



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 on Tuesday, March 12, 2019, at the HMT Recreation Complex, Dryland Training Center, 15707 SW Walker Road, Beaverton, Oregon. Executive Session 6 pm; Regular Meeting 7 pm.

Present:

Ali Kavianian	President/Director
Felicita Monteblanco	Secretary/Director
Wendy Kroger	Secretary Pro-Tempore/Director
Todd Duwe	Director
John Griffiths	Director
Doug Menke	General Manager

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

President Kavianian 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), which allows the board to meet in executive session to discuss the aforementioned issues.

President Kavianian 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. At the end of executive session, the board welcomed the audience into the room.

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 Ali Kavianian on Tuesday, March 12, 2019, at 7:15 pm.

Agenda Item #3 – Action Resulting from Executive Session

Felicita Monteblanco moved that the board of directors authorize THPRD to grant a public utility easement to Portland General Electric in the southeast quadrant for the price discussed in executive session, subject to the appropriate due diligence review and approval by the general manager. Wendy Kroger seconded the motion. Roll call proceeded as follows:

Todd Duwe	Yes
John Griffiths	Yes
Wendy Kroger	Yes
Felicita Monteblanco	Yes
Ali Kavianian	Yes

The motion was UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.

Agenda Item #4 – Presentations

A. National Developmental Disabilities Month

Julie Rocha, Sports manager, and Gretchen Gorman, Adaptive & Inclusion specialist, read into the record a proclamation that the Tualatin Hills Park & Recreation District declares the month of March 2019 as National Developmental Disabilities Month.

B. Women’s History Month

Selected board members and district staff read into the record a proclamation that the Tualatin Hills Park & Recreation District declares the month of March 2019 as Women’s History Month.

Agenda Item #5 – Audience Time

Kelly Ross, 17875 Northwest Sue Court, Beaverton, is before the THPRD Board of Directors this evening regarding the district’s participation in the City of Beaverton’s Safe Parking Program. She asked if the district would ever consider expanding the program from the site currently under consideration (Fanno Creek Service Center) to additional sites that have more public use. She encouraged that the screening process for participants in this program be thorough and expressed concern that the program may attract more homeless persons to the district’s parks.

- ✓ Holly Thompson, Communications director, provided an overview of the district’s participation in this program, noting that this is a one-year pilot for the identified location only, with no plans to expand to other locations. She noted that the program is used in other cities in the country and has been successful in helping people transition to more stable, permanent housing. She described the legal agreements currently in development between the district and city, which will also detail the expectations and requirements for the program participants, including that the participants follow all of THPRD’s rules and regulations and that any violations of those rules could be basis for the participant’s termination from the program. The program is designed with low-barrier participation, but the district has the opportunity to add additional screening for participants using THPRD property. Holly committed to a transparent process when district staff returns to the board after the one-year pilot and reconfirmed that at this point there are absolutely no plans to expand the program to sites other than the Fanno Creek Service Center. She provided details regarding the City of Beaverton’s open house on this topic taking place tomorrow evening, noting that she also visited adjacent businesses to the Fanno Creek Service Center to inform them of the district’s participation in this program. She explained that the city is the convener of this program and will be contracting with Just Compassion of East Washington County. At this point, only the City of Beaverton and THPRD have committed space to the program, but she understands that negotiations are getting close between the city and three churches, as well.
- ✓ John Griffiths inquired where the city’s Safe Parking Program location will be.
- ✓ Holly replied that it will be at the Beaverton Community Center across from the library.
- ✓ Felicita Monteblanco commented that the city’s location will be a good fit as the library also offers a lot of services. She stated that this is an exciting project as the community seeks way to address the concerns of homelessness. She expressed support for THPRD’s participation and encouraged continued dialog on the topic.

Kelly commented that she does not take her children to the Beaverton City Library because of the number of homeless already there out of concerns for her children’s safety. She expressed concern that the number of homeless individuals using THPRD properties will also increase.

