



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, November 12, 2025, 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
Miles Palacios	Secretary/Director
Tya Ping	Secretary Pro-Tempore/Director
Barbie Minor	Director
Pradnya Patil	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, November 12, 2025, at 6:15 pm.

Agenda Item #3 – Action Resulting from Executive Session

There was no action resulting from Executive Session.

Agenda Item #4 – Proclamation: National Native American Heritage Month

Lulú Ballesteros, Equity & Engagement manager, introduced Melanie Ruelas, Conestoga Recreation & Aquatic Center office tech, who in turn introduced this evening's proclamation guest speaker, Johnny Martinez. THPRD has collaborated with Johnny on both the Mexika New Year and Día de los Muertos events. He is a dancer of Indigenous ancestry and a respected community connector for many Indigenous groups, both locally and across the country. Through his work, Johnny brings diverse communities together, offering meaningful representation from a range of Indigenous identities and tribes.

Johnny shared information about his background and work in educating people about the Indigenous populations of Mexico and their traditions and ceremonies. He expressed gratitude to

THPRD for offering space for this work and described incidents of discrimination and harassment he has experienced when practicing dance in open public spaces. He explained that dance is not just about tradition or art, it is a way of life, and that being able to share these traditions with the community makes it stronger overall. He expressed gratitude for the space this evening to speak his truth and commented on the fear being experienced within the community right now due to the current political climate and ICE activities. He then introduced his guest in attendance, Puma, who offered comments around the need for additional space within the community to practice ceremonies and the multigenerational focus of their ceremonies. He described the inherent challenges in working around scheduled space availability in order to practice something that is a way of life for them and requested the district's help in providing that additional space needed.

President Moreno thanked Johnny and Puma for their thoughtful comments and expressed gratitude for this relationship that's been built with district staff.

Agenda Item #5 – Audience Time

President Moreno welcomed those in attendance to provide public testimony this evening and provided an overview of the public testimony process.

Sebastien Nicolas is before the board representing the Tualatin Hills Dive Club (THDC). He spoke about the history of THDC, a 40% reduction in primetime hours assigned for THDC's use at the Tualatin Hills Aquatic Center, and the negative impact this reduction will have on their club.

Sarah Nicolas is before the board representing the THDC. She spoke about the specialized equipment needed for diving and that the Tualatin Hills Aquatic Center is the only pool in the region with these amenities; a cut in usage hours will have dire consequences for their club.

Sharon Zell is before the board representing the THDC. She spoke about the reduction in usage hours assigned to their club, especially on weekends, and the compromises their club has made to share resources; however, swimmers can use other pools, but divers can't.

Courtney Brawn is before the board representing the Pilgrim Lutheran Church. She spoke about the park space located in front of the Elsie Stuhr Center and described the negative impacts to the community if this space is turned into housing as is being proposed by the City of Beaverton.

Clara Davis is before the board representing the Pilgrim Lutheran Church. She spoke about the park space located in front of the Elsie Stuhr Center and described her enjoyment in using it for Easter egg hunts every year and also likes to play with her friends and family there.

Robert Thompson is before the board regarding the park space located in front of the Elsie Stuhr Center. He spoke about the negative impacts to the center, as well as the community as a whole, if this space is turned into housing, such as the already limited parking available in the area.

Agenda Item #6 – Board Time

President Moreno stated that he feels that it is important to make a statement for the record this evening to our community and staff, as both THPRD Board President as well as a second generation US citizen, that he has been emotionally gutted and beyond frustrated by the

seemingly indiscriminate fear, pain and cruelty being inflicted upon our community members around the district in the name of so-called immigration enforcement. No matter one's political persuasion, he has a hard time believing anyone would vote to inflict this kind of damage on families, businesses, schools and our sense of community. He believes that even the most casual observer knows that this just isn't right. He wants to commend the leadership and empathy his fellow board members have shown in working to address this issue and he is incredibly grateful for district staff and their ongoing community care. He believes our elected officials across the region are goodhearted people, most of whom are serving as volunteers more or less, who are universally repulsed by what is happening to our neighbors. They are also trying to navigate the unprecedented while adhering to the United States Constitution and keeping the hand on the steering wheel of our respective jurisdictions' core missions. It is a level of complexity that all but ensures that local governmental responses will be too much for some and too little for others. THPRD is no different and is navigating legality and trying to figure out how we can support our most vulnerable with substantive actions while also continuing to ensure access to high-quality park and recreation resources for everyone in our district. As elected officials and public entities, we all have a role to play in contributing to general community welfare wherever we can relative to our mission, be it in housing, economic development, community health and safety, or belonging. He would like anyone who may encounter this statement to know that the district takes that seriously and that the board will be having a discussion later in the meeting this evening about what we are doing now and what we can possibly do in the future and he commends the efforts of his peers who have been engaged in this effort. He hopes everyone will have faith that we are all doing what we can to learn, think, and act based on our individual leadership approaches and analysis of where we can make an impact. No one wants to see families continue to be devastated and some of our more vulnerable community members targeted.

