

**Bend Metro Park & Recreation District
Board of Directors
Work Session, Executive Session & Regular Meeting
October 2, 2007**

BOARD PRESENT: Ruth Williamson, Ted Schoenborn and Scott Wallace.

STAFF PRESENT: Don Horton, Bruce Ronning, Lindsey Lombard, Theresa Albert, Ed Moore, Jan Taylor, Paul Stell, Erin Bennett, Wayne Smith, Robin Laughlin, Vickie Dawley, Mike Dolan, Shawn Clark and Paula Lowery.

LEGAL COUNSEL: Neil Bryant.

MEDIA: Yoko Minoura, The Bulletin.

VISITORS: See attached list.

WORK SESSION

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

Bend Paddle Trails Alliance project update

Karl Koenig representing the Bend Paddle Trails Alliance (BPTA) presented a report on the group's activities. He reviewed a timeline beginning in 2005 and projected through 2009. He stated the group's focus is on river safety and access. Karl identified local and national supporters including a grant from the National Park Service. He reviewed the required components of a river paddle trail including coordination with existing river trails and features, the creation of safe whitewater play features, pro-active safety, identification of hazards and collaboration to remove or minimize identified hazards, and education through signage, maps and an adherence to "leave no trace" principles. Karl also reviewed the development stages of a paddle trail and estimated development costs. He identified components of community involvement including an interactive web site, hosted community events, and alignment with major government agencies. He explained the groups fund raising strategies and plans for 2008 including completing the funding campaign for the paddle trail, completion of the development of guides, maps and signage, creation of a new marketing brochure and building alliances with various businesses and agencies. Ruth Williamson thanked Karl for the report. She stated that the BPTA is a pretty inspiring organization of volunteers and certainly inspires the park and recreation district to work closely with the group as we try to align our trail efforts to compliment your efforts. She stated that ongoing conversations are essential to creating a trail network that is world class including our river trail. Bruce Ronning noted that the BPTA's efforts also align with a mandate from the Oregon Parks Commission and Oregon State Trails Plan that defines a state-wide comprehensive river trails program. He referred to the Paddle Trail Feasibility Study's examination of the Colorado Street Bridge and dam to develop safety improvements, downstream passage improvements and associated fish habitat and passage. He reminded the board the district has contracted with Recreation Engineering and Planning (REP) to proceed with the engineering work on this site. He added a local firm will assist with the environmental aspects of the project.

Tumalo Langlauf Club - Meissner Ski Area Plan Report

Tim Gibbons, Tumalo Langlauf Club (TLC) addressed the board. He provided a history of the legacy of Virginia Meissner, and provided an update of the group's activities with regard to the Meissner Sno-Park and ski trails. He explained that TLC is one of 12 Nordic clubs in Oregon and their focus is to provide access to groomed ski trails. He noted that TLC has groomed trails for the past 10 years. Tim stated there is a learn to ski day on the first Saturday in January and the last two years the club has provided ski instruction, and Sunnyside Sports has provided equipment. He reported the club is proposing to expand the ski trail system, expand the parking, develop a staging area for instruction and competitive events, provide lighted ski trails, and a warming shelter. He stated that TLC will continue to support a family focused philosophy to provide affordable access for users and continue to promote collaborative efforts with stakeholders including the park and recreation district and forest service. He reviewed elements of the group's fundraising efforts including grants and donations. Don Horton noted that Oregon State Parks grants may be available and perhaps it would be possible for the district to assist with matching funds. Ruth Williamson suggested that staff meet with TLC to revisit the partnership agreement and draft a letter of support from the district for the grant application.

The work session was recessed at 6:30 pm.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

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

The work session was reconvened at 6:45 pm.

Work session public comment discussion

Ruth Williamson explained that she would like to encourage public participation during work sessions and meetings; however, there is a need to create a way of containing the comments to allow the board to get through the meeting agendas. She suggested that comments be invited at the end of a work session. She stated the comments would need to be brief and to the issue of the work session discussion. Ted Schoenborn stated he thought the board has a policy to reserve the right to defer comments from the public regarding specific items to the time they appear on the agenda. He stated he views the work session in the same way. Scott Wallace suggested comment could be received during work sessions at the end of each discussion; however, he stressed the importance of limiting the amount of time allowed for comment.

Ruth Williamson stated that a process should be introduced to follow up on public requests of the board. She proposed that the chair ask the executive director to follow up with those requests in order that the board could receive some feedback from staff or items are placed on work sessions for further board discussion and action as necessary. Ted Schoenborn suggested that the board determine at the end of the regular meeting whether requests should be placed on future agendas for board consideration. He expressed concern with overwhelming the staff with things that the board won't be able to do or consider. He suggested allowing the board two weeks to consider those requests that are moved forward then placing them on the consent agenda for approval for future agendas. Don Horton

stated that he and the chair have a standing meeting the week before board meetings to review agendas and outstanding public requests could be scheduled.

The work session was recessed at 7:00 pm to conduct the regular meeting.

REGULAR MEETING

Chair Ruth Williamson called the regular meeting to order at 7:02 pm.

