

**Bend Metro Park & Recreation District  
Board of Directors  
Work Session  
April 17, 2007**

BOARD PRESENT: Suzanne Johannsen, Ruth Williamson, Bob Woodward and Don Smith.

STAFF PRESENT: Bruce Ronning, Wayne Smith, Lindsey Lombard, Jan Taylor, Ed Moore, Norm Ziesmer, Robin Laughlin, Steve Jorgensen and Paula Lowery.

LEGAL COUNSEL: None.

MEDIA: Yoko Minoura, The Bulletin.

VISITORS: Jim Clinton, Michael Graham, George Thayer, Keith Scott, Gary Loggan, and Rick McKee.

**WORK SESSION**

Chair Suzanne Johannsen convened the work session at 5:30 pm.

**Mirror Pond Sediment Issue**

City Councilor, Jim Clinton, conducted a PowerPoint presentation regarding the Mirror Pond sediment issue. He reviewed the history of previous dredging of the pond and explained how a committee had recently been formed to study the issue to develop a better understanding of options available to address the problem based on sound science. He explained the cause of the sedimentation and stated it is anticipated that it would be five to ten years before the pond loses its current character which allows time to develop solutions to address the problem. He stated it is important to address the long-term maintenance of the pond, river bank, water quality, storm water impact, invasive weeds, protection of fish and wildlife habitat, etc. He explained the committee has recommended a public process to determine how to handle the sedimentation in the long run, define cost estimates and work with various partners in the community willing to provide technical assistance. Jim identified outstanding issues such as ownership of the riverbank and riverbed and the jurisdiction of the Pacific Power dam. He noted that the Deschutes River has not been designated as a navigable river. He also reported that the city has applied for \$650,000 in federal funds for 2008 to address the issue. He stated the City Council wants to move forward with a public process that is guided by the technical framework. He stated city staff will prepare an RFP to secure a consultant for the public process to do more planning to evaluate the ramifications of the different projects that have been identified. He stated he felt it would then be appropriate for a joint meeting of the City Council and Board. Suzanne Johannsen asked about using funds from economic development.

Jim explained the requirement that 50% of the city's transient room tax revenue be used for promotion of tourism. Suzanne stated that you could argue that Mirror Pond is the advertisement for Bend. Jim stated he would be pushing as aggressively as he could to secure as much money for projects like this or public art to help our community as opposed to putting ads in southern California magazines. Suzanne stated the Board has been compiling a list of topics for discussion in a joint meeting with the City Council and would like to schedule such a meeting as soon as possible. She referred to a recent joint meeting with the school board and stated it was very productive and positive. Jim suggested a joint meeting of the City Council and Park Board in a work session. Suzanne stated the Park Board is very open to that and would look forward to a scheduled meeting.

### **Paddle Trail Feasibility Study Report**

Bruce Ronning reviewed the process for compiling the study. He stressed the report is still a draft and has not yet been presented to the stakeholders group or the public in general for comment. He stated staff is seeking Board comment, discussion and direction as to how to bring it to a form for adoptions. He noted that at this point in time it is a feasibility study and proposes no projects, but does demonstrate in a conceptual way some of the things that could be done to improve the river for paddle trail and white water play use, if in fact that is the community consensus. Robin identified the area of the river covered by the study and reviewed possible solutions to the various existing dams and portage sites. Suzanne Johannsen stated the Colorado Street section needs the more immediate attention. Don Smith stated that addressing the Colorado Street safety issues is a positive starting point and would create an impetus for remaining projects. He noted that the district's budget for the next two years is pretty well constrained by current projects. He added that Bill Smith is already looking at what to do with the dam and recommended approaching him about an engineering study. Bob Woodward stated that this plan appears to address Bill's previous objections and he would like to see the study presented to him. Ruth Williamson stated that she feels the study provides an opportunity for continued dialogue of combined issues including the riverbank, watershed and sedimentation of Mirror Pond, all of which involves numerous agencies. Bruce stated that he is not sure the district has heard from a broad representation of the community as to what it thinks about the potential projects, and it will undergo further public review. He also stated that the contract with Recreation Engineering and Planning (REP) is nearly fulfilled with the only remaining deliverable is for them to produce the study document in a final form. He noted that funding for paddle trail and/or white water play improvements resultant of the study may be considered in future budgets.

### **Recap Joint Meeting with Bend LaPine School Board**

Board consensus was the joint meeting was very productive. Ruth Williamson stated she would like to see a joint meeting held quarterly. Bob Woodward stated he would like a less formal meeting. He stated he feels the two boards together can be more effective in approaching the city regarding certain issues and suggested that a committee composed of representatives from the three agencies meet regularly with one or two annual meetings of the full boards and council. Suzanne Johannsen stated she felt there was a lot of good dialogue and it was a good educational opportunity for both boards. She also commended district staff for their contribution to the meeting. She stated she felt they provided very helpful information for the school board. Suzanne will continue to work on getting a joint meeting with the City Council scheduled.

