding the timeline, the weather is currently drying up, along with the ground, and weather events that tend to topple trees happen less during the summer. The intent is to move as quickly as possible in addressing this issue while also balancing these other needs, unless otherwise directed by the board. Once the public comment period closes, there may be additional viewpoints that should be considered, as well.

Larry asked when district staff anticipate hearing back from U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service regarding regulations pertaining to the nearby eagles.

- ✓ Bruce replied potentially within the next week or two.

Larry asked what the current public comments have indicated.

- ✓ Bruce replied that two comments have been received that are generally supportive of the tree removal plan. He explained that while there are adjacent neighbors directly affected by the trees, there will also be residents who see that area as important wildlife habitat. In the past, district staff have had the practice of not cutting down trees that appear to be healthy; however, after discussions with the neighbors, consideration of the history of tree events, and balancing some risk management issues, district staff is taking a different approach with this site.

Ali Kavarianian was welcomed to the meeting.

Larry asked how quickly the trees could be taken down if the public comment period and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service feedback comes back favorable of that result.

- ✓ Bruce replied that a bid process would be needed given the price to remove the trees would likely be over \$10,000, as well as time for public notification of the project. The fastest this project could be accommodated would be around two weeks.

Larry asked if this item would be before the board for additional discussion at the next meeting.

- ✓ General Manager Doug Menke replied that district staff will provide the board with the operational direction in which will be proceeded once the pertinent information is known.

John Griffiths described his neighbor's experience dealing with homeowner's insurance claims stemming from a hazardous tree falling from an adjacent property, as well as the City of Beaverton's tree ordinance coming into play. He believes the district is in a balancing act in this particular situation in that the district also does not want to open itself to other situations where residents request that healthy trees be removed because they are within the fall zone of a structure. He suggested consideration be given to topping the trees and leaving them as snags, which serve as great bird roosting habitat.

Jerry asked what the distance is between the trees at Bethany Lake Park and the residences.

- ✓ Bruce replied that the distance varies, but some of the trees are 100 feet tall or more. There is a wide grass buffer between the forest and the homes, but given the height of the trees, a significant number would need to be cleared in order to provide a height distance clearance. He noted that a challenge with this type of tree is that if it is topped, it tends to re-sprout from the top and the sprouts are weaker than what was previously there, creating an additional hazard. Staff will look at other methods, such as girdling, as a way to reduce the height.

Jerry inquired how many trees would be removed under the current final draft plan.

- ✓ Bruce replied that exact measurements have not been taken at this point. Staff approximate between 15 and 20 mature trees would be removed. This extensive of a removal would make a significant difference in the look and function of the grove. As much wood as feasible would be left on the ground to become part of the ecosystem. Staff will also explore whether there are more appropriate species of trees that could be replanted in the area; however, given the number of trees in the grove, the remaining trees may fill out that empty space.

Jerry expressed concern for this situation, noting that he can identify with the sense of urgency on the part of the family. He believes that the district should address this situation as a priority.

John commented that this problem is created when homes are constructed near existing forests, but he agrees that this particular situation needs to be addressed.

- ✓ President Pelatt expressed agreement, noting that trees that did not pose a threat when a home was initially constructed can be much taller decades later.

Agenda Item #5 – Board Time

John Griffiths inquired whether the headlining act has been announced for the upcoming Groovin' on the Grass concert.

- ✓ Aisha Panas, director of Park & Recreation Services, replied that The Temptations will be the headliner for the August 20 concert.

Jerry Jones Jr. commented that he had the honor of representing the district during the recent Memorial Day event held at Veterans Memorial Park. He noted that the event was well-attended and that the site looked amazing.

- ✓ President Pelatt agreed that district staff noticeably take pride in their work at Veterans Memorial Park.

Agenda Item #6 – Consent Agenda

Jerry Jones Jr. moved that the board of directors approve consent agenda items (A) Minutes of May 2, 2016 Regular Board Meeting, (B) Monthly Bills, (C) Monthly Financial Statement, and (D) Garden Home Recreation Center Seismic Upgrade Project. John Griffiths seconded the motion. Roll call proceeded as follows:

Bob Scott	Abstain
Ali Kavarianian	Yes
John Griffiths	Yes
Jerry Jones Jr.	Yes
Larry Pelatt	Yes

The motion was APPROVED by MAJORITY vote.

