

**Bend Metro Park & Recreation District  
Board of Directors  
Work Session & Regular Meeting  
September 1, 2009**

**BOARD PRESENT:** George Thayer, Ruth Williamson, Ted Schoenborn, and Scott Asla.

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

**LEGAL COUNSEL:** Neil Bryant.

**MEDIA:** Erin Golden, The Bulletin.

**VISITORS:** See attached list.

**WORK SESSION**

Vice-Chair George Thayer convened the work session at 5:30 PM.

**Review of Comprehensive Plan Amendments – Chapters 1, 2, 3**

Steve Jorgensen identified and reviewed changes to the Comprehensive Plan. Ruth Williamson asked about the process for the city's endorsement of the district's comprehensive plan. Bruce Ronning explained the city's general plan incorporates the district's comprehensive plan with regard to park and trail planning and natural areas with a provision for amendments. He stated staff feels that chapters six and seven and perhaps some of the other material from this revision should be presented to the city's planning commission, and that staff is working on scheduling that presentation. Bruce Ronning referred to Chapter 4 and explained staff's position that this chapter should identify strategic issues and community outcomes the board has helped to isolate. He stated this chapter should address the district's whole effort including recreation, parks, finance, administration as well as planning and development. He noted this change to the Comprehensive Plan will require additional direction from the board, and this effort will give us some policy direction and focus to be further iterated in a strategic plan. The board briefly discussed the potential for addressing community issues and identifying desired outcomes through such a process.

**Pilot Butte State Park MOU**

Bruce Ronning identified the service area of the existing state park and explained the proposal to enter into a 20-year memorandum of understanding with the state parks department to make improvements to the site. Robin Laughlin presented a conceptual plan and reviewed the proposed amenities, to including an extension of Larkspur Trail, a playground, plaza space with picnic shelter, benches and some shade trees. She noted a restroom and large open lawn area are already in place on the site. She stated a public meeting will be held to gain input regarding the proposed amenities. She added that staff has met with Pilot Butte Partners and state parks and both are very receptive to the proposed layout. Scott Asla asked if a half-court basketball court is planned for the site. He stated that the area surrounding the park and the proximity to the middle school is a real kid intensive area. Bruce stated that half-court basketball is a typical amenity for some neighborhood parks and something that we could propose for the public meeting.

Scott added that sand volleyball might be another feature to consider. Bruce stated the final design will be brought to the board for approval.

The work session was concluded at 6:00 pm.

### **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Jan Taylor reminded the board that the grand opening for Riverbend Park is scheduled for September 17, from 4:00 to 6:00 pm.

Wayne Smith noted that four board members will be attending NRPA in October and proposed that the October 20 meeting be cancelled. The board agreed to cancel the meeting.

Bruce Ronning explained that further board discussion regarding the SDC fee deferral and consideration of a resolution has been postponed until all details and anticipated amendment to the MOU with the city have been addressed.

Bruce Ronning explained the river access in the Riverbend dog park has been closed due to erosion. He stated the beach will remain closed until the problem can be evaluated and a rehabilitation plan developed. He noted that a scheduled Waterway Overlay Zone review of the dog off leash area and the dog beach is scheduled and the next decision will be whether we want to move forward with proposing a permanent dog beach at this location given the current circumstances.

### **REGULAR MEETING**

Vice-Chair George Thayer called the regular meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

### **VISITORS**

H. D. Weddel, principal of Bend High School, addressed the board. He stated he feels a disconnect between the parks and recreation district and the school system. He stated he did not feel he has been informed as he needs to be regarding some of the cross country meets that are changing. He stated cross country is a really big deal at Bend High School, Mt. View and Summit. He stated it is a showcase; we have great meets and great kids. He said people come to Bend to run this meet because of where it's at. He stated he is disappointed and he hopes we can work more closely together.

Don Stearns addressed the board regarding use of Drake Park. He stated he has been in Bend since 1983 and cited his career of coaching cross country in Bend high schools. He stated we have had a great history of cross country at Drake Park and over the years these meets have showcased a center piece of Bend to so many visitors from other states as well as Oregon. He stated there is huge support from the community for high school crosses country, and there are going to be thousands of people who are going to be disappointed if the meets are not held at Drake Park. He stated there have been tentative plans to move meets out to Bend Pine Nursery and the people involved are not happy about that because the venue is not the same for the athletes competing or the spectators or the community. He stated we have people who are willing to help address problems and make sure everything goes well so we can continue these traditions and have a positive effect on the youth of our community.

Mark Neuman addressed the board regarding cross country meets being moved. He stated he has been out to the Pine Nursery and it is in no condition to have cross country race right now. He stated he has been to all sorts of venues across the state and if you bring people in for that venue they will not come back. He stated the kids love to run at Drake Park and it is a community event where the community comes out to watch the race.

Charlie Naffziger addressed the board stating that he appreciates the board and staff for looking out for what is best for all of the parks and recreation that goes on in town. He stated he hopes we can find some sort of compromise to make something happen at Drake Park this fall. He stated it is a great event and the kids love it and look forward to it.

George Thayer stated that there has been a lot of cooperation between the school district and park district. He stated that in the long term there are benefits of using the park for things that don't destroy it as we don't have the money to keep restoring things and that is why we work with other operators to make sure the park is maintained and left in the condition they found it. He stated he is sure staff will continue to work with the cross country program to find a good resolution, long term at least. He thanked the speakers for coming to the meeting.

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

**Approve minutes – August 18, 2009**

**Approve Pilot Butte State Park MOU**

Scott Asla moved to accept the consent agenda as presented. Ruth Williamson seconded the motion.

Scott Asla, Ruth Williamson, Ted Schoenborn and George Thayer all voted aye. Motion passed.

## **BUSINESS SESSION**

### **2030 Update**

Ruth Williamson stated that is a personal pleasure to serve on both the Bend Metro Park & Recreation District board and the 2030 board as both are leaders in our community demonstrating what vision and inspiration can get done. She introduced Stephanie Hicks and Ron Paradis. Ruth reviewed the history of the development of the 2030 vision and stated it is the most broadly informed comprehensive process that has ever been undertaken to define what makes Bend, Bend. Stephanie Hicks reviewed the process for establishing the 2030 organization, board of directors and community events. She stated that an update on the progress of the vision will be prepared and presented every four to six months. She stated that work is being done on the web site to better inform the community including the implementation of Twitter and Facebook. Ron Paradis stated that the organization is working on raising awareness in the community and feels they are becoming more established. He reviewed the goals for the current year and noted that they are working on keeping the lead partners updated. He noted a lead partner luncheon is scheduled for February 2010 to review accomplishments, and a vision builder program has been created to recognize those who helped make the Bend 2030 Vision a reality. He stated that a community town hall meeting is scheduled in April 2010 to update the community on the accomplishments and plans of the organization. Ruth stressed the importance of the partnerships with the lead partners and stated the district has been absolutely stellar in its roll in a number of key action items and the level of staff involvement.

**Adopt Resolution No. 316 – Social Marketing**

Scott Asla moved to approve the Social Media Guidelines and adopt Resolution No. 316, Social Media Marketing and Public Relations Platforms. Ted Schoenborn seconded the motion. Scott Asla, Ted Schoenborn, George Thayer and Ruth Williamson all voted aye. Motion passed.

**Executive Directors Report**

Bruce Ronning reported on a meeting of the steering committee of the Mirror Pond Management Board. He stated a site tour has been scheduled for September 10 from 3:00 to 5:30 and asked if a board member could participate in the tour. George Thayer volunteered to participate in the tour and Scott Asla volunteered to be an alternate.

Wayne Smith reminded the board of the upcoming partial shutdown of JSFC for renovation and repairs. He reviewed projects to be completed including roof replacement, lighting, HVAC and locker room renovation and noted this will require a partial shutdown of the facility.

**GOOD OF THE ORDER**

George Thayer complimented the JSFC staff for assistance with the Elk Lake series put on by the Central Oregon Masters Swimmers. He stated 145 swimmers participated, everyone had a great time, and the support of the district was very much appreciated.

As there was no further business the meeting was adjourned at 7:45 pm.

Prepared by,

Paula Lowery  
Executive Assistant

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Scott Wallace, Chair

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George Thayer, Vice-Chair

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Ted Schoenborn

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Ruth Williamson

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Scott Asla