



## 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 electronically on Wednesday, June 16, 2021. Executive Session 5 pm; Regular Meeting 6 pm.

Present:

Ashley Hartmeier-Prigg	President/Director
Tya Ping	Secretary/Director
Heidi Edwards	Secretary Pro-Tempore/Director
Wendy Kroger	Director
Felicita Montebianco	Director
Doug Menke	General Manager

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

President Ashley Hartmeier-Prigg called executive session to order to consider the employment of a public officer, employee, staff member or individual agent. Executive Session is held under authority of ORS 192.660(2)(a).

President Hartmeier-Prigg 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 Ashley Hartmeier-Prigg on Wednesday, June 16, 2021, at 6 pm.

### Agenda Item #3 – Action Resulting from Executive Session

Heidi Edwards moved that the board of directors accept the general manager's evaluation as presented and authorize a compensation increase of 4.7% of salary. Felicita Montebianco seconded the motion. Roll call proceeded as follows:

Tya Ping	Yes
Felicita Montebianco	Yes
Heidi Edwards	Yes
Ashley Hartmeier-Prigg	Yes

The motion was UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.

### Agenda Item #5 – Proclamations

#### A. Juneteenth

The board members read into the record a proclamation declaring June 19 as Juneteenth.

#### B. Parks and Recreation Month

The board members read into the record a proclamation declaring July as Parks and Recreation Month.

#### **Agenda Item #4 – Recognition of Outgoing Board Members**

General Manager Doug Menke reflected on Ashley Hartmeier-Prigg and Wendy Kroger's service on the board and their positive impact on the community, and introduced a video produced by district staff featuring their fellow board members, district staff and community members sharing their thoughts and thanks for Ashley and Wendy's service.

Heidi Edwards commented that she couldn't be prouder to serve alongside these two amazing, thoughtful, kind and talented women. She expressed appreciation for Wendy's volunteer work and dedication to THPRD long before her service on the board and reflected on their work together on important legislative issues and meetings. She expressed appreciation for Ashley's perspective on dog parks, and for her leadership over this past year as the district has worked on its goals for racial equity, diversity and inclusion, noting that Ashley has been a very strong voice through this journey.

Felicita Montebalanco offered her most sincere gratitude and appreciation for Ashley and Wendy's service, noting that the ripple effects of their work are long-lasting and that they have made the district better.

Tya Ping expressed gratitude for Ashley and Wendy's dedication of their time to THPRD and the community, noting that they gave voice to the voiceless, whether that be plants, animals or others, and that this is an amazing quality that makes the world a better place. She reflected on Wendy's positive, upbeat attitude and dedication to the environment and wildlife, and also reflected on her journey with Ashley that began with running for the board together and her openheartedness. She is grateful for their time together and service to the community.

Wendy Kroger reflected on her board service, noting that it has been a highpoint of her life and that she has enjoyed learning so much during this time. She passed along her thanks to district staff, stating that everyone she has had the chance to work with at the district has been professional and passionate about their work. Her service on the board has been a source of great pride for her and she hopes to be able to continue her involvement with the district in another capacity in the future. She has immense gratitude for her fellow board members, district staff and the community.

Ashley Hartmeier-Prigg reflected on her board service, noting that the last two years have been very meaningful to her and that the work THPRD does fills her with pride. Serving as board president over the past year as the district navigated a global pandemic has been an honor as well as a challenge. She is grateful for all of the times that General Manager Doug Menke and district staff leaned into challenges, and offered comments on particularly impactful projects and initiatives during her service on the board: the Vision Action Plan, community shelters, affordable housing policy, the Community Psyche Grant and American Rescue Plan Act funding, prioritizing racial equity, Talking Walls and the park naming process. She described how from her first meeting as a board member, she felt that she was doing something that she was meant to do in terms of serving the community. She expressed gratitude for the work of district staff for exemplifying how we can create a more equitable world through the policies implemented, and thanked her fellow board members for their dedication to the community and for pushing her toward being a better leader every day.

#### **Agenda Item #6 – Budget Hearing: Resolution Adopting the Fiscal Year 2021/22 Budget, Levying Taxes and Making Appropriations**

##### **A. Open Hearing**

President Hartmeier-Prigg opened the Budget Hearing.

## **B. Staff Report**

Lori Baker, Business Services director, provided an overview of the memo included within the board of directors' information packet, noting that there are no adjustments to the approved budget being proposed this evening. The total appropriation amount for Fiscal Year 2021/22 is \$131,760,786, and the ad valorem property tax amount provided for in the budget is at the rate of \$1.3073 per \$1,000 of assessed value and a property tax of \$8,549,067 for bonded debt. Board approval is being requested of the resolution to adopt the FY 2021/22 budget, make appropriations, and levy ad valorem taxes.

