

**Bend Metro Park & Recreation District
Board of Directors
Work Session & Executive Session
November 20, 2007**

BOARD PRESENT: Bob Woodward, Ted Schoenborn, Scott Wallace and George Thayer.

STAFF PRESENT: Don Horton, Bruce Ronning, Wayne Smith, Lindsey Lombard, Ed Moore, Dave Crowther, Robin Laughlin and Paula Lowery.

LEGAL COUNSEL: Paul Taylor.

MEDIA: Yoko Minoura.

WORK SESSION

Vice-Chair Bob Woodward convened a work session at 5:30 pm.

Quail Park skate area discussion

Bruce Ronning identified the Quail Park service area on a large map of the district. He explained how service areas are designed to locate neighborhood parks that are within walking distance of the residents of the neighborhood. Don Horton reviewed information provided in the board report including the timeline for the design and construction of the park, the issues raised by residents of the neighborhood regarding the use of the skate area, and the results of a recent survey of the residents of the neighborhood conducted to assess their experiences and concerns regarding the park. He referred to the conclusions of the survey and noted that parents and those with kids who live closest to the park felt it is a positive feature of their neighborhood and those who are unhappy with the park are people without kids who feel there is a bad element among the people who use the park, particularly the skate area. Don stated his primary concern with regard to the skate area is the noise resulting from its use and the element it has brought in from outside the neighborhood. He recommended the skate feature be removed from Quail Park. He added that he did not believe the district is abandoning the skate board community, but it does raise the level of importance of making improvements to the skate facility at Ponderosa Park. George Thayer agreed that perhaps the skate feature is not appropriate for a neighborhood park. Don stated that he has always encouraged staff to take risks and avoid a cookie cutter approach to designing neighborhood parks. He stated he looked upon this experience as an experiment to be learned from. Bob Woodward stated that while he agreed with Don's recommendation he cautioned those attending the meeting on behalf of Quail Park to understand that Bend is a changing place and people will travel to various parks throughout their community including the neighborhood parks. Ted Schoenborn stated he supported Don's conclusion based on the noise created by the skate facility. He stated he is concerned about the survey and the reference to "that element" as these are citizens of our community and he felt it was a totally inappropriate way to describe users of our parks, whoever it is. Scott Wallace stated it appears the skate park was a well intentioned experiment and we have learned that skate parks don't necessarily belong in neighborhoods. He stated he

would be in favor of removing it. Bob Woodward stated it is important to note that the neighborhood changed significantly during the time frame of the design and construction of the park. George Thayer expressed concern for providing a location for beginning skaters. Scott Wallace suggested that could be considered in the discussion of the Ponderosa Park skate facility. Following further discussion the board agreed to support Don's recommendation to remove the skate features from Quail Park. It was determined that the board would formalize their decision at the December 4 meeting.

Bend Elks expansion at Genna Stadium

Don Horton introduced Jim Richards, owner of the Bend Elks baseball team. Jim presented a proposal regarding the removal of the existing hitting tunnel and replacing it with an indoor practice facility to be constructed by his organization. He shared a drawing of the proposed facility and explained how it could enhance his program as well as the current users of the stadium such as the high schools and COCC. Jim explained that it is anticipated the proposed facility would be 15,000 square feet in size and extend into the existing parking lot, but through the paving and lining of the parking lot, it is anticipated the loss of parking spaces would be minimal. He also noted the facility would provide new restroom facilities for the stadium that would be operational year around. Don Horton explained that Jim would like to enter into a 30-year lease with the district to ensure that his organization will be able to capitalize their investment in the building. George Thayer asked about the current lease of \$1 per year. Jim explained that the Bend Elks provide all maintenance of the stadium amounting to approximately \$75,000 per year. Following discussion the board reached consensus to move forward with developing an agreement to build the proposed facility and an extended lease for future board consideration.

Consider support of Tumalo Langlauer's Club grant application

Don Horton explained the district's past support of the community-based cross country ski trail grooming project at the Virginia Meissner Sno Park, and the current efforts of the Tumalo Langlauf Club (TLC) to continue that program. He noted that the district entered into a formal memorandum of understanding (MOU) with TLC to store and to help maintain a Pisten Bull 130 snow cat and other grooming equipment purchased by the club. He explained the MOU continues to enable the grooming of ski trails in parks with club equipment when snow conditions allow. He reviewed a previous presentation to the board by TLC regarding their creation of the Meissner Strategic Plan that calls for additional facilities and expanded grooming at Meissner Sno Park. He stated that TLC filed a master plan and action plan for skiing improvements at the Sno Park with the Bend/Fort Rock District of the Deschutes National Forest and TLC anticipates Forest Service approval of the proposal and construction of the parking area and trail expansion to begin in 2008. He explained that TLC will be applying for a Recreation Trails Program (RTP) grant for 80% of the total projected cost of \$97,000, and the group has requested support from the district. Don recommended that the district contribute \$10,000 toward support of the grant. He stated there would be no budgetary impact in the current year's budget as the \$10,000 would be funded in the district's 2008-09 budget. He stated that assisting TLC with grant funding will help district residents enjoy cross-country skiing and enhance district programs at Meissner. The board reached consensus to move forward with defining the district's support of the TLC grant application and to consider a motion at their meeting December 4, 2007.

CIP review process

Bruce stated that there are four or five different projects in this year's work plan that impinge upon the district's long term capital plan including a review and revision of the 2004 Comprehensive Plan Survey which is in part a needs assessment, a review and revision of the SDC program, a review and revision of the Neighborhood Parks Plan, and the Trails Master Plan. He stated the question is how to integrate these projects to better inform the district's capital planning into the future. Bruce said that to balance the district's funding capacity for capital improvements we need to get all of those projects on the list looking out at least 10 years, and the selection, listing, prioritization, and sequencing needs to be informed by a needs assessment and a community process that helps the board determine what the priorities are. He added it also needs to be informed by a discussion of what the funding sources will be and what the projected revenue will be for capital funding during that same period. He shared a proposed timeline for the work plan and reviewed the components of the plan. He stated that staff is proposing to integrate all of the projects in a way that at the end of the budgeting process in May we will have arrived at a board approved capital plan looking out 10 years and concurrent with that we will be looking at a review and revision of the district's SDC methodology and ordinance. He explained that during the process staff and the board will be working with consultants and community advisory groups. He also explained what is involved in revising the SDC methodology and ordinance.

As there was no further business the work session was concluded at 6:45 pm.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Vice-Chair Bob Woodward convened an executive session at 6:48pm pursuant to ORS 192.660 (2) (h) for the purpose of consulting with legal counsel regarding legal rights and duties regarding current litigation or litigation likely to be filed. The executive session was concluded at 7:00 pm.

Prepared by,

Paula Lowery
Executive Assistant

Ruth Williamson, Chair

Bob Woodward, Vice-Chair

Ted Schoenborn

George Thayer

Scott Wallace