- ✓ Holly thanked Kelly for reaching out to THPRD to ask for additional information regarding its participation in this program, noting that the information released by the city did not detail the location of the district’s participation in this program, which was purposeful, but also made the district aware of the need for additional community outreach.

Mahesh Udata, 1129 NW Turnberry Terrace, Beaverton, is before the THPRD Board of Directors this evening to request more recreational opportunities for the nearby Waterhouse community. He described an open area next to a playground that could accommodate additional recreational amenities such as a sports field. He commented that he is bringing this request forward on behalf of himself and a few of his neighbors who would enjoy additional recreational opportunities.

- ✓ General Manager Doug Menke provided a brief overview of the current recreational amenities in that area, noting that district staff would be happy to discuss his ideas with him further and will reach out to him in the near future.

Agenda Item #6 – Board Time

A. Committee Liaison Updates

Todd Duwe provided an overview of a recent Programs & Events Advisory Committee meeting he attended, which included a presentation from district staff regarding changes to the district's scholarship program, for which the committee had compliments and suggestions for additional outreach, such as hosting registration nights at schools, language line access, and additional training for front desk staff. The committee also provided ample feedback on the district's activities guide, suggested that consideration be given to development of a welcome packet for new residents to the district, and that virtual tours of the district's facilities be posted on the district's website, as well as how-to videos.

Wendy Kroger provided an overview of her district-related activities since the last board meeting, which included the following:

- Forwarded information to district staff for participation in Aloha High School's Summer and Beyond Employment and Career Fair.
- Attended a recent townhall meeting with Representatives Neron, Schouten and Sollman that was held at the Tualatin Hills Nature Center, which was the result of an offer extended during her and fellow board member John Griffith's visit to Salem in January.
- Along with fellow board member Felicita Montebalanco, she recently met with community member Virginia Bruce who represents a group concerned about cultural acknowledgement and historical preservation. These topics will be referred for the consideration of the Parks & Facilities Advisory Committee.
- Attended recent Greenway NAC and CPO 7 meetings, during which THPRD was well-represented by its staff members who answered various questions.
- Participated in a walking meeting through Greenway Park with nearby residents and Washington County Board of Commissioners Chair Kathryn Harrington to discuss the continued flooding challenges in that location due to beaver activity.
- Toured SUN Community School program sites in Parkrose, along with fellow board member Felicita Montebalanco and Beaverton School District board member Tom Colette, with an interest in how THPRD could move forward in expanding its afterschool programs.
- Toured Chehalem Elementary School's Police Activities League (PAL) afterschool program with district staff.
- Washington County Kids presented their out of school summit results identifying needs for removing barriers around afterschool care and may be considering a future funding measure. She sees opportunities for our two agencies to work together.
- Attended the Washington County Civic Leader Project Cohort Celebration along with fellow board member Felicita Montebalanco and is excited to hear the results of district staff reaching out to the recent graduates with opportunities for involvement with the district.
- Performed volunteer duties in monitoring amphibian populations and described a recent significant motor vehicle accident that spread debris into the natural area and wetland area she had been working in, which has since been cleaned up by THPRD without disturbance to the frog eggs that had been found.

Felicita Monteblanco provided an overview of her district-related activities since the last board meeting, which included the following:

- Hosted a tour of Mt. View Champions Park for Metro Councilor Christine Lewis along with district staff.
- Attended a 2020 Census informational meeting hosted by Washington County, noting that it is a topic she will bring up again in the future and that an accurate count benefits all.
- Attended a stakeholder meeting this morning regarding Metro's upcoming natural areas bond measure for which she has a lot of notes to share with the board. She finds Metro's commitment to leading with race, including prioritizing indigenous communities and social justice, bold and exciting, noting that it offers THPRD an opportunity to reflect on how we're serving our various communities and perhaps make some changes. She hopes that Metro will clarify what the outreach and outcome expectations are going to be. According to the most recent timeline she viewed, April may be an appropriate time for the board to comment again on the measure before the Metro Council makes a final decision in May.
- ✓ General Manager Doug Menke noted that district staff has also attended a variety of meetings on this topic and that staff would work on packaging up the most current information and timeline for the board's information.

