

**Bend Metro Park & Recreation District
Board of Directors
Work Session
September 18, 2007**

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

STAFF PRESENT: Don Horton, Bruce Ronning, Steve Jorgensen, Ed Moore, Theresa Albert, Jan Taylor, Pat Erwert, Norm Ziesmer, Wayne Smith, Lindsey Lombard and Paula Lowery.

LEGAL COUNSEL: Neil Bryant.

MEDIA: None.

VISITORS: See attached list.

WORK SESSION

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

VISITORS

Mimi Graves addressed the board regarding the Ponderosa Skate Park. She explained that she had been involved in the fundraising to build the park and she is in support of continued use of the facility. She stated that she has talked with the kids who are using the park and they want to find a solution to the problems. She also noted that the park has not been landscaped for 10 years and if the district wants it to be respected it needs to be attractive to the users. She added that she would like to see a skate park to accommodate all users of all skill levels.

Bob Woodward thanked Ms. Graves for her comments. He noted that if visitors were in attendance to speak about the Quail Park skate facility, the board would not be making a decision at tonight's meeting. He stated that a survey of the neighborhood will be conducted to aid in the board's consideration of the issues that are of concern to the entire neighborhood.

Todd Riley addressed the board regarding the skate feature at Quail Park. He stated kids and families are using the park during the day, and the older kids are showing up around 5:00 pm. He stated they are coming from outside the area to be served by the park. He stated that the neighborhood kids leave the park and play in the cul-de-sac when the older kids show up to skate. He stated the behavior of the older kids is not appropriate around the smaller kids, and the enforcement of park rules is becoming the responsibility of the residents.

Greg McCloskey addressed the board regarding the skate feature at Quail Park. He stated that the district has created two widely divergent parks within one park. He stated the little kids love it and they spend a lot of time there. He stated the skateboard population is older and kind of dominant. He cited bad behavior on the part of older kids and stated the little kids are forced to play in the street when the older kids are in the park. He stated he wouldn't mind seeing the

“dumbed down” skateboard stuff go out of the park because that would bring the little kids back into the park.

Discussion with Representative Chuck Burley

Bob Woodward welcomed Representative Burley to the meeting. Don Horton referred to a summary of questions prepared by the board and provided for Representative Burley’s review prior to the meeting. He stated the board would like the legislature to consider the definition of the word “blight in the urban renewal district language. He explained that it is the opinion of the board that blight cannot exist on undeveloped land or in new development and specifically cited Juniper Ridge. He added that the city can take taxes away from other taxing entities through urban renewal districts, which has a significant impact on those agencies. Neil Bryant explained that there have been discussions regarding the legislators trying to define blight in more specific terms. He stated there has not been a bill introduced in the last two sessions of the legislature to address the definition and noted the best place to start would be with the League of Oregon Cities and special districts that have lobbyists that know the issues. He noted that others who may have an interest in this issue would be school districts, builders, college districts, anyone that has a tax base. Representative Burley suggested that a new definition could be drafted and perhaps it could be done in such a way to get the Bend Metro Park & Recreation District out of the urban renewal district. He stated he didn’t know how successful they would be, but they could certainly take a shot at the definition.

Don Horton stated the board would like the legislature to consider revising land use laws allowing special districts to annex the Urban Area Reserve (UAR) when the special district provides urban services in that area. He explained that the Vision 2030 Plan calls for the district to take the lead in developing a “green print plan” for the greater Bend area. He stated the district has worked with the Deschutes Basin Land Trust, city of Bend and Deschutes County to create the plan and informally defined the study area to be the future UAR. He stated the plan would call for the land to be acquired and cared for and noted the district already provides some urban services to residents within the UAR. He explained that it would allow the district to buy land far cheaper than within the city limits or Urban Growth Boundary (UGB) and it allows for good planning, but there is no funding for this goal. He stated that if the district is allowed to annex the UAR without a vote, we could make it happen. Representative Burley asked if the district could put this up for a vote now. Bruce Ronning explained that it is different from the annexation plan the district used in 2003. He stated in this circumstance, separate votes would be required. Don noted that the idea will take a considerable amount of planning and consensus building.

Bob Woodward stated the board has concerns regarding the Hamby Road fire hall and explained that the proposed UGB does not include Big Sky Park and by not including the park and the hall, we are constrained from using the building for anything other than those functions directly related to the park. Don Horton stated it cannot be used for storage, maintenance or other purposes that support the system of parks. Representative Burley explained that the special session has not been clearly defined as to the number of bills that will be considered. He stated he did not feel there would be enough days in the session to consider a revision of this type. He stated that it is a good idea to start working on it now for consideration in a future session.

Representative Burley addressed an issue raised regarding the Urban Forestry department's budget. He explained there was a \$6 million hole in the budget at the start of the session and unfortunately due to prioritization of the budget urban forestry was just one that took a hit. He stated it may be feasible to address this in February if budget issues are raised.