Agenda Item #7 – Unfinished Business

A. Americans with Disabilities Act Access Audit and Transition Plan Update

Aisha Panas, director of Park & Recreation Services, provided an overview of the memo included within the board of directors' information packet regarding the district's Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Access Audit and Transition Plan currently underway. Aisha provided a small sample of the 2,000 page draft document that has been received from the consultant, noting that the audit included a review of all of the district's parks and facilities and lists the ADA barriers that exist at each location. The draft document separates each barrier into several categories and provides a timeline for completion of each item: projects that could be completed by district staff within one to three years; small capital projects that could be completed within five to 10 years; and, large capital projects that could be considered within 10 to 15 years. Staff are currently reviewing the entire document in order to prioritize the projects based on maintenance and facilities' staff input and categorizing the projects as follows: projects that can be addressed in-house as routine maintenance occurs; projects that have a cost impact to the district; and significant capital projects. Aisha noted the next steps in this process, which include presentation of a draft transition plan to the board at the August meeting, followed by a second public open house in September, and consideration of board adoption at the October meeting. Aisha commented that although a 2,000 page document seems daunting, the project consultant assured staff that this is less than what other agencies have faced and that the district is in a good starting position. She offered to answer any questions the board may have.

Bob Scott asked how long it took the consultant to compile the information for the draft plan.

- ✓ Aisha replied that the consultant began in late July of last year and that the initial information became available in December.

John Griffiths asked if the draft plan covers all park sites and facilities within the district.

- ✓ Aisha confirmed this.

John asked whether the funding for the items identified would be included within future capital improvement project lists.

- ✓ Aisha confirmed this, noting that some items would be addressed as routine maintenance occurs or included within larger capital projects. Anytime there is a capital project occurring at a district facility, staff will evaluate whether there is an opportunity to address some of the ADA items noted. It will be a thoughtful process incorporating some funds for these changes into the capital program every year.

B. General Manager's Report

General Manager Doug Menke provided an overview of his General Manager's Report included within the board of directors' information packet, including the following:

- Ridgewood View Park and Reservoir Project with Tualatin Valley Water District (TVWD)
 - René Brucker, park planner, provided a PowerPoint presentation, a copy of which was entered into the record, showing the progress of the TVWD park redevelopment and reservoir project at Ridgewood View Park.
- Teen Programming: Cupcake Wars
 - Lindsay Beckman, leadership team assistant, provided a PowerPoint presentation, a copy of which was entered into the record, regarding a recent successful teen programming event at Cedar Hills Recreation Center called Cupcake Wars.
- Board of Directors Meeting Schedule

Doug offered to answer any questions the board may have.

John Griffiths observed that there seems to be enough empty space on top of the reservoir around the tennis courts to facilitate more recreational amenities.

- ✓ René replied that this is to accommodate the hatches needed in order to access the inside of the reservoir.

President Pelatt asked whether there is an update regarding redevelopment of the decommissioned reservoir at Reservoir Park.

- ✓ René replied that, at this time, there has been no further discussion regarding redevelopment of the decommissioned reservoir at Reservoir Park. The new reservoir currently under construction will have enough capacity for TVWD's immediate needs.

Agenda Item #8 – New Business

A. National Recreation & Park Association (NRPA) Gold Medal Award

Deb Schoen, interim superintendent of Sports, provided a detailed overview of the memo included within the board of directors' information packet regarding the district's pursuit of NRPA's Gold Medal Award. On April 29, THPRD was announced as one of four finalists in Class II, which includes agencies serving populations of 150,001 to 400,000. The winners of the Grand Plaque Award in each class will be named at the 2016 NRPA Annual Conference to be held in October 2016. Deb played a video the district developed as part of the award application process and offered to answer any questions the board may have.

John Griffiths asked whether THPRD would be given advance notice if it is the winner.

- ✓ Deb replied that it would not. All applicants learn who the winner is at the same time via an announcement made during the conference.

General Manager Doug Menke thanked Aisha, Deb and the district's staff team responsible for compiling the award application, noting that they have done an outstanding job.

- ✓ President Pelatt agreed, noting that the video is quite impressive.

Agenda Item #9 – Adjourn

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:25 pm.

Larry Pelatt, President

Jerry Jones Jr., Secretary

Recording Secretary,
Jessica Collins