John Griffiths provided an overview of his district-related activities since the last board meeting, which included the following:

- Attended the most recent Nature & Trails Advisory Committee meeting during which the committee received a presentation from district staff and discussed the Jenkins Estate Concept Plan.
- Attended the Metro Council Work Session regarding the natural areas bond measure during which the council committed to moving forward with the larger funding option of the two proposed. He explained that the next question is how the funds would be divided.
- Attended Centro Cultural's Gala de Cultura which raised over \$200,000 that evening.

President Kavianian proposed for the board's consideration a request to direct district staff to present options as to how the district might facilitate more youth involvement in its advisory committees, which would also be helpful in leading into the district's visioning process.

- ✓ Felicita expressed support for this suggestion, noting that she especially would like to see people under 20 years of age involved in the visioning process as this will be the population that is served through the decisions made during that process.
- ✓ General Manager Doug Menke commented that district staff has been discussing how to integrate youth involvement into the district's three advisory committees, as well as via the visioning process. Additional information will be provided to the board for review within the next month and a half.

Agenda Item #7 – Consent Agenda

Felicita Monteblanco moved that the board of directors approve consent agenda items (A) Minutes of January 8, 2019 Regular Board Meeting, (B) Minutes of February 12, 2019 Regular Board Meeting, (C) Monthly Bills, (D) Monthly Financial Statement, and (E) Resolution Authorizing Local Government Grant Program for Somerset West Park. Wendy Kroger seconded the motion. Roll call proceeded as follows:

John Griffiths	Yes
Todd Duwe	Yes
Wendy Kroger	Yes
Felicita Monteblanco	Yes
Ali Kavianian	Yes

The motion was UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.

Agenda Item #8 – Unfinished Business

A. 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:

- Rec Mobile Program Update
 - Sabrina Taylor Schmitt, Recreation manager, provided an update regarding the district's Rec Mobile programs via a PowerPoint presentation, a copy of which was entered into the record.

Doug offered to answer any questions the board may have.

Todd Duwe inquired how the various apartment sites were chosen for visits from the Rec Mobile.

- ✓ Sabrina replied that they are located in identified environmental justice areas or socioeconomic areas identified by information provided by the city.

President Kavianian asked for confirmation that information regarding the Rec Mobile is communicated to the Beaverton School District.

- ✓ Sabrina confirmed this, noting that staff from both districts coordinate closely regarding THPRD's Rec Mobile program and the school district's meal programs to make sure that they go where the need is, which changes over time. The Free Fitness in the Parks schedule is also provided to the school district to be distributed along with free meals in order to increase outreach.

John Griffiths inquired whether visits by the Rec Mobile correlate to an increased participation in the district's scholarship program. He described the different side of government that's being presented when the Rec Mobile visits these sites.

- ✓ Sabrina confirmed this, noting that the Rec Mobile programs provide a great opportunity to connect people with other district services.

Felicita Montebianco added that the current political climate is attributing to an overall distrust of government, noting that it is exciting to think of the ripple effects the Rec Mobile program may have on the community, especially for those who are isolated, by presenting a safe environment in which to recreate.

Wendy Kroger referenced the Management Report included within the board of directors' information packet and provided the following feedback:

- She asked if there is any updated information regarding the district's negotiations with the City of Beaverton on the Urban Service Agreement.
 - General Manager Doug Menke provided an update, noting that district and city staff are working together to find a mechanism that would deem the word "primary" unnecessary. City staff are also meeting one-on-one with their elected officials.
- She complimented the concrete pads being installed under garbage cans at park sites.
- She asked that district staff give consideration as to how the rule of "no dogs off leash" could be re-messaged in a more creative way.

Agenda Item #9 – New Business

A. Jenkins Estate Concept Plan

General Manager Doug Menke introduced Keith Watson, Community Programs manager, to provide an overview of a concept plan for Jenkins Estate currently in development as included within the board of directors' information packet.