Barbie Minor stated that she is grateful to President Moreno for sharing his thoughts, and that there is nothing else that seems more pressing at this moment. She is grateful for district staff and her peers and believes that this is an all-hands-on-deck moment. There are many different levers that can be pulled and barriers that are in place and she continues to hear "we can't." But she's appreciative of sitting next to colleagues who are dedicated and committed to figuring out what we can do, and she's eager to hear from our Equity & Engagement staff later this evening. She wants to hold space for those who are most impacted and she recognizes that it must be incredibly difficult to be on the solution side of trying to do one's day job and sustain wellbeing while many of our staff are very much personally impacted. This does not go unnoticed by her or her peers and she thanks staff for having the courage and resiliency to step up in this moment when many have lived experiences that make them and their communities victims of this racial terror that we are all experiencing. She hopes we can center and be reminded that this is so much more than politics; it is basic human rights and human dignity. As THPRD board members, they swore an oath to the Constitution and she believes in due process and adhering to that oath and will do everything in her power to meet this moment.

Tya Ping expressed agreement with Alfredo and Barbie's comments, adding that the board stands behind all our community members and that they hear and feel how this ongoing political climate is impacting people's safety, as was heard during this evening's proclamation presentation. It is the district's job to create safe and welcoming spaces and we're actively trying to work toward that and trying to do as much as we can to push the boundaries. THPRD is an

integral part of the community in bringing people together to feel safe, gather, recreate, and celebrate our community and lives. We hear you, we are with you, we see you and are going to do whatever we can. This was a major discussion item at the board's annual retreat last month and will be seen in the board's values and budget priorities as a main focus for the time to come.

Miles Palacios commented that the only thing he would like to add is to summarize that the board has recognized the challenges and are talking about solutions, and to recognize that those things alone are important but mean nothing without action and that is what they are working toward.

Pradnya Patil recognized the efforts staff are making to ensure that the district can get to the point where we can maximize what we can do for our community members. It is difficult to figure out where the line is in relation to pushing boundaries, but she recognizes the effort of staff in having those conversations and in ensuring that we make resources available internally for our staff, as well as externally for our community members. She is excited to hear more about this later this evening and expresses gratitude to district staff.

President Moreno noted that he recently attended a soft opening for the new Dougy Center near the HMT Recreation Complex, which is a nonprofit dedicated to the needs of grieving children and their families, and he believes there will be opportunities for THPRD to engage with this work.

Agenda Item #7 – Consent Agenda

Tya Ping moved that the board of directors approve consent agenda items (A) Minutes of October 8, 2025 Regular Board Meeting, (B) Quarterly Financial Report, (C) Resolution Amending District Compiled Policies Chapter 6 – Finance, (D) Resolution Authorizing Land and Water Conservation Fund Grant Application for Rock Creek Park Improvements, (E) Intergovernmental Agreement with Clean Water Services for Rock Creek Greenway Improvements, and (F) HMT Recreation Complex Pickleball Center District-Purchased Materials. Miles Palacios seconded the motion. Roll call proceeded as follows:

Barbie Minor	Yes
Pradnya Patil	Yes
Miles Palacios	Yes
Tya Ping	Yes
Alfredo Moreno	Yes

The motion was UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.

Agenda Item #8 – Unfinished Business

A. 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:

- **2026 Replacement Bond Measure Preparation**
 - Deputy General Manager Aisha Panas provided an overview of the proposed bond categories and potential projects discussed with the Bond Task Force and next steps, via a PowerPoint presentation, a copy of which was entered into the record.
- **Equity & Engagement Team Update: Supporting Immigrant and Refugee Communities**
 - Lulú Ballesteros, Equity & Engagement manager, and Mark Pierce, Safety Services manager, provided a detailed overview of the district's ongoing efforts to

support immigrant and refugee communities through public education opportunities and resource distribution through collaboration with community-based organizations, 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.

2026 Replacement Bond Measure Preparation

Pradnya Patil expressed gratitude to district staff and the Bond Task Force members, noting that she appreciates the work around categorization and prioritization, especially for safety items, such as play equipment that is at the end of its useful life.

Tya Ping inquired whether synthetic or natural turf fields are more climate resilient.

