



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 at the HMT Recreation Complex, Dryland Training Center, 15707 SW Walker Road, Beaverton, on Monday, October 14, 2013. Executive Session – none scheduled. Regular Meeting – 7:00 p.m.

Present:

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

Agenda Item #1 – Call Regular Meeting to Order

President, Joe Blowers, called the Regular Meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Agenda Item #2 – Parks Bond Citizen Oversight Committee Annual Report

Doug Menke, General Manager, introduced Marc San Soucie, Chair of the Parks Bond Citizen Oversight Committee, to present the Committee's fourth annual report to the Board of Directors, which is included within the Board of Directors information packet.

Marc summarized the Committee's overall conclusions regarding the activities of the District over the past year in respect to the Bond Program:

- Continued good progress on all fronts.
- The Bond Program is approaching, or has already exceeded, expending half of the total funds available.
- A majority of the development projects are projected to be complete by the end of the fiscal year.
- Projects behind schedule are due to intentional and predicted reasons.

Marc continued by listing the following highlights from the Committee's fourth Annual Report:

- Compared to last year's report, there has been a substantial increase in both the spending and results in the area of natural area land acquisition.
- The original commitment through the Bond Program was to acquire six Neighborhood Park sites; however, eight sites have already been acquired with two more projected.
- The work that has been done in locating a site for the community center in the Southwest Quadrant of the District has led to an opportunity to have a second community park acquisition as part of the Bond Program.
- Outside funding in excess of \$2 million has been leveraged from grants and other sources.

Marc described the areas that the Committee would like to see an increased or continued focus:

- Continued effort to acquire and restore natural areas.
- Cedar Hills Park renovation project.
- Locating, planning and developing additional athletic fields.

- Category transfers of Bond funds. The Committee anticipates more of these transfers as the final costs associated with each category are better known. Although there are basic policies in place, the Committee anticipates additional discussions going forward.

Marc commented that the Committee will continue to monitor the overall implementation of projects and acquisitions in the Bond Program and that the Committee values its relationships with its Board liaison, Bob Scott, as well as District staff. Marc stated that the Committee will continue to note within its annual report what the taxpayers of the District are paying for the Bond Program (\$0.31/per \$1,000 assessed value) versus what was estimated and advertised to the voters (\$0.37/per \$1,000 assessed value). He noted that not only are the taxpayers paying less for the Bond Program than what was projected, but they are receiving more amenities than projected. Marc offered to answer any questions the Board may have.

Larry Pelatt complimented District staff on a job well done, noting that their efforts span a variety of departments and staff.

President, Joe Blowers, thanked the District's voters for having faith in the District and approving the Bond Measure. He described how having such funds during an economic downturn has enabled the District to provide more improvements and acquisitions for less than originally anticipated.

- ✓ Marc agreed, noting that the voters were showing their trust in the District by approving the Bond Measure and that the District is justifying that trust via its performance in the Bond Program.

Bob Scott commented that the Parks Bond Citizen Oversight Committee is fulfilling its charge by asking tough questions and monitoring the timelines for the projects. He thanked Marc for his leadership as Chair of the Committee.

John Griffiths described how leading up to the Bond Measure vote he received some comments from the public questioning the timing of the District's measure, but he had replied that if the District was successful in passing the measure during the economic downturn, it would be able to provide much more for the same dollars.

President, Joe Blowers, thanked Marc San Soucie and the Parks Bond Citizen Oversight Committee for their efforts and annual report.

Agenda Item #3 – Audience Time

Liz and Ann Moorhead, 16005 SW Flicker Court, Beaverton, are before the Board of Directors this evening regarding the District's teen/adult fitness classes. Ann stated that she and her mother, Liz, would like to testify regarding the lack of opportunities parents have to exercise with their middle school-aged children within the District and advocate that the age limit for teen/adult fitness classes, as well as the weight rooms, be lowered to 11 years old. She described the epidemic currently being experienced by the nation in regard to youth obesity rates and noted that one way to combat these statistics is for families to exercise together. Liz noted that while their neighborhood recreation center, Conestoga Recreation & Aquatic Center, offers many teen fitness classes, none offer the opportunity for a family to participate together. Ann continued that the only fitness class an 11-13 year old could take with their parents at Conestoga is Japanese Fencing and, in addition, children under the age of 14 cannot use the new weight room. Liz commented that she has spoken to District staff regarding her concerns and while the age limit was reduced from 16 to 14 in the past, she would like consideration given to an additional reduction. She described how being able to exercise with her child could provide additional time together as a family. Liz and Ann noted that by lowering the age limit from 14 to