Keith provided a detailed overview of the draft Jenkins Estate Concept Plan via a PowerPoint presentation, a copy of which was entered into the record and included the following information:

- Purpose and Vision
 - The estate’s master plan was originally developed in 1978
 - The concept plan is being developed to:
 - Reflect changes in the community
 - Evaluate community desires and identify future activities, uses, and goals for the site
 - Identify overall goals and objectives for the site
 - Introduce supporting projects/action steps to be developed over time
- Timeline
 - Public outreach process began in Summer 2017
 - Final concept plan will be presented in May
- Key findings from public outreach process
 - What part of the estate do you use?
 - What is your purpose at the estate?
 - What would you like to see happen with the estate?
- Identified focus areas, including goals and actions for each area
 - Public access
 - Recreation
 - Nature and trails
 - Events
- Next steps
 - Tonight’s presentation to the board of directors
 - Draft plan available to the public by April 1
 - Final plan review by the board of directors at May board meeting
 - Plan implementation will be ongoing

Keith offered to answer any questions the board may have.

John Griffiths described feedback received on the concept plan during the recent Nature & Trails Advisory Committee meeting regarding people new to the area and/or from cultures without a reference point for an estate of this size and who may have trouble relating to it. Some of the district’s other historic properties are of a much more modest size. This discussion brought up a question for him of how the use or perception of the estate may change as the demographics change for the area and how the district can adapt to those changes in order for the estate to maintain relevancy. He pondered whether the district may wish to consider marketing all of its historic properties together as a group and questioned whether there is a need for the district to alter how it presents its historic properties for public use or as rentals, as appropriate.

- ✓ Keith agreed that the district’s historic properties vary in size and accessibility, noting that how to market them together would need additional thought.
- ✓ Doug commented that marketing the sites could be more about telling the properties’ stories, noting that not all of them are in a state that could facilitate public access, but each serve a purpose and have unique meaning. Helping to define that would be an interesting approach in that the district serves an ever-changing public.
- ✓ Keith added that one of the comments received through the outreach process was that the term “Estate” is off-putting and pondered if a change in the title to “Park” would help.

Felicita Monteblanco commented that she read all of the comments submitted and nothing particularly surprised her. However, although she does not wish to detract from the work done, she would like to point out that those who commented and engaged in the outreach process was not terribly reflective of the community, which is not surprising but serves as another reminder that the district needs to continue to work on its outreach methods, whether that means more outreach in Spanish or going out directly into the community and knocking on doors.

Wendy Kroger thanked district staff for taking into consideration the comments she submitted about the concept plan prior to tonight's meeting, noting that she likes the idea of a concept plan as it is more of a living document that can be built upon over time.

President Kavianian noted that among the races/ethnicities listed in the survey, Middle Eastern/Iranian was not offered as an option. He also read all of the comments submitted and two topics that were reoccurring seemed to be a general feeling of leaving things as they are, but enhanced, as well as a stated lack of restrooms.

- ✓ Keith replied that staff is working on gaining year-round access to restrooms for users.

B. Oregon Public Records and Meetings Law

General Manager Doug Menke introduced Jeff Condit and James Walker, attorneys with Miller Nash Graham & Dunn LLP, district legal counsel, to present information to the board regarding Oregon Public Records and Meetings Law. Specifically, the board had requested additional information regarding topics acceptable for Executive Session discussion versus what must be discussed during Open Session.

Jeff and James provided a detailed overview of the information provided within the board of directors' information packet outlining Oregon Revised Statutes 192.660, which prescribes what matters are permitted under Executive Session, as well as procedures and media attendance. Jeff and James offered to answer any questions the board may have.

John Griffiths asked clarifying questions regarding whether the board's authority extends to discussion of employees other than the general manager under sections ORS 192.660(2)(a) Employment or (b) Employee Discipline.

- ✓ Jeff replied that this would extend only to the employee over which the board has direct authority, which is the general manager. If someone were to come to a board meeting with a complaint about a district employee, he recommends that the board refer the issue to the general manager. If the board is unwilling to do this for some reason, it would be possible to bring that discussion into executive session. The board does not have the authority to discuss the hiring of positions other than that of the general manager within Executive Session.
- ✓ James added that salary discussions cannot be held within Executive Session.