- ✓ Deputy General Manager Aisha Panas explained that every community is struggling with this question and that the answer can vary based on location and weather conditions. She described a recent Oregon Recreation & Park Association conference session on this topic, noting that even the most advanced agencies are struggling to answer this question. She acknowledged that it is a concern and that district staff are exploring all the angles to the best of their ability.
- ✓ General Manager Doug Menke added that while synthetic turf is the popular choice among players and parents, there is a significant amount of byproduct left at the end of the field's useful life.
- ✓ Pradnya Patil expressed agreement with Doug's comments and acknowledged the number of variables that factor into answering this question, including utilization factors that might help identify when a synthetic turf field makes the best sense.

Tya Ping advocated for including unique features in our parks, like the monkey at Hidden Creek Park in Hillsboro, or one of the large, wooden troll installations.

Barbie Minor expressed appreciation for providing examples of projects and walking the board through the needs in a way that's tangible and understandable. She is looking forward to hearing from the Bond Task Force at next month's board meeting.

Miles Palacios expressed support for including shade structures in our parks and asked for additional information regarding solar panels, such as what the long-term savings are expected to be and whether the district would be able to work with the utility company to contribute excess energy back to the community.

- ✓ Bruce Barbarasch, Sustainability manager, noted that the payback period for solar panels is after about 15 years and that they last around 20-30 years, and confirmed that if the district is unable to use all the energy it produces, it can go back into the power grid.
- ✓ Doug acknowledged that solar energy can be challenging in terms of upfront costs versus future payoff, noting that the key is in utilizing any incentives available and trying to create a package to minimize the upfront capital costs.

Miles expressed agreement with Barbie's comments in relation to the conversation around the need for the bond, noting that voter approval of the bond measure wouldn't represent a tax increase as it would be a continuation of the current rate from the 2008 Bond Measure. He echoed the earlier comments of gratitude for the intentionality behind this work.

President Moreno expressed support for new play equipment being considered, noting that some play equipment was lost to storm damage over the past few years and that he would like to see such locations prioritized for replacement. He asked for additional information around the mention of revenue opportunities for some of these improvements.

- ✓ Aisha described how the synthetic turf improvements being considered for the HMT Recreation Complex and Sunset Park could increase usage while also reducing maintenance costs.
- ✓ Doug added that another complementing factor is that these fields would be located at places that already have infrastructure, such as lights, restrooms and parking.

Alfredo asked whether additional water play features are being considered.

- ✓ Aisha confirmed this and described the variety of ways in which water elements are being considered in relation to park redevelopments, destination park features, as well as through the adding of amenities at current facilities.

Holly Thompson, Communications director, noted that the Bond Task Force is scheduled to present their recommendations to the board at the December Regular Board Meeting followed by the board's consideration of whether to refer the measure to the voters at their January Regular Board Meeting.

Equity & Engagement Team Update: Supporting Immigrant and Refugee Communities

Miles Palacios expressed gratitude for this evening's presentation and staff's work, noting that he appreciates the grounding presented in terms of the legal realities of this situation and that the district can only do so much in term of providing safe spaces when the supremacy of the federal level comes into play. He referenced ongoing conversations taking place amongst elected officials of local jurisdictions in terms of actions they are moving forward with and asked if there are similar conversations happening between the staff of these local jurisdictions as well.

- ✓ Lulú confirmed this, noting that when the district is speaking of its partners, that includes other local jurisdictions such as the City of Hillsboro who are the main leads for the regional engagers group, but also includes nonprofit organizations and speaking with our fellow Oregon Recreation & Park Association members. She described the varying levels of engagement being seen and the conversations taking place in sharing information.

Tya Ping commented that while she appreciates the lens around not creating a false sense of security for our community members, she wonders if there is more the district could do to create an unwelcoming space for ICE, such as by posting Know Your Rights signage or distributing handouts outlining what someone can do if ICE shows up.

- ✓ Lulú confirmed that this is a discussion point between staff, especially in relation to culturally-specific events and gatherings. She described signage that is also being created with information about who our Safety Services staff is.