## **C. Public Comment**

Secretary Ping read the following public comment received into the record:

Ken Boire provided testimony that, overall, the draft budget appears to be exceptionally well done and participants deserve accolades for their diligence. However, missing information handicaps an understanding of how well THPRD performs, and how well the stated budget priorities of equity, sustainability and vision are met in terms of program outputs. Out of a concern for equity and justice, he wonders what the rationale is for allocating resources among the various facilities and how well the algorithm works. For example, what is the overall annual cost per patron visit by center? Beyond counting number of visits, is there an estimate of non-monetary economic benefit? Program revenue alone overlooks the non-financial value of user experiences that have gone unmonetized, and which could be pivotal in the process of resource allocation. Census data allows an estimate that seniors own about a third of residential property taxed by THPRD, and about a quarter of area households include seniors. This is a significant block of resource contribution and potential use, and should be a consideration in decisions of equity and justice. Past budget documents indicate that the Stuhr Center remains a lesser part of the overall THPRD annual cost. When the bond issue was being planned, seniors organized to support it with the understanding that the Stuhr Center would be given an appropriate priority and equitable treatment among overall program choices. Many senior patrons have limited mobility, balance, sight, communication, and stamina issues and cannot safely use other facilities. Their friends and the staff provide knowledgeable social support unique to the Stuhr Center. They value this social center and merely being there is a benefit to them. Now, the Stuhr Center is closed possibly until fall. It seems that experienced staff could be hired and trained given the duration of the ongoing closure. The facility is already there, operating procedures are established, and resources are available, so what seems to be missing is a priority. One gets the feeling that seniors really are invisible. He suggested that future budget documents include an overview of the principles and guidelines steering the decision making inside of the resource allocation model, or an appropriate reference to where it can be found.

President Ashley Hartmeier-Prigg thanked Mr. Boire for his testimony this evening and for his diligence in reviewing the district's Proposed FY 2021/22 Budget document.

General Manager Doug Menke commented that district staff will be in contact with Mr. Boire regarding his testimony this evening, and referenced one of the board's stated values of equity, leading with race, noting that he believes the budget before the board this evening is reflective of that value.

## **D. Board Discussion**

Heidi Edwards reflected on the public testimony received, and noted the importance of having public participation like this as it is the community's budget and the board is there to represent the wants, needs and interests of the taxpayers. She appreciates the reminder regarding the district's seniors, noting that it is important for the board to hear if there are people within the district who are feeling unseen and unheard for the board to be able to raise those voices. She thanked the district's volunteer budget committee members and district staff for their efforts on the budget.

Tya Ping expressed gratitude for the district's budget committee members and staff for their efforts, and commented on the accessibility of the district's budget document and process, noting that the awards the district's budgets have received over the years is a testament to these efforts.

Wendy Kroger stated that each year that she has been able to participate in the district's budget process, the information has gotten clearer and the process has improved. She acknowledged the expertise of the budget committee members and thanked them, and district staff, for their efforts. She also thanked Mr. Boire for his testimony this evening and shared some feedback she has received from seniors within the district concerned for their safety when using the district's parks and trails, noting that this in combination with the closure of the Stuhr Center is leading to feelings of being left out. She hopes that the district can actively work on addressing this over the near future, as it is always the intent of the district to be as inclusive as possible.

President Hartmeier-Prigg echoed the comments of gratitude for the efforts of the district's budget committee and staff in providing such a well-done budget document during a time of continued uncertainty due to the ongoing pandemic.

**E. Close Hearing**

President Hartmeier-Prigg closed the budget hearing.

**F. Board Action**

**Heidi Edwards moved that the board of directors approve Resolution 2021-10 to adopt the 2021/22 budget, levy ad valorem taxes, and make appropriations. Tya Ping seconded the motion. Roll call proceeded as follows:**

**Felicita Monteblanco Yes**

**Wendy Kroger Yes**

**Tya Ping Yes**

**Heidi Edwards Yes**

**Ashley Hartmeier-Prigg Yes**

**The motion was UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.**

**Agenda Item #7 – Audience Time**

There was no testimony submitted for Audience Time.

**Agenda Item #8 – Board Time**

Heidi Edwards noted that the Tualatin Hills Park Foundation's annual meeting will be moved from August to September 15, and that this would be a great opportunity for the board members to invite current or potential donors. She requested that the board members please give consideration as to who they would like to invite, and that more information will be coming.

**Agenda Item #9 – Adjourn**

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

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President

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Secretary

Recording Secretary,  
Jessica Collins