

**Bend Metro Park & Recreation District
Board of Directors
Work Session, Executive Session & Regular Meeting
Work Session
March 17, 2009**

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

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

LEGAL COUNSEL: None.

MEDIA: None.

VISITORS: Mike Lovely, Bill Martin, Michael Graham and Sue Vordenberg.

WORK SESSION

Chair Bob Woodward convened the work session at 6:30 pm.

Employee Handbook

Theresa Albert, Human Resources Manager, presented the new "Employee Playbook" and explained the document does not replace the employee policy manual; rather, it provides a condensed version that is easier for employees to use. She stated the district's policies are reviewed with new employees during orientation. She recognized Andie Lindgren's contribution to the graphics used in the booklet. The board complimented the look and content of the booklet and thanked Theresa for her work on the document.

Accessibility Study Update

Bruce Ronning, Director of Planning & Development, explained the presentation is to provide a first draft of the Accessibility Study and encourage input from the board in those parts of the documents that bear on policy. Norm Ziesmer stated that the district is committed to ensuring that everyone has an equal opportunity to access our parks. He reviewed the process of civil rights legislation that allows all people with disabilities to have equal access to public facilities and the subsequent development of applicable codes and standards. He reviewed the components of the draft study and noted the inventory of district facilities that serves as a guide for what is available to meet accessible requirements, and where improvements need to be made. Norm stated that the process will include public review of the document and opportunities to determine what people need in terms of access. He stated staff will be working with local partners and a consultant will also be hired to assist with making the parks more accessible. Norm stated staff is looking to the board for comments and suggestions with regard to the district's guiding principles with respect to accessibility. He added that the board will be asked to prioritize improvements with respect to the Capital Improvement Program, or projects that are considered major maintenance. Scott Wallace asked if the district is required to meet a compliance schedule. Norm explained the guidelines of the study are best practices, rather than law. He stated it is anticipated that the guidelines will become law over a number of years and the efforts of the district are to match the improvements to future requirements. He stated the district conducted a transition study in 1993 that evaluated buildings and accessible routes and has made all the improvements that we could since then. He stated the current effort is to make the parks more accessible than what is required by law. Bruce stated that should we discover in the course of the study there are things that are not in compliance, they would become top priorities. He added this study interfaces with the CIP and the Comprehensive Plan. Bruce asked the board to direct

comments and suggestions to Norm and noted the study will be brought to the board for further consideration at a future meeting.

Comprehensive Plan Amendments

Bruce Ronning shared a proposed scope of work addendum to the board agenda communication previously provided for the board regarding the update of the comprehensive plan. He cited the need for comprehensive plan amendments to update the plan and ensure it is consistent with the Neighborhood Parks Plan, the Trails Master Plan, the updated SDC/CIP and the updated survey completed last May. He stated it is anticipated the update process will extend into the fall with several reviews conducted by the board. Steve Jorgensen stated that he has been reviewing the current comprehensive plan over the past six months and has identified updates and changes needed for each chapter. He identified some of those changes for the board and explained how he expects to approach the update. Bruce explained how the district's comprehensive plan is connected to the city's general plan and the recent updates district staff contributed to the city's document. Bruce explained that the district's current comprehensive plan was designed to be less prescriptive with the intention of putting more directed material into the strategic plan that could be updated more frequently. He said that with the changes we have achieved in the city's general plan, it is clear that now that becomes the overriding umbrella for community parks, trail and recreation facility planning and perhaps we need to consider the district's comprehensive plan becoming even more prescriptive. Bob Woodward stated that he would like to see a document that has some life to it, rather than a plan that needs to be revised every three years. He added he would like to see a review period set in the plan. Bruce addressed the process for adopting the comprehensive plan and stated that adopting by ordinance gives the plan a higher level of standing. Bruce asked the board to direct their comments and directions to Steve.

Brooks Park PowerPoint Presentation

Bruce Ronning explained the presentation is in response to comments the board received from Dorothy Stenkamp regarding riverscapes and visual impact of the proposed hero's monument in Brooks Park. He explained that staff prepared some cardboard mock-ups of the same size as the proposed monument, placed them in the park and took photographs to demonstrate how the view of the river could be affected. Robin Laughlin reviewed the proposed plan for the memorial and placement of the monument. She presented photographs of the mockup that demonstrated a limited impact on the view of the river. Following the presentation and discussion the board directed staff to share the information with Dorothy and to proceed as planned.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Bruce Ronning reported on a meeting of the Oregon Park & Recreation Association Legislative Committee. He explained proposed legislation involving systems development charges that may be of concern including a requirement regarding mediation that could subsequently lead to mandatory arbitration. He stated that he and Don Horton will continue to work on an opposition to the proposed legislation and provide appropriate updates for the board.

Bruce Ronning reported that he and Steve Jorgensen had presented the district's RTP grant proposal requesting \$69,000 for a river trail connection from Portland Street to Revere Avenue to the grant committee. He explained the grant is an approximate equivalent match for the district for a \$150,000 project.

Bruce Ronning reported that Steve Jorgensen prepared five trail grant applications for stimulus dollars that have been submitted to the state highway commission. He stated he thinks it is very likely that larger highway type projects will be selected for funding, however, it is worth the effort to make application for these funds.

Wayne Smith reported the second annual Central Oregon's Got Talent event was sold out. He noted that Bob Woodward served as a judge for the talent show. Wayne stated that all proceeds from the event will be directed to the district's special recreation programs.

GOOD OF THE ORDER

George Thayer reported on Jan Taylor’s presentation to the Downtowners regarding special events in Drake Park and potential policy changes. He thanked Jan for addressing the rumors that the events would be moved to the Old Mill District.

Bob Woodward stated that the Central Oregon’s Got Talent event was very well managed and presented. He added that he had enjoyed it so much he would like to serve as a judge again next year.

Bob Woodward shared an experience from his trip to Palm Springs where he had a conversation with an individual from Portland who felt the Juniper Swim & Fitness Center is the coolest pool in the whole country.

As there was no further business the work session was concluded at 7:30 pm.

Prepared by,

Paula Lowery,
Executive Assistant

Bob Woodward, Chair

Scott Wallace, Vice-Chair

Ted Schoenborn

George Thayer

Ruth Williamson