

MEETING MINUTES

TUMWATER METROPOLITAN PARK DISTRICT
November 18, 2025



CONVENE: 5:32 p.m.

PRESENT: Chair Kelly Von Holtz, Vice Chair Eileen Swarthout and Councilmembers Michael Althaus, Peter Agabi, Joan Cathey, and Angela Jefferson.

Excused: Councilmember Leatta Dahlhoff.

Staff: City Administrator Lisa Parks, Assistant City Administrator Kelly Adams, City Attorney Karen Kirkpatrick, Finance Director Troy Niemeyer, Information Technology Director Lance Inman, Parks and Recreation Director Chuck Denney, Water Resources and Sustainability Director Dan Smith, and City Clerk Melody Valiant.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Vice Chair Swarthout moved, seconded by Councilmember Agabi, to approve the minutes of November 19, 2024 as presented. A voice vote approved the motion.

SELECTION OF OFFICERS OF THE BOARD: Administrator Parks reported that each year the Board is required to elect officers according to the bylaws adopted by Resolution No. 2019-001. By statute, the Finance Director is designated as the treasurer of the Tumwater Metropolitan Park District (TMPD). The proposed action is for the election of the President and Vice President.

Administrator Parks invited nominations for President of the Board.

Boardmember Von Holtz nominated Joan Cathey to serve as the President of the TMPD.

No other nominations were offered for President of the Board.

MOTION: **By unanimous affirmation, Boardmember Cathey was elected to serve as President of the TMPD. A voice vote approved the motion unanimously.**

President Cathey invited nominations for Vice Chair for the TMPD.

Boardmember Swarthout nominated Kelly Von Holtz to serve as Vice President of the TMPD.

No other nominations were offered for Vice President of the Board.

MOTION: **By unanimous affirmation, Boardmember Von Holtz was elected to serve as Vice President of the TMPD. A voice vote approved the motion unanimously.**

**TMPD
ACCOMPLISHMENTS
AND PENDING
PROJECTS UPDATE:**

President Cathy introduced Director Denney and talked about all the projects that were completed in 2024 and commended staff for all their hard work.

Director Denney reviewed TMPD 2025 accomplishments which included:

- Deschutes Valley Trail design;
- Finalization of the Trails End Parks master plan;
- Community Center design finalization and location selection with Barker, Seacat & Rinker Architecture;
- Community Garden program expansion at the methodist church including the planting of 26 new fruit trees;
- Contracted with Garden Raised Bounty (GRuB) to continue the Fresh Farm student program at Isabella Bush park after funding was cut by Tumwater School District. Staff is in talks with the Olympia Kiwanis to get another group to continue the program in the future;
- Replaced old park signs and working on creating a sign standard for uniformity throughout all parks;
- Updated Carlyon park including a new sign, irrigation, and landscaping;
- Cleaned up the Tumwater Hill trail system back to its original six feet width which had become overgrown with vegetation;

- Sports fields clean up and rehabilitation; and
- Pioneer park and Historical park storm drain repairs.

Director Denney then talked about the projects scheduled for 2026 to include:

- Deferred maintenance work on sports fields and trails;
- Community Center site location selection and design and continued community outreach;
- Park design and construction at the Trails End Park site;
- Picnic table replacement;
- Tennis Court resurfacing and maintenance;
- Updating and replacing park signage;
- Tumwater Hill fence line clean-up from overgrown vegetation; and
- Continued work on Deschutes Valley Trail.

Councilmembers asked questions about the native plants and landscaping in existing and future parks. Councilmember Cathey requested that staff research having more native and pollinator plants in new and existing City parks.

PUBLIC HEARING:

RESOLUTION NO. R TMPD 2025-001, AD VALOREM FOR REGULAR PROPERTY TAXES FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2025:

Director Niemeyer presented resolution R TMPD 2025-001, for the 2025 property tax levy for the TMPD. The TMPD is required each year to approve the resolution by November 30th. The TMPD is allowed by law to increase the levy each year by 1% or the Implicit Price Deflator (IPD) whichever is less. Director Niemeyer shared what the IPD has been over several years and this year it is 2.44%.

Director Niemeyer requested adoption of the resolution for the property tax levy following the public hearing to certify the levy with the county by the November 30, 2025, deadline.

President Cathey opened and closed the public hearing at 6:08 p.m. There was no public testimony.

MOTION:

Councilmember Swarthout moved, seconded by Councilmember Jefferson, to adopt Resolution R TMPD 2025-001, Ad Valorem for Regular Property Taxes for the Fiscal Year 2025. A voice vote approved the motion unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT:

With there being no further business, Chair Cathey adjourned the meeting at time 6:09 p.m.

Prepared by Melody Valiant, City Clerk