

**Bend Metro Park & Recreation District
Board of Directors
Work Session, Executive Session & Regular Meeting
May 20, 2008**

BOARD PRESENT: Ruth Williamson, Bob Woodward, George Thayer and Scott Wallace.

STAFF PRESENT: Don Horton, Wayne Smith, Bruce Ronning, Erin Bennett, Ed Moore, Lindsey Lombard, Jan Taylor, Dave Crowther, Robin Laughlin, Paul Stell and Paula Lowery.

LEGAL COUNSEL: Neil Bryant.

MEDIA: Richard Coe, The Bulletin.

CONSULTANT: Ron Vine, Leisure Vision.

VISITORS: See attached list.

WORK SESSION

Chair Ruth Williamson convened the work session at 5:30 pm.

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN SURVEY RESULTS

Bruce Ronning introduced Ron Vine, Leisure Vision. He briefly reviewed the format of the survey results. Ron Vine conducted a PowerPoint presentation of the Comprehensive Plan Survey results. He explained the content of the survey addressed a full range of usage, customer satisfaction, needs, unmet needs, and priorities questions. He explained a goal of 800 completed surveys was set, and 878 surveys were actually completed. Ron stated the results are a 95% level of confidence with a margin of error of +/-3.3%. He reviewed 10 major findings of the survey and reported that usage of parks and facilities and participation in programs is very high with very good satisfaction. He noted that soft surface trails and small neighborhood parks are the most important facilities to respondents. He stated recreation swimming, adult fitness and wellness programs, and lap swimming and water fitness are the most important programs. He reported the purchase of land to preserve open space/natural areas, develop new/connect existing multipurpose trails, fix-up/repair older neighborhood and community parks, develop a new indoor recreation center, and develop new off leash dog areas are the most important actions respondents would support with tax dollars. He stated that 73% of the respondents would vote in favor (47%) or might vote in favor (26%) of a bond referendum to fund the acquisition, improvement and development of the types of parks, trails, fitness, sports and recreation facilities most important to their households. Bob Woodward asked Ron what was the one thing that stood out for him in the survey results. Ron stated the one thing that stood out from the beginning is how balanced the district is in providing services. He said he thought there has been positive movement from the last survey and the result of the tax support was very high. He added the one thing that surprised him was that an ice-skating rink rated high in indoor space. George stated the survey clearly demonstrates for him the need for indoor facilities such as the track. Don Horton asked, based on the survey, where he thought the voters would stand with a ballot measure for an indoor recreation facility that included the components identified as most important to them. He said that in terms of voter support, it seemed low on the list. Ron stated the support would depend upon sizing and amenities. He stated it should be evaluated further to look at the dollar amount and what that can build to determine what people will actually pay. Ron noted the district owns the market as one of the most important parks and recreation providers in the community. He stated parks and recreation systems are struggling with how to maintain the market and gaining more market share of the over 20 to over 60 empty nesters. He stated it is a very important market, especially for the over 50 who are a higher number of voters. He said it will be important to thoroughly evaluate how to address the needs of that market. Scott Wallace stated he was interested in the results by quadrant. Bruce Ronning

noted those results are available and staff has access to this information. He cited an example of fairly strong support for the Pine Nursery Park in the northeast quadrant; however, there is not so much support in other quadrants of town. He stated this leads him to speculate the typical community park facilities in the design are one of the major attractors, rather than the sports components, as the residents of that quadrant view that as their community park. He stated the cross tabbed information will help us more clearly define the needs of the community. Ron stated that because people in the community use the parks so much, they see them, so you always have to have a combination of building new and maintaining. The board thanked Ron for his presentation.

Dog PAC Proposal for Off-Leash Areas

Ruth Williamson introduced Kreg Lindberg representing the Dog PAC. She thanked the dog park supporters for attending the meeting and stated she wanted to make it clear that the park district is working hard to figure out the best way to deliver this to our community. She noted the success at Big Sky, the change in direction from Hillside Park to use those funds to open additional sites. Kreg Lindberg thanked the board for hearing their proposal. He stated he thinks we are all trying to go the same direction, but wanted to share a different idea for how to get there. He noted the results of the survey identifying the unmet need for off-leash sites. He conducted a PowerPoint presentation proposal with recommendations for sharing existing park space to provide the access desired by the Dog PAC. Ruth thanked Kreg for his presentation and explained that the recommendations would be taken into consideration.

Gary Stiles, 1339 NW John Fremont St., Bend, Oregon, addressed the board. He stated he did not believe temporary fences are a good use of money and there are no good shortcuts. He urged the board to seek help from the community and to let the community tell the district how to spend the money. He also asked the board to do some self-searching about why this need is not on a fast track. He stated the leadership needs to come from the board and you are responsible for getting this recreation need of the community met.