VISITORS

Jonathan LaMarche addressed the board regarding Quail Park. He stated the beginning skate area creates unsafe conditions as the skaters use the whole park not just the skate feature. He stated there have been some behavioral issues and it is a loud sport. He questioned the compatibility of the skate park in the neighborhood. He asked the board to consider removing the skating area. He stated skaters need a place to recreate, but he questions putting it in a residential area.

Kirsten Heron addressed the board regarding Quail Park. She stated that she moved into the neighborhood 2 ½ years before the park was built and she was never surveyed as to whether she would like a skate park in Quail Park. She stated there are large groups of adult men who are showing up late hours of the night and they are not using the portable toilet, they are smoking pot and she has seen some beer cans out there. She stated it is noisy and if she lived on the park she would be furious. She stated these kids are not from our neighborhood, they are the overflow from Ponderosa Park. She expressed frustration that she does not feel they are being heard and have received insulting email responses from Don Horton and Erin Bennett. She stated she personally has not sent a letter to Don Horton. She stated the park borders a retirement community and is on a dead end street. She stated that she would like to see the skate park removed. Ruth Williamson assured Ms. Heron that her concerns have not fallen on deaf ears and the board and staff are working very hard on a resolution.

STAFF PRESENTATIONS

Mike Dolan, JSFC Maintenance Supervisor, addressed the board. He stated he has a total of 17 years of experience and worked for Sunriver Resort for seven years before coming to work for the district.

Shawn Clark, Facilities Maintenance Specialist, addressed the board. He stated he has worked for the district for seven and a half years, starting at JSFC in janitorial.

CONSENT AGENDA

Minutes - September 4, 2007, work session and regular meeting

Ted Schoenborn moved to approve the consent agenda. Scott Wallace seconded the motion. Ted Schoenborn, Scott Wallace and Ruth Williamson all voted aye. Motion passed.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Don Horton stated the October 16 meeting of the board has been cancelled as some board and staff will be attending the annual Oregon Recreation & Park Association conference.

Don Horton reported the Kiwanis Club is donating \$10,000 to the playground at Al Moody Park and \$1,800 for scholarships.

Don Horton reported the Randy Newman Walkway on the Veterans Memorial Bridge (formerly Newport Bridge) will be dedicated in a ceremony on November 10 at 11:00 am.

Bruce Ronning shared schematics of a new forest service administration building that will be constructed at the Bend Pine Nursery. He also shared photographs of the Pine Nursery pond.

Jan Taylor reminded the board the Gopher Broke Golf Tournament will occur on Monday, October 8, and the Pumpkin Festival is scheduled for Saturday, October 13.

Wayne Smith reported that Kevin Collier has been selected as the United States Tennis Association Tournament Director of the Year.

The regular meeting was adjourned at 7:15 pm.

The work session was reconvened at 7:20 pm.

Park Steward Program Review

Ed Moore reviewed previously reported information for the board regarding the park steward program. He noted the program was intended to use a proactive approach and as a resource for park users with questions and concerns. Ed stated that has been accomplished along with the creation of a new comprehensive incident reporting system and database to track crimes and rule violations. He reviewed the cooperative work that has been done with the Bend Police Department, the district's planning and development staff, and neighborhood/homeowner associations. He stated that while many objectives have been met a challenge to address violations remains to be addressed. Paul Stell shared staff recommendations including changing the job title to Park Ranger, giving the park steward citation authority, allowing the steward to carry pepper spray, a review of park rules and regulations to ensure they are in compliance with city and county code, the addition of one full time and one part time (summer seasonal) park steward, upgrading the Shevlin Park caretaker to a full time position and converting to a park steward and developing a volunteer program to assist park stewards in educating park users. Erin Bennett shared information about the most common violations that occur in the parks, and where those incidents are occurring. She stated that vandalism is the most time consuming and costly issue. She cited the graffiti at the skate park as one location that is repeatedly targeted and cost \$450 in staff time and materials to correct. Erin stated that she and Paul Stell are on a committee composed of citizens and the Bend Police Department working on the dog off leash issues and some recommendations will be coming before the board for their consideration. Erin complimented the working relationship she has been able to develop with the Bend Police Department and stated they have been very responsive to her calls for assistance. She also reviewed the types of complaints and problems that are occurring at Quail Park. She stated she and parks staff are working hard to be responsive to neighbors' concerns. She noted that the residents of Copperstone have been reluctant to form a neighborhood watch program which she felt would be very helpful in resolving

some problems at Quail Park. Don Horton stated that staff is not finding a lot of the violations that are being reported by neighbors, however, skating is noisy and if it is located next to homes, perhaps it needs to be taken out. He stated that if it is taken out it needs to be relocated on a different site and those actions need to occur at the same time. Ruth Williamson complimented Erin for her efforts to collect the information and her service to the public in the park steward capacity. She added that it is the district's responsibility to handle the issue in our parks and the recommendations are worthy of board consideration and endorsement.

As there was no further business the work session was concluded at 8:05 pm.

Prepared by,

Paula Lowery
Executive Assistant

Ruth Williamson, Chair

Bob Woodward, Vice-Chair

Ted Schoenborn

George Thayer

Scott Wallace