Felicita Montebianco asked for clarification regarding where Executive Session discussion of potential lawsuits would fall within the ORS.

- ✓ Jeff replied that if a tort claim has been received, the matter can be discussed under ORS 192.660(2)(h) Potential Litigation. A mere threat of contacting a lawyer likely would not qualify. If the board wishes to discuss a potential liability with legal counsel without a claim having been filed, this could occur under ORS 192.660(2)(f) Exempt Public Records.
- ✓ James added that it is helpful to have a written memo from legal counsel in order to evoke ORS 192.660(2)(f) Exempt Public Records.

Felicita asked if legal counsel reviews each executive session agenda prior to the board meeting.

- ✓ Doug replied that this had been done under previous legal counsels and that there has been discussion regarding the need to work more closely with our new legal counsel. Tonight's presentation is serving an educational purpose for district staff, as well.

Felicita requested that this presentation be given to the board every two years, noting that the consequences for misusing the Executive Session privilege can be serious, as well as to keep up to date on any ORS changes that may come from the legislature. She noted the accountability

that comes along with the use of Executive Session and the knowledge needed in order to avoid unintended consequences.

General Manager Doug Menke referenced the script read aloud into the record by the board president when opening Executive Session and inquired whether it is necessary to read the portion directing media not to disclose information if there is no media present.

- ✓ Jeff replied that if there is no media present, the portion relating to media does not need to be read. He noted that media does not have a right to listen to the Executive Session recordings after the fact. On the other hand, he would not recommend that the board president get out of the habit of reading that portion should media attend.

Doug commented that district staff is diligent about monitoring the room for media presence.

C. Board of Directors Stipend

General Manager Doug Menke introduced Jeff Condit, attorney with Miller Nash Graham & Dunn LLP, district legal counsel, to present information to the board regarding the process for amending the board's stipend practice, including any potential ethics considerations. The board had recently expressed the desire to discuss and possibly amend the current stipend amount of \$50 per month.

Jeff presented a detailed overview of the memo he provided on this topic included within the board of directors' information packet which offered a review of the district's former legal counsel's opinion regarding amending the board stipend. While he agrees with the previous opinion that the board has some discretion under ORS 198.190 to set parameters for how and when a board member may receive the stipend, he disagrees somewhat with the analysis provided of the application of the Code of Ethics to the decision. The previous legal counsel recommended that any stipend revision be applied prospectively at the start of successive director terms; however, his recommendation is to request an opinion from the Oregon Government Ethics Commission (OGEC) about whether the board could vote for a stipend amendment effective during their terms currently in progress. Jeff offered to answer any questions the board may have.

Felicita Montebianco expressed support for considering an increase to the board's stipend as an investment in the future and racial equity. She asked for clarification that, as the only board member not up for election this May, whether she should abstain from any vote on this topic and would then wait until her term is over in two years for any stipend adjustment to take place.

- ✓ Jeff replied that he would recommend every board member take part in the vote, but that the results would apply prospectively. In Felicita's case, any change in the stipend would begin to be applied to her position after her term concludes. He noted that this would still require her to declare a potential conflict of interest.

General Manager Doug Menke asked for confirmation that if the board seeks an opinion from the OGEC and it determines that there is no conflict of interest in the board amending its stipend, then the board could take and benefit from such action immediately.

- ✓ Jeff confirmed this and explained the two types of opinions that could be sought from the OGEC: a staff opinion, which only takes up to six weeks but is still subject to OGEC review and possible disagreement; or an official OGEC opinion, which takes up to six months. The ultimate protection comes from seeking an official OGEC opinion.

Felicita stated that she feels very strongly about an increase in the board's stipend and that it is not about the current board members, but investing in future board members. She described a recent event she attended celebrating future community leaders, noting that some face barriers to participation. At times she must miss work to attend district meetings, but she is fortunate to have

paid time off and a flexible boss, whereas others may face challenges in this regard. In her opinion, this is a clear choice about the board making a commitment to its future elected leaders.