Bob Woodward stated that in the last legislative session there was some concern with the SDC bill that came up that could have affected park SDCs. Representative Burley stated that he co-chaired the work group that developed ideas on how to provide capital dollars for schools. He stated the state home builders association was pressing to combine school and park SDCs. He reported on meetings with the home builders association and noted the school districts and special districts association shared their positions. He stated the home builders developed the idea of a construction excise tax which received bipartisan support, however, the SDC concern is something to be watched. He noted that the excise tax is not a cure-all, but it helps, and it does not tax just residential as it is also applied to non-residential construction. Representative Burley thanked the board for inviting him to meet with them and stated he would work on addressing the board's concerns.

Trails Master Plan

Bruce Ronning stated that following on the direction of the Bend Metro Park & Recreation District 2005 Parks, Recreation and Green Spaces Comprehensive Plan, staff began working on a draft Trails Master Plan at the beginning of 2007. He reported that the Deschutes County Pedestrian and Bicycle Committee, acting as a citizen review committee, and a select group of city, county and Commute Options staff was assembled to act as the technical advisory committee on the plan. He identified the boundaries of the trail plan and explained that it is intended as a guide for general planning of trail development within the district boundary and beyond into the proposed Bend Urban Reserve (BUR) over the next 25 to 50 years. Steve Jorgensen explained the district is expanding upon what the city has done, and looked at what the district's needs are from a recreation standpoint, rather than from a transportation basis. He explained that we need to think about what concurrent planning processes are occurring and noted that multiple things are going on between the district, city and county. He referred to a draft of goals and policies included in the board report that he had shared with the citizen advisory committee and stated the committee has reviewed and offered changes and suggestions. He stated he has developed a GIS framework for all of the major trails which allows for an easier update of the plan and a way to share the information with the state to be added to a state-wide data base. He noted the second step of the plan would be developing an action plan for developing the trails and incorporating them into the district's CIP. Steve explained the public process and noted that the neighborhood associations provide a simple avenue of outreach. He added the public component includes the citizen's advisory committee, a technical committee, public hearings with the board, and newspaper articles. He stated that the trail plan will also be on the district's web site eventually. Steve stated he would like to have the plan wrapped up by spring and noted that trail development would have to go through the city's land use process to implement the plan.

Pine Nursery Funding Report

Bruce Ronning stated that the construction estimate for Phase 1B of the Pine Nursery is approximately \$3.8 million. Norm Ziesmer reviewed the components of Phase 1B of the Pine Nursery development including the park entrance, community park area, access roadway, parking lot, one mile loop trail, and four sports fields. He noted that the work on the sports fields is for grading only and would not include the backstops, irrigation, seeding, etc. Bruce Ronning stated that staff would like to discuss alternatives with the board as the \$3.8 million exceeds the appropriated budget amount and the construction would commit the district to a contract beyond this year's budget. He noted the Capital Improvement Plan includes approximately \$3 million in next year's capital plan so there is adequate funding in the CIP between the two years to absorb the \$3.8 million for Phase 1B. Lindsey Lombard explained that she and Bruce had done some re-estimating of SDC revenues based upon the first two months of the fiscal year. She reported the district has received 49% of what was received during the same time period last fiscal year. Bruce stated that from all indications the housing market is not expected to recover until next spring or summer. He stated it appears the first two months may be an accurate indicator of what can be expected with regard to SDC revenue for the entire fiscal year. Bruce explained that if we were to proceed with Phase 1B we would be expected to be about \$2 million short of funds to complete other projects that are in the budget and on the CIP now and in the next two or three years. He noted that a lot of juggling of the CIP was done last year and there isn't much more to do short of forestalling projects. Bruce stated that staff has done some preliminary work on value engineering Phase 1B down to \$1 million, but that does not result in much in the way of park amenities. He stated we would have a road, a small parking lot and some soft surface trails. Bruce stated another alternative is to forestall the project. The board discussed the need for other parks and amenities such as a skate park, additional parking at Juniper Swim & Fitness Center, neighborhood parks, etc., and the possibility of providing soft surface trails at the Pine Nursery. Don noted that the board is scheduled to conduct a general discussion and prioritization of the CIP in November. The board reached consensus to postpone the full development of Phase 1B and continue their discussion with their work on the CIP in November.

Central Oregon Irrigation District Letter

Don Horton referred to a letter shared with the board from the Central Oregon Irrigation District (COID) regarding the ditch rider road located off of Ferguson Road and its use as a trail. He noted there have been conflicts between a few property owners and trail users and as a result the irrigation district is asking that the road be taken off the district's trail plan. He noted the road is not being promoted as a trail by BMPRD. Following board discussion it was determined that the district should work with COID to resolve their concerns.

Quail Park Survey

Don Horton reported that a neighborhood poll will be conducted to determine if residents have concerns regarding Quail Park, and general information about park use. He noted that it is hoped the information will be of assistance in determining how to address the concerns raised regarding the skate facility.

As there was no further business the work session was concluded at 7:55 pm.

Prepared by,

Paula Lowery
Executive Assistant

Ruth Williamson, Chair

Bob Woodward, Vice-Chair

Ted Schoenborn

George Thayer

Scott Wallace