11, the number of opportunities that children have to exercise with their parents increases dramatically. In summary, Ann reiterated their request that the District consider reducing the minimum age of the teen/adult fitness classes to 11 in order to allow middle school youth to participate in these classes with their parents and to consider reducing the minimum age for use of the weight room to 11 years old, as well.

Larry Pelatt commented that the District's age limits are not arbitrarily determined and that the District offers exceptions on a case-by-case basis. He described the various considerations given when determining such age limits, which includes input from the District's insurance carrier, and noted that the District needs to be cautious due to the litigious nature of our society. He commented that while Ann seems like a perfect example for an exception to the age limit, not all children her age are as mature and that the age limits were not set capriciously. The District reviews these limits every few years and follows the lead of the experts in the industry.

President, Joe Blowers, noted that the Board of Directors does not typically make such determinations at this level, but would direct District staff to further explore the issue.

John Griffiths asked for clarification whether their request is to allow children 11 and older to use the weight room unsupervised.

- ✓ Liz replied that their request is based on the child being accompanied by a parent. She noted that while she agrees that some children are more capable than others, she believes that most middle school aged-children are capable of participating in classes and the weight rooms. She suggested a restriction that children under the age of 14 must be accompanied by a parent.

John asked for confirmation that she is not suggesting that an 11 year old be allowed to use the weight room unsupervised.

- ✓ Liz replied that currently someone under 14 cannot use the weight room at all. She reiterated that she would like to see more opportunity for middle school-aged children to participate in the weight room and fitness classes with their parents.

John replied that he is mainly concerned about use of the weight room as the equipment can be dangerous.

Doug Menke, General Manager, noted that District staff has already begun the review process regarding this topic and has also referred the issue to the Recreation Advisory Committee. District staff intends to share their research on the issue with the Committee and make adjustments to the age limits as necessary.

- ✓ Jerry Jones, Jr., expressed an interest in hearing what the recommendation is from District staff and the Recreation Advisory Committee.
- ✓ President, Joe Blowers, agreed, noting that the opportunity for children and parents to exercise together is an interesting concept to explore. He would like to see what the age limits are on a national level.

Doug noted that the initial research in establishing the age limits included review of other agencies' practices and insurance carriers' opinions. He described the need for balance, noting that there are also adults who do not wish to have children in their class.

President, Joe Blowers, thanked Liz and Ann for their testimony this evening and noted that District staff would be in contact with them regarding their request.

Agenda Item #4 – Board Time

Jerry Jones, Jr., commented that last week's National Recreation & Park Association conference was very informative and that he learned a lot from other park and recreation professionals across the country.

Bob Scott asked how the attendance was for Sunday Trailways, held on September 22, which experienced poor weather.

- ✓ Doug Menke, General Manager, confirmed that shortly after the trail dedication, the weather took a turn for the worse.
- ✓ Lisa Novak, Superintendent of Special Activities, noted that there were approximately 200-300 participants at the beginning of the event, but that it unfortunately had to end early due to the inclement weather.

Agenda Item #5 – Consent Agenda

Bob Scott moved the Board of Directors approve Consent Agenda items (A) Minutes of September 9, 2013 Regular Board Meeting, (B) Monthly Bills, (C) Monthly Financial Statement, (D) Resolution Appointing Natural Resource Advisory Committee Members, (E) Consultant Contract for Cedar Hills Park, and (F) Service District Initiated Annexation Resolution. Larry Pelatt seconded the motion. Roll call proceeded as follows:

John Griffiths	Yes
Jerry Jones, Jr.	Yes
Larry Pelatt	Yes
Bob Scott	Yes
Joe Blowers	Yes

The motion was UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.