Barbie Minor expressed gratitude for this evening's presentation and staff's work, noting that as an activist and organizer, she prides herself in serving the people and that her passion comes from a place of deep gratitude and respect and is truly centered on a desire to do what we can. She clarified that the ideas she has shared with district staff are not coming from an accusational standpoint of not doing enough, but only from a place of sincerity in asking us to partner together

and think outside the box. She has been in spaces with people who have been personally traumatically impacted and she described the frustration in having an administration that's breaking the law yet we must remain within the guardrails, which changes the dynamic in which we need to problem solve. She acknowledged that this is an unprecedented time for all of us and while ideas abound, she recognizes that we can't just flip a switch and don't want to do so and create greater harm; instead, this is about harm reduction. Unfortunately, this will need to be sustained for some time and she worries about burnout and the mental load this takes on staff and wants to make sure that we're looking internally as well in order to ensure that our staff who may be connected in different ways are being supported by the district. If there is anything the board can do to be louder or more upfront, or that she can do personally as a board member with a lot of privilege and protection, she is not afraid to use that privilege to be a voice for others that may not have the sense of safety needed in order to be able to meet the moment. She referenced conversations with other elected officials, noting that she knows we are not alone and that there are many people within the community right now who sit with the same honor of serving people who are trying to solve the same problem and that she is grateful that she gets to do this work with others who are willing to meet this moment and staff who is not putting up barriers. This is an opportunity to live our mission, vision and values, which are becoming more than words on paper when seen in action like this and she offers her assistance and gratitude.

Pradnya Patil noted that some of this evening's presentation was given at the recent joint advisory committees meeting and continues to evolve as every day there is new information. She appreciates the continuous pivoting and strategizing by staff and appreciates the clarity provided this evening around what our Safety Services staff can and cannot do and how they can safely support. These are difficult times and she appreciates Barbie's passion, focus and contributions.

President Moreno expressed gratitude for district staff, including Lulú's work with community-based organizations and Mark's expertise and connections on the law enforcement side, noting that we need all the info and insights collectively in order to be able to navigate the unprecedented. He asked if staff have any ideas at this point regarding what sort of reduction we might see for Centro de Bienvenida's winter term registrations.

- ✓ Lulú described some of the changes made to Centro in order to try to alleviate some fear and that staff was anticipating an impact for fall registration but attendance was great; however, so much has changed since then and staff does not know what to expect.
- ✓ Holly Thompson, Communications director, described the concerns around not being able to expand to new families and the voices who need assistance.

Alfredo acknowledged the acute risk for some staff in this work and expressed gratitude. He described the board's engagement on this topic and the value in being collectively contemplative, noting that this is the sign of a healthy board and he is appreciative of his fellow board members.

B. Fiscal Year 2026/27 THPRD Values & Budget Priorities

Holly Thompson, Communications director, recognized Aisha Panas, deputy general manager, Julie Rocha, Sports & Inclusion director, and Lulú Ballesteros, Equity & Engagement manager, for their assistance in drafting the proposed edits for the board's consideration this evening to the draft Fiscal Year 2026/27 THPRD Values & Budget Priorities that the board reviewed during their annual retreat on October 29, 2025. The edits being presented for the board's consideration this evening are as follows:

- Values
 - Leading with Equity with special attention to Racial Equity
THPRD values all dimensions of equity, including people experiencing disabilities, whether seen or unseen, age, ethnicity, gender, race, sexual orientation, and other identities. We see it as essential to prioritize all aspects of equity in recreation programming and services. THPRD recognizes that to achieve equity, we must prioritize investments for ~~the people who are the~~ most economically impacted ~~people~~. Due to the disparate impacts, a special focus on activities to advance racial equity is an important component of our overall equity strategy.
 - Environmental Stewardship
THPRD values the environment and demonstrates this through how we acquire, plan for, and care for lands. Environmental stewardship extends to the way we build and maintain our facilities, and the practices we use to procure goods and services. THPRD is committed to protecting and improving the environment. We ~~will hold ourselves accountable to~~ reduce our carbon footprint by and following our Climate Action Plan, incorporating sustainability into our operations, and by prioritizing investment in climate resiliency measures. We commit to being ~~continuing to be an ally and a~~ leader on environmental education, natural resource protection, and to ensure we pass on a healthy environment to future generations.
- Budget Priorities
 - Manage Limited Resources in a Sustainable and Strategic Way
Expand efforts to diversify revenue opportunities through grant strategy, sponsorships, foundation support, and collaborative investments with community, business, and government partners. Continue to evaluate the district's resource allocation model and develop tools for reporting. If successful in May, begin implementation of the district's replacement bond measure to care for critical capital infrastructure needs. ~~At the same time, continue to expand efforts to invest in employees, financial aid, and equity initiatives to ensure THPRD is welcoming and accessible to everyone.~~
 - Adapt our Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging Strategies
Equity, Inclusion and Belonging work is particularly challenging at this time. People are afraid to gather. This year, we understand we need to examine our programming, events, and the way we engage with vulnerable communities. We want to encourage staff to examine our practices and to modify them to meet the changing times. Evaluate, adapt and invest in programming and events, especially for vulnerable groups and individuals. Continue to collaborate with community partners to ensure that programs and events are responsive and culturally relevant. Solicit feedback and analyze the impact of these changes through participation metrics and patron feedback. Implement safety watch strategies. Continue to expand efforts to invest in financial aid and equity initiatives.
 - Invest in THPRD's Infrastructure
Prioritize preserving and protecting the park and recreation system we've already built. Continue IT investments to improve service delivery and efficiency. Launch our Registration System Replacement project. Acquire an asset management system to enable the district to better oversee and care for district assets. Ensure our staff have the tools they need to maximize performance. If the replacement