General Manager Doug Menke asked for a board consensus regarding whether it wishes to seek an OGEC opinion on this topic and, if so, what level of opinion is desired. At some point, the board would also need to regroup to determine what the criteria will be for the qualifying events eligible for a stipend and whether there would be a monthly cap. It will be important to develop a clear process that is not onerous.

Todd Duwe stated that he is in favor of moving forward by requesting an opinion from the OGEC.

John Griffiths asked for confirmation that under the process outlined whereby any stipend revision would be applied prospectively at the start of successive director terms would result in some board positions receiving \$50 per event and others receiving \$50 per month.

- ✓ Jeff confirmed this. He provided an additional overview regarding the ethics considerations of this issue as outlined within his memo, as well as the flexibility the board has in determining how it would like to manage its stipend, such as by allowing \$50 per board meeting and \$25 per other district-related engagement, or by setting a hard cap of up to \$100 in qualifying events per month. The key is not to run afoul of the ORS specification that board members “may receive an amount not to exceed \$50 for each day or portion thereof as compensation for services performed as a member of the governing body.”

President Kavianian asked if there is a cost associated with requesting an OGEC opinion.

- ✓ Jeff replied that the OGEC does not charge for staff opinions, but that he would need to check to see if there is a charge for official OGEC opinions. He estimates his time in preparing the request for submittal to the OGEC would be an hour or two.

John inquired whether Jeff has ever seen an OGEC staff opinion overruled by the OGEC?

- ✓ Jeff confirmed that he had and provided an overview of the process behind OGEC’s review of the staff opinions issued.

John asked if this would be a mundane inquiry for the OGEC.

- ✓ Jeff replied that it would not and provided examples of other ethics-related questions that have been asked of the OGEC.

Wendy Kroger stated that if the district were not under any financial constraints at all, with every program, facility and land acquisition need fully funded, she may begin to consider an adjustment in the board’s stipend. She would rather spend her time thinking about what as a district the board should be doing for its patrons instead of what stipend amount the board receives. She stated that she is not happy with this direction and that when considering the range of ethical violations, there are actual ethical violations, potential ethical violations, and then there are some things that just do not seem right. She does not wish to be asking the OGEC how she can get more money from the district as this is not the reason she serves on the board. If the board decides to move forward with seeking an opinion from the OGEC, she wants to be clear in that she does not want to see her name attached to any such inquiry. Although she understands the argument about investing in future board members, she respectfully disagrees. She adamantly disagrees with this direction and wants to take no part in it if it moves forward, noting that she does not believe it to be the best use of district staff time nor taxpayer dollars.

Felicita suggested that the board could facilitate an increase to the stipend without increasing its overall budget. For example, she noted that the board could consider utilizing a portion of its generous travel budget, which tends to be used most by those who are retired. She stated that

she does not want to see the board increase its budget, but rather reduce the travel budget so that it could be more equitable. She commented that those who currently have access to the travel dollars isn't equitable right now since several of the board members work full time, which is an important lens as are the other lenses on the board. She encouraged consideration of the district's future leaders in making this decision, such as the recent graduates of the Washington County Civic Leader Project, and others who are passionate and want to bring underrepresented perspectives to the table. Those individuals face barriers to participation and if the board wants to ensure that it is representative of the community it serves, some of those barriers must be eliminated. She stressed the privilege she feels in sitting on the board and making decisions on behalf of the community she serves, noting that she is not advocating for a dramatic increase, perhaps up to four meetings per month at the most. As an example of the extreme, Metro council members earn \$47,000 a year. She stated that she feels very strongly about this topic in relation to the district's commitment to racial equity and an overall commitment to diversifying boards across the nation, for which this board needs to be bold and lead by example. She emphasized that she does not want to see funds taken from somewhere else in the district's budget to benefit the board, but rather to use funds from the existing travel budget, all of which is not currently being utilized anyway.