Agenda Item #6 – Unfinished Business

A. District Logo

Bob Wayt, Director of Communications & Outreach, provided a brief overview of the memo included within the General Manager's report, noting that except for the addition of trees to the background about 10 years ago, the existing District logo has essentially remained the same for all 58 years of the District's existence. While the logo has served the District well, its appearance is understandably dated. After evaluating dozens of logo options and discussing the best ones with Board members, Advisory Committee members, and leadership staff, staff are prepared to recommend a new logo for adoption. Bob introduced David Karstad of Frank Creative/Frank's Garage, the project consultant, to present the full rationale for a new District logo and to unveil the top design.

David provided an overview of the process used to develop the various logo concepts for the District's consideration and revealed the selected design via a PowerPoint presentation, a copy of which was entered into the record.

President, Joe Blowers, opened the floor to Board discussion regarding the proposed new logo.

Jerry Jones, Jr., expressed excitement for the new logo, noting that the words used to exemplify the new design, which included "quality" "experience" "stewardship" "community" "strong" "modern," fit the District well. He believes the process vetted out many other options and that he really likes the proposed logo. He feels that it is vibrant enough and will look good on the District's vehicles and uniforms. He also likes how the words "Tualatin Hills" stands out a bit more, noting that it is a common mistake for residents to use the words "Tualatin Valley" when referring to the District. He thanked District staff and the consultant for their efforts.

Larry Pelatt commented that this design was his second choice, but he likes it as well. Although he feels that it looks a little similar to the City of Beaverton's logo, he believes the bold colors in the District's logo will help distinguish it.

- ✓ David described the thought process in choosing the colors, noting that perhaps the colors can become identifying features of the different services the District provides.

Bob Scott echoed Jerry's comments, noting that he is excited for the new logo, as well.

President, Joe Blowers, explained that he did not want to lose the nature theme from the current logo, but the colors of the proposed logo help, as do the shapes. The proposed logo has motion, reflects that the District offers a lot of different things for different people, and also hints at a diversity angle. He feels that, while the District's current logo has served the District well and is dear to many people, it is too busy. He described the difficulty in deciphering the current logo when it is on a vehicle passing by, whereas the new logo is a much cleaner design.

John Griffiths expressed support for the proposed new logo and encouraged its adoption.

Jerry Jones, Jr., moved that the Board of Directors approve the new logo as submitted.

Bob Scott seconded the motion. Roll call proceeded as follows:

Larry Pelatt Yes

John Griffiths Yes

Bob Scott Yes

Jerry Jones, Jr. Yes

Joe Blowers Yes

The motion was UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.

B. General Manager's Report

Doug Menke, General Manager, provided a detailed overview of the General Manager's Report included within the Board of Directors information packet, which included the following topics:

- Upcoming GreenPlay Implementation Work
- Aquatic Center (50M) Projects
- Summer Events Recap
 - Lisa Novak, Superintendent of Programs & Special Activities, provided an overview of the special events that occurred this summer via a PowerPoint presentation, a copy of which was entered into the record.
- Board of Directors Meeting Schedule

Doug offered to answer any questions the Board may have regarding the report.

John Griffiths inquired how much it costs to hire the bands for the Concerts in the Park series.

- ✓ Lisa replied that it varies from \$1,500 to \$5,000 depending on the popularity of the band and provided a general overview of how the bands are booked for the series.

Jerry Jones, Jr., inquired what the attendance was for Party in the Park prior to being combined with the City of Beaverton's International Festival.

- ✓ Lisa replied that, for the last two years, Party in the Park has had between 7,000 and 8,000 attendees and that this was less in prior years. Each year the attendance has increased and she noticed this year an especially large number of people in the area that was dedicated to the International Festival.

Jerry commented that he believes that the agreement the District has with the City of Beaverton to host the International Festival may be nearing the expiration date and may need to be revisited, so he is happy to hear that the Festival has been successful at Party in the Park.

Agenda Item #7 – New Business

A. South Cooper Mountain Planning Scenarios

Doug Menke, General Manager, introduced Aisha Willits, Deputy Director of Planning, to provide a detailed overview of the concept planning effort that has been undertaken by the City of Beaverton for the South Cooper Mountain area, which is generally located south of the District's Cooper Mountain Nature Park and west of the Beaverton city limits.