### **Annexation Discussion**

Bruce Ronning explained that Steve Jorgensen has conducted research of pertinent state statutes pertaining to the provision of urban services. He stated the district has an intergovernmental agreement (IGA) with the city of Bend regarding coordinated planning and urban services. He stated pursuant to state statute and Oregon administrative rule, the district is the urban services provider for park and recreation services in the Bend UGB. He stated that with the city's discussion of both the Juniper Ridge project and their residential lands study, leading to a potential expansion of the UGB, the IGA needs to be reviewed and revised. He stated that staff is proposing that the revised agreement would allow for a concurrent annexation of the new UGB lands so that whenever a piece of the UGB came into the city it would also concurrently come into the district in order to facilitate the orderly provision of those park and recreation services. Steve Jorgensen referred to information provided in the Board report and explained that basically the city is running through multiple processes at once including a residential lands study, an urban reserve process, adding UGB lands, and at the same time they are trying to figure out a transportation plan for the whole area. He stated they need the district to have urban service agreements, and they need to ensure that our interests are taken care of. He stated the district currently has an agreement which pretty much suffices for most of what they need, however, since we are dealing with an urban area reserve and the county will have jurisdiction over that area in the interim before the city annexes anything, we will need to expand the IGA at some point and have a joint IGA with the county and the city or a separate one with the city and a separate one with the county. He stated the state statute provides the opportunity to have a multi-jurisdictional IGA or the separate agreements. He shared concerns regarding a recent city staff presentation that did not address this issue. Bruce stated that he is also very concerned that the City Council is not aware of this set of requirements. Steve stated that he has been communicating this information to city staff and he believes we can work through that. Suzanne Johannsen stated that she recalled previous discussions with the City Council regarding concurrent annexation and somehow that agreement has not been achieved. She stated that she feels we need to pursue that. Don Smith shared his concerns regarding the SDCs and Juniper Ridge, and the potential for the city to provide park and recreation services within the Juniper Ridge project. Steve explained the city could get an urban area reserve boundary established and then still have up to a year after that to work out their agreements with service districts. He stated they do not have to have a signed IGA in hand to get approval for their boundary, but it has to be completed at some point and they have to come to us to get it approved and authorized. Bruce commended Steve on the work he has done with land use planning and stated he has brought a whole new level of professionalism to that process.

### **Blakely Parking Improvements and River Canyon Natural Area Site Plan**

Bruce Ronning explained that Norm Ziesmer has been the project manager on the Blakely parking expansion and Robin Laughlin has been the manager on the River Canyon project. He reminded the Board that a small amount of money has been in the budget for the last two years anticipating that we might need to expand the parking at Blakely Park. He stated staff has conducted a series of discussions with the direct neighbors and representatives of the neighborhood association regarding the parking. He explained that staff wanted to wait to see if some of the parking pressure might be relieved with the completion of the playgrounds at Farewell Bend Park and Larkspur Parks. He stated some of the parking problems have been disbursed, but clearly there is still a problem. Norm Ziesmer reviewed a design to add 10 parking spaces and pointed out how the proposal extends to a trail connection on a recently

acquired piece of property adjacent to the park that allows access through COID property to the river, through Farewell Bend Park and back to Blakely Park. The Board reached consensus to move forward with the improvements to the parking at Blakely Park.

Robin Laughlin shared a proposal for the River Canyon Natural Area. She noted there would be minor improvements that would include a soft surface trail, an accessible hard surface trail, accessible picnic tables and an overlook of the river. She stated the neighborhood is well served by Wildflower and Hollygrape parks. She also noted that the developer is providing \$30,000 toward the amenities. The Board reached consensus to move forward with the proposed improvements for the River Canyon Natural Area.

**Old Bend Gym Grant**

Ed Moore reported on the findings of staff regarding the cost for exterior repairs of the Old Bend Gym building. He stated staff is seeking a grant to provide \$93,000 in matching funds toward the project. Lindsey explained there is \$100,000 reserve fund in the district's 2007-08 budget that would go toward the match. She stated that completing this project will use all or most of the \$100,000.

**GOOD OF THE ORDER**

Bruce Ronning recognized the passing of John Montgomery, a Rotarian who contributed a significant amount of volunteer service on the picnic shelter at Big Sky Park and the Rotary Centennial Playground at Larkspur Park.

Don Smith recognized the passing of Vince Genna, former long-time director of the district. Jan Taylor noted that Andie Lindgren will be writing an article about Vince for the upcoming People and Parks publication and the family is coordinating a community service to be held at a later date at Vince Genna Stadium.

As there was no further business the work session was concluded at 8:00 pm.

Prepared by,

Paula Lowery  
Executive Assistant

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Suzanne Johannsen, Chair

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Ruth Williamson, Vice-Chair

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Bob Woodward

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Ted Schoenborn

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Donald K. Smith