General Manager Doug Menke provided a brief overview of the board's budget line item of Training, Travel and Memberships, noting that of the \$43,048 budgeted for the current fiscal year, approximately half is used for travel purposes.

Felicita added that this topic relates to some important conversations she believes need to happen regarding the board's travel budget and what it means to be using taxpayer dollars for this purpose. She used the City of Tualatin as an example, which requires councilors who travel on city business to present to the council. She questioned how the board is holding each other accountable in spending travel funds and how they are being held accountable by the taxpayers. For example, she asks whether each board member should attend the National Recreation & Park Association conference every year. And whether there should be a limit to the number of board members who travel to Washington, D.C., on the district's legislative business. She believes this is worthy of future board discussion.

Additional board and district staff discussion occurred regarding the board's budget line item of Training, Travel and Memberships, noting that of the \$43,048 budgeted for the current fiscal year, approximately \$5,000 remains; however, the great majority of the board's travel expenditures has already occurred for the fiscal year.

President Kavianian commented on the value of the time shared between fellow board members and district staff during travel, noting that although he most likely will be unable to attend this year's annual conference, when he has attended in the past he has managed to continue his work schedule while traveling, although he recognizes the restraints that others may have in this regard. He stated that he does not want to hold whether he can take part in district travel against the current or future board members. He described the benefits the board's travel provides in building bonds and learning what is going on in the industry on a national level. He agrees that for travel to Washington, D.C., it is not necessary to have all board members in attendance, but in the past, it has been valuable to have an additional board member in attendance in order to help facilitate a busy meeting schedule with legislators. He noted that as board members travel more for these purposes, the amount they are able to contribute grows from experience. He stated that if there are funds left over at the end of the fiscal year within the board's budget, the board could discuss other ways to utilize those funds, such as for the district's scholarship program or affordable housing. He commented that each of the board members have sat on volunteer boards and performed extensive volunteer work, all of which has been unpaid, and that none of the

board members are serving on the THPRD Board of Directors for the money or notoriety, but out of a desire to contribute to and be part of a fantastic community. He is open to considering how to enable future board members to serve on the board, but if the board determines to move forward in seeking an adjustment to its stipend, he believes any change in the stipend amount should not be applicable to those currently serving.

Felicita commented that consideration should also be given to the ripple effect that the board's decision and discussion could have on other special park districts who have unpaid board positions and asked that they move forward in seeking an opinion from the OGEC.

John provided an overview of the history of the board's stipend amount as well as past board discussions regarding a potential increase, noting that if the stipend is meant as compensation, it has been deflated away a long time ago from its original value. If it is not meant as compensation and is really meant as an expense reimbursement, then he can understand it remaining relatively stagnant. But if it is meant as compensation, it should go up over time. He commented that he has a lot of respect for Wendy and that he trusts her intuition, noting that sometimes it is better to do things that do not create dissension on the board. He stated that he would be supportive of not proceeding any further.

Todd expressed agreement with Felicita's comments regarding an increase in stipend addressing barriers and does not feel that the impact to the board's budget would be significant. He would like to see the board move forward in seeking an opinion from the OGEC.

President Kavianian commented that he understands Felicita's comments and rationale, but also believes that there is more that the board could be doing with its funding at this time than an increase in the stipend. Even if it is only a \$5,000 difference, that represents \$5,000 that could go toward the district's scholarship program, which is expected to see a great increase in utilization due to some of the recent changes that have been made. He described the accountability to the taxpayers that comes with being a board member and believes that forgoing an increase in stipend at this time is the right thing to do. He provided his experience in serving on many uncompensated boards in the past during times that he was not financially secure, yet he still contributed due to the passion he felt in helping contribute to the betterment of the community. He, too, faced barriers, but through personal sacrifice was able to persevere.

Felicita thanked the board members for the healthy discussion this evening, noting that this topic may come up again in the future.

Agenda Item #10 – Adjourn

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:25 pm.

Ali Kavianian, President

Felicita Monteblanco, Secretary

Recording Secretary,
Jessica Collins