Aisha provided a detailed overview of the conceptual plans that have been developed thus far for the South Cooper Mountain area via a PowerPoint presentation, a copy of which was entered into the record, and which included three draft planning scenarios recently released by the City's project planning team to illustrate the potential development in the area. All three scenarios identify development types including parks and schools, potential roadways and proposed trail systems.

President, Joe Blowers, asked if the park sites identified in the scenarios would be classified as Neighborhood Parks.

- ✓ Aisha confirmed this, noting that based on her conversations with City staff, any future planned Community Park would likely be within the nearby urban reserve area.

Larry Pelatt described the District's experience in the North Bethany planning process of convincing Washington County to adopt the District's park and trail standards and asked if District staff is experiencing some reluctance in this situation as well.

- ✓ Aisha replied that this has not been her sense, but acknowledged that the City is interested in meeting their density targets and are aware that getting appropriately sized parks in appropriate locations is going to be a focus of the District and that the District will be fighting against the density issue. The District is a member of the Technical Advisory Committee and will focus on these issues, as well as on creative means of addressing the District's standards, such as by locating parks next to schools.

John Griffiths noted that many of the proposed trails reflected on the trail network concept plans run alongside major roadways, particularly the proposed Cooper Mountain Regional Trail. He questioned whether these trails are in danger of becoming nothing more than glorified sidewalks. He asked whether there is the possibility of running a trail through a corridor connecting SW 175th to the western portion of the area instead of street side.

- ✓ Larry commented that trails next to roadways are appropriate for trails that serve transportation purposes and described similar planning efforts underway for the City of Portland that have used this layout, noting that they have received support from the bicycling community. However, he agrees that this would not be optimal if pedestrians are expected to use the same trail. He stated that a nature trail connection to Cooper Mountain Nature Park is also critical. He discouraged any consideration of a regional trail through the Cooper Mountain Nature Park.
- ✓ Doug Menke, General Manager, noted that the design standards used for the Cooper Mountain Regional Trail will be the critical component. He reminded the Board that at the time the Westside Trail was being planned, the Tualatin Hills Nature Park Advisory Committee was adamant that the regional trail not go through the Nature Park.
- ✓ Joe described how a regional trail could run parallel to a roadway with its own strip of land and would likely get a lot of use. He agrees that this all depends on the standards that are adopted. In addition, he does not believe Metro would support a regional trail through the Cooper Mountain Nature Park.

John expressed dismay that the regional trail users would not be given the opportunity to experience the nature in the area with the current layout.

- ✓ Joe described the potential for a trail from Winkelman Park to Grabhorn Road where the user would be experiencing mostly natural habitat.

John stated that he could support a regional trail along a roadway as long as there are other trails that would showcase the area's natural resources, which in turn help build community support for natural areas. And in that case, he also believes that the regional trail should be a separate use from the roadway and not just a larger sidewalk.

- ✓ Larry agreed that if the Cooper Mountain Regional Trail is to serve as a transportation corridor, that it should not be shared use and needs to be delineated from the road.

John asked what improvements may be made to Weir Road in order to enable it to accommodate a regional trail.

- ✓ Aisha reiterated that the process has not yet reached the point where this type of information is available. The scenarios being provided this evening are still conceptual and the input being sought from the Board is regarding the general location of amenities. For example, would a regional trail not work in a particular location no matter what design was used, or would it just require sensitivity as to the design standards? District staff is engaging in the process and trying to provide feedback as appropriate; however, the overwhelming sense so far is concern for how many of the trails are located adjacent to roadways and how these will interact with one another.

Jerry Jones, Jr., offered an example of the path along Jenkins Road near SW 158th as an acceptable trail alongside a major roadway, which has the road with a sidewalk, a berm that serves as separation from the roadway, and then the trail. He would feel more comfortable with a trail along a major roadway if it had a similar design.

Joe commented that if construction of these amenities is contingent on redevelopment of the area, some of these sections could take a very long time.

John asked which other agencies are represented in this planning process.

