



**TSCC Regular Business Meeting
Minutes
Thursday, May 22, 2025
11:08 a.m.**

Chair Harmony Quiroz, Commissioners Burton, Donahue, Lugo Knapp and Moore were present, as were Executive Director Allegra Willhite and Budget Analyst Brittanie Abayare, all via Zoom meeting. Chair Quiroz and Commissioner Lugo Knapp were absent.

REGULAR MEETING

Vice Chair Donahue called the meeting to order at 11:08 a.m. Executive Director Willhite noted the absence of Chair Quiroz and Commissioner Lugo Knapp, who were attending other meetings. She confirmed that the group had a quorum and could proceed with certification votes.

District Budgets to be considered

Executive Director Willhite said the commissioners were scheduled to discuss the 2025-26 Approved Budgets for Gresham-Barlow School District, Riverdale School District, City of Maywood Park, and Metro.

Gresham-Barlow School District

The district is facing tighter financial conditions and shifting to budgeting for vacancies rather than assuming full staffing. The projected \$9.8 million general fund ending balance remains within their stated reserve policy, but represents a notable decline from prior years. Commissioners discussed the implications of ongoing reserve spending and the potential for structural deficits if funding levels remain flat. Rita Moore raised interest in further understanding school funding formulas and the accuracy of the current service level (CSL) calculation used by the state. Allegra suggested revisiting the topic during the TSCC retreat. Staff stated that the budget was in compliance with budget law; Commissioner Burton moved to certify and Commissioner Moore seconded; all commissioners voted in favor to certify the budget with no recommendations or objections.

Riverdale School District Budget Review

Riverdale has a local option levy that expires next year and has been a key revenue source for the district. They are budgeting conservatively, setting aside contingency funds due to ongoing labor negotiations, and managing personnel changes through attrition. Rising PERS costs remain a concern, but the district's fiscal position is currently stable. The commissioners reviewed the district's outstanding general obligation bond, noting that the bond levy amount aligns with the required debt service payments. Staff stated that the budget estimates were found to be reasonable and the budget process was legally compliant. Commissioner Burton moved to certify and Commissioner Moore seconded; all commissioners voted in favor to certify the budget with no recommendations or objections.



City of Maywood Park Budget Review

Maywood Park's \$718,200 budget reflects a 3% decrease from the prior year, driven by a lower beginning fund balance. The budget includes carry forward of \$170,300 in unspent ARPA funds. These funds were originally allocated for a sewer project that residents voted not to pursue, and they remain unreturned as the district waits for federal guidance on the return process. Public safety costs are increasing due to a newly assessed flood safety fee, and the final phase of improvements to Maywood Park Commons will be completed this year. A misclassification of ARPA funds to be returned was noted – the transfer back to the federal government should be classified as a special payment, which is its own budget appropriation category. The city has agreed to correct this before adopting the budget. Their audit, received just prior to the meeting, contained no findings. Commissioner Burton moved to certify and Commissioner Moore seconded; all commissioners voted in favor to certify the budget with no recommendations or objections.

Metro Budget Review

While some operations like the zoo remain strong, venues and parks continue to face post-pandemic revenue challenges. Venue attendance has not rebounded to pre-pandemic levels, prompting budget reductions. The commissioners discussed how Metro's diverse funding sources create disparities in financial impacts across its programs. Allegra noted revised revenue forecasts for supportive housing services.. Commissioners outlined several questions they plan to ask Metro during the hearing. Topics included: forecasts for venue attendance and the factors at play; assumptions for forecasting supportive housing revenues; limitations and challenges of oversight in the supportive housing program with regional partners; and the balance of ongoing land acquisitions and operating costs for parks.

Closing Remarks

Commissioners were advised of the heavy review workload expected in the following week, including large jurisdictions such as Portland Public Schools and the City of Portland. Allegra expressed appreciation for the group's ongoing commitment and reminded them that only one final packet of reviews would follow the next round. The meeting adjourned with confirmation of next steps and expressions of gratitude for everyone's work during the busy budget season.

There being no other business, Vice Chair Donahue adjourned the meeting at 12:56 p.m.

Commission Discussion on Staff COLA Increase

At the end of the meeting, TSCC staff exited the call to allow commissioners to discuss the staff cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) in private. Ultimately, the commissioners agreed unanimously to not adjust the compensation for this calendar year and to discuss COLA policy moving forward at a future meeting.