bond measure is successful in May, begin implementation on bond funded projects. Integrate sustainability in facility planning, maintenance, and programming, ensuring we are supporting an infrastructure that is adaptable and resilient to environmental challenges.

Holly offered to answer any questions the board may have regarding the proposed edits.

Leading with Equity with special attention to Racial Equity

- Tya Ping noted that the phraseology of the proposed edits seems to imply that the district would be prioritizing the most economically impacted above others; instead, she is wondering if economic status would be better referenced in the first sentence along with the other dimensions of equity that are listed.
 - Holly described the link between race being a predictor for disparate impact, noting that this link is absolute so if the district is leading with equity with a racial emphasis then investments in people who are the most economically impacted have to go to people on a racial basis as the data shows that race is the cause and predictive outcome of how that happens.
- Pradnya Patil wondered, based on Holly's comments, if those who are economically impacted need to be referenced. Like Tya, she thought the reference would be in the first sentence but doesn't think the proposed edits change it too much so is fine either way.
- Miles Palacios noted that while he understands the intention and link described by Holly, he also understands how it is currently worded feels superseding. He is concerned that the intent to focus on racial equity has been lost in how the sentence is currently phrased.
- Group discussion took place around other ways to include a reference to economic disparity in the value statement, such as by adding "economically impacted" or "economic status" right after "sexual orientation" in the first sentence.
- President Moreno commented that he doesn't believe that being poor is an identity and noted that a lot of the work the district is doing is helping people who don't have the means to access district programs. He described his thoughts around being explicit about who the district is putting programs on to serve and while certainly there is a big overlap with race, he would like to figure out a way to recognize the variety of ways people are marginalized and that the district is working to break down those walls. He asked his fellow board members if there is a way to keep the economic reference because it is important to be transparent about the aim of the district's work in terms of economic uplift.
- Group discussion continued around how best to modify the value statement, such as by replacing the word "prioritize" with "make" and removing the word "economically" in the third sentence and instead adding reference to economic status to the first sentence.
- Barbie suggested that the value statement be worded as follows: "THPRD values all dimensions of equity, including people experiencing disabilities, whether seen or unseen, age, ethnicity, gender, race, sexual orientation, economically disadvantaged and other identities. We see it as essential to prioritize all aspects of equity in recreation programming and services. THPRD recognizes that to achieve equity, we must make investments for those people who are most impacted. Due to the disparate impacts, a special focus on activities to advance racial equity is an important component of our overall equity strategy." President Moreno expressed agreement with Barbie's proposed edits with the understanding that additional discussion could take place during the board's values and budget priorities discussion next year.

Environmental Stewardship

- The board expressed agreement with the edits suggested by district staff as noted.

Manage Limited Resources in a Sustainable and Strategic Way

- The board expressed agreement with the edits suggested by district staff as noted.

Invest in THPRD's Infrastructure

- The board expressed agreement with the edits suggested by district staff as noted.

Adapt our Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging Strategies

- Pradnya commented that she likes the second paragraph and that there is room to pivot based on the unknown. She wondered if the third sentence that starts with "This year, we understand...." is redundant to the sentence later on that starts with "Evaluate, adapt and invest...." and doesn't see the need for both. If removing one or the other, she would prefer that the sentence starting with "Evaluate, adapt and invest...." be retained.
- Barbie described her preference that the sentence starting with "This year, we understand...." be retained instead.
- Pradnya expanded upon her preference that the sentence starting with "Evaluate, adapt and invest...." be retained as it references investment and this is a budget priority.
- Miles expressed agreement with Pradnya's comments.
- After some group discussion around whether these edits being discussed materially change the budget priority, as well as acknowledging decision fatigue and the difficulty of live editing as a group, the board decided to revisit this topic at their December Regular Board Meeting.

Agenda Item #9 – Adjourn

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:55 pm.

Alfredo Moreno, President

Miles Palacios, Secretary

Recording Secretary,
Jessica Collins