Bob Woodward stated that the growth in dog owners over the last five or six years has been tremendous. He stated that as a result of the growth we are a little behind in meeting the need. He stated rather than criticizing the board for being slow, it is more appropriate to recognize the cause and effect of the growth issues.

George Thayer shared his concerns for providing space where the neighbors are not affected, and provisions might be made for large and small dogs. He suggested looking at areas that are currently being used.

Ruth Williamson assured the group the board is not ignoring the issue. She stated it is a high priority that is being addressed thoroughly, so when we do designate spaces for off-leash recreation we are prepared to share with the general public of Bend how we chose them and what we are able to provide. Ruth also announced the district will be conducting a public open house regarding off-leash sites to be held Tuesday, May 27, at 5:30 pm, at Hollinshead Barn.

The work session was concluded at 6:30 pm.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Chair Ruth Williamson convened an executive session at 6:32pm pursuant to ORS 192.660 (2) (E) for the purpose of discussing real property transactions.

REGULAR MEETING

Chair Ruth Williamson called the regular meeting to order at 7:30 PM.

VISITORS

Casey Crisler addressed the board regarding sand volleyball courts and asked if any progress has been made toward identifying a location for the courts. Don Horton stated that staff is reviewing two or three sites with the idea of looking at sports complexes in order to providing parking and restrooms.

Aaron Henson addressed the board concerning the difficult process of signing up for the Kids Inc. program, the recent cutting of juniper trees in the parks and providing a sand volleyball location on the west side.

CONSENT AGENDA

Bob Woodward moved to approve the consent agenda. Scott Wallace seconded the motion. Bob Woodward, Scott Wallace, George Thayer and Ruth Williamson all voted aye. Motion passed.

BUSINESS SESSION

Approve SDC Indexed Fee Adjustment

Bruce Ronning referred to information provided in the board report and identified the attachments including Resolution No. 301, adopting a revised fee schedule, article 3.10 of the SDC methodology providing for SDC fee adjustment, and the SDC adjustment factor calculation for FY 2008-09. He stated the recommended adjustment factor, based upon the calculation and described in the SDC methodology calls for a fee reduction of 1.2%. He explained this year's indices call for a slight fee reduction due to falling Engineers News Record (ENR) construction cost index and the imbalance in the proportion of development costs over acquisition costs need as identified in the 2003 methodology. George Thayer moved to adopt Resolution No. 301 setting the BMPRD SDC fee schedule contained therein effective July 1, 2008. Bob Woodward seconded the motion. George Thayer, Bob Woodward, Scott Wallace and Ruth Williamson all voted aye. Motion passed.

Ratify Genna Stadium Leases

Don Horton explained the leases are being brought to the board for ratification following their initial approval contingent upon legal counsel review. He stated that review has been completed and the recommended changes were made to the leases. Bob Woodward moved to ratify the lease agreements with the Bend Elks Baseball Club. Scott Wallace seconded the motion. Bob Woodward, Scott Wallace, George Thayer and Ruth Williamson all voted aye. Motion passed.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Team Bend

Don Horton shared information regarding a newly formed group currently known as "Team Bend" and consisting of city, school district and park district leaders. He explained the first meeting has been scheduled to outline a process for the committee's operation.

Park Naming Committee

Don Horton stated there is a need to reconvene the Park Naming Committee. Bob Woodward will work with staff to notify the committee members and schedule a meeting.

Bend La Pine School District Report

Don Horton shared an update on issues identified in last year's joint meeting with the Bend La Pine School Board and staff.

Outdoor fireplace – new district office

Don Horton shared a schematic of the current proposed fireplace to be located in the plaza at the new district office, and a schematic with the fireplace removed. He explained the staff recommendation to eliminate the fireplace based on the fact that it blocks the view of the public art in the roundabout, and the proposed changes will provide a more hospitable space for public use. He noted removing the fireplace will result in a savings of \$11,000. He also reported he has been working with Skanska and Opsis to value engineer overruns on the project and he will be sharing that information with the board at a future meeting.

CIP/SDC Committee

Don Horton noted the CIP/SDC Committee will be meeting on Wednesday, May 28, where they will receive the results of the Comprehensive Plan survey.

As there was no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:10 pm.

Prepared by,

Paula Lowery
Executive Assistant

Ruth Williamson, Chair

Bob Woodward, Vice-Chair

Ted Schoenborn

George Thayer

Scott Wallace