- ✓ Aisha replied that most agencies in the area are represented, including Clean Water Services, Tualatin Valley Water District, Hillsboro and Beaverton School Districts, and Washington County.

Joe pointed out the differences between Scenarios 1 and 2, particularly the area at the southeast corner of Cooper Mountain Nature Park called The Creeks. He noted that Scenario 1 contains a higher density in that area, most likely to make up for the lack of density in North Cooper Mountain. He described how that area could look under Scenario 1, likening it to Forest Heights with strips of streams and houses in between as opposed to a protected upland zone.

- ✓ John asked for confirmation that the light green areas shown on the scenarios would be protected areas.
- ✓ Aisha confirmed this, noting that while the light green areas contain developable land, it would be protected or limited from development.
- ✓ John asked whether the District or Metro would acquire these areas.
- ✓ Aisha replied not necessarily.

Joe commented that there likely would be overlays of protection for the area rather than the entire area being protected. He described the City's restrictions on property owners who have significant tree groves on their land, noting that the light green areas may be treated similarly in that the area would have additional restrictions rather than the entire area being set aside as a type of park. Although he wishes that land could be set aside as a park since Cooper Mountain Nature Park is only about a third of the size that it should be.

- ✓ John noted that the original size desired for the Cooper Mountain Nature Park from Metro's 1995 bond measure was 450 acres and today it is closer to 250 acres. Metro planned to expand the park south, but the property owners were unwilling to sell and were expecting to be able to eventually heavily develop their properties.

Joe asked for confirmation that the riparian wetland areas could never be developed.

- ✓ Aisha confirmed this.

Joe noted that if Cooper Mountain Nature Park were to be expanded, the land to the south would be the logical area to explore.

- ✓ Aisha agreed, noting that this area also continues to be looked at by Metro, as well as the District, for property acquisitions.

Joe expressed strong dislike for Scenario 3, noting that it removes any opportunity to expand the Cooper Mountain Nature Park.

- ✓ Bob Scott expressed agreement with Joe's comments.
- ✓ Larry questioned whether so much density could even occur within the stream areas just south of Cooper Mountain Nature Park as is being shown on Scenario 3.

Joe described the development taking place in the Balch Creek area, noting that there are a lot of bridges going in over ravines leading to high-end housing and that if the demand is there, it can be done; however, it is not the highest and best use of the land. He described how the Tualatin Hills Nature Park is an island and that the same thing may happen to the Cooper Mountain Nature Park under Scenario 3.

- ✓ John stated that Cooper Mountain Nature Park needs to be expanded up to the urban growth boundary.

Joe described how once natural habitat is surrounded by development and becomes an island, the wildlife species are eventually lost. The result would be an impoverished nature park without a lot of the species that started there.

Aisha asked if there are any additional comments from the Board regarding the scenarios that she can take back to the City project staff.

- ✓ Larry replied that she could express to City staff the Board's unanimous dislike for Scenario 3. In addition, he reiterated the need for additional information regarding the design standards that will be used in order to be able to decide whether to support building the Cooper Mountain Regional Trail along the roadway as proposed.
- ✓ John reiterated the desire to protect upland and stream corridors in order to keep a contiguous connection to the urban reserve area for wildlife migration routes.
- ✓ Joe questioned whether there is any legal mechanism short of zoning to keep a seller from developing property.
- ✓ John replied that zoning an area for minimal development can reduce the motivation of property owners interested in developing their land into many lots. At that point, the District could approach the property owners about selling to the District instead. He noted that property owners and their willingness to sell change over time and that the District needs to continue to purchase parcels as they become available.

Jerry thanked District staff for participating in and monitoring this process and also expressed his gratitude to the City for allowing the District to participate, noting that it is beneficial when agencies can work together in addressing both desired outcomes and concerns.

- ✓ President, Joe Blowers, expressed agreement with Jerry's comments, and noted that upon his recent review of some of the documents on the City's website, it is the first set of planning documents he has ever seen that have a noted wildlife migration corridor, which is a step in the right direction.

Agenda Item #8 – Adjourn

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Joe Blowers, President

Bob Scott, Secretary

Recording Secretary,
Jessica Collins