

**Bend Metro Park & Recreation District
Board of Directors
Work Session & Executive Session
September 15, 2009**

BOARD PRESENT: Ted Schoenborn and Ruth Williamson.

STAFF PRESENT: Don Horton, Lindsey Lombard, Jan Taylor, Andie Lindgren, Paul Stell, Ed Moore and Steve Jorgensen.

LEGAL COUNSEL: Neil Bryant.

MEDIA: Erin Golden, The Bulletin.

VISITORS: See attached list.

WORK SESSION

A quorum of the board was not in attendance, however, representatives of the USDA and ODFW were present to address the board and it was determined to proceed with the work session. Ted Schoenborn convened the work session at 5:38 pm.

Waterfowl Management Plan

Jeff Amaral, Wildlife Biologist, United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Deschutes County, and Mike Slater, Wildlife Biologist, Eastern Oregon District Office of the USDA presented a waterfowl management plan produced by the USDA. Brad Bales, representing the Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife (ODFW) was also present. The regulatory management of the Canada geese was briefly explained. The plan identified the different types of Canada goose population found in central Oregon and management issues related to the geese and the various efforts previously used to control the population. The information gathered from a survey of the goose population was reviewed and it was noted that more geese have been banded in district parks than in any other location in the study area. It was explained that the survey could help determine the number of geese to remove to provide the most relief. It was recommended that some adult geese be removed in order to manage the impact of the geese on the parks, and that other tools continue to be used to maintain a manageable population. Don Horton stated that if the district determines to move forward with the program, a public meeting will be held and explained that at this time staff is seeking board comment. Ted Schoenborn asked if the birding organizations in the community have been involved in the study. Paul Stell stated that to date they have not been involved, but their opinions will be sought and incorporated into any program the district determines to implement. Ted asked about the potential for new geese to move into the habitat after removing the current resident birds, and if consideration has been given to changing the habitat. Don stated that this has not been the experience of a similar action conducted at Cove Palisades State Park. He stated the problem involves the golf courses in Deschutes County and the Mill District as well as park and recreation district, and consideration would need to be given to changing all sites where gees congregate. Paul stated there are other techniques that can be used to make it difficult for some of these birds to reside in certain areas such as Pioneer and Pacific parks, as well as discouraging migratory geese from becoming resident birds. Ted stated that whatever the outcome of a decision, it needs to be aggressively supported by all of the partners and he hopes we can find ways to reflect the ultimate concerns of the birding organizations in the

community. He stated that park management has a substantial impact on the community's view of the district and this is a particularly sensitive area so we want to be more than sure that we have all of the potential interested parties involved in the discussion and arriving at an ultimate solution, based upon the information of the management plan, even if we are not able to meet all of their needs. Ruth Williamson stated that she agrees with Ted and while we take a leadership role we acknowledge that it is a community issue and seek a community conversation as well as hopefully a consensus on how we proceed with all of the various parties engaged and participating in the funding capacity.

Dog Park Update

Ed Moore reported that the off-leash program is proving to be very successful. He reviewed some of the history of developing the program and recognized the DogPak group for their assistance and support of the off-leash areas in providing volunteers to oversee the sites. He also reported that the change from Park Ranger to Park Resource Officer has had a significant impact on the reduced numbers of off-leash citations and achieving compliance with city leash laws. He reported that staff is evaluating sites for a small dog off-leash area and possibly adding a turf or pond site at the Pine Nursery. He added that staff will be meeting with the representatives from the Deschutes National Forest to discuss improvements to Meadow Camp that would allow for off-leash use. Don Horton stated one of the nice benefits of implementing this program is the relationship staff has developed with DogPak. He stated this has created a volunteer program that is working and they continue to be there when we need them. Jan Taylor noted that the district nominated DogPak for the ORPA volunteer service award and they were selected as the winner of that award. Ruth Williamson stated she thinks this is one of the greatest success stories of the last couple of years in the way the district responded to the community, and commended staff for their efforts to put a program together in a very short amount of time.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Don Horton reminded the board that the Riverbend Park grand opening is scheduled for September 17, from 4:00 – 6:00 pm.

Don Horton announced the district is receiving the ORPA Design Award for Riverbend Park. He recognized Robin Laughlin and the staff who worked on the project.

Don Horton stated the Bend Heroes Memorial ceremony is tentatively scheduled for November 7 or November 11.

Don Horton displayed pieces removed from the Juniper Swim & Fitness Center roof and explained the damage found under the metal roofing, noting that it was more extensive than anticipated.

Don Horton referred to the closing of the beach in the Riverbend off-leash area due to erosion and stated repairs have begun and should be completed shortly and it is anticipated the work will finished in two weeks.

The work session was concluded at 6:43 pm.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The board convened an executive session at 6:45 pm pursuant to ORS 192.660 (2) (e) for the purpose of discussing real property transactions and ORS 192.660 (2) (e) for the purpose of consulting with legal counsel concerning legal rights and duties regarding current litigation or litigation likely to be filed.

Prepared by,

Paula Lowery
Executive Assistant

Scott Wallace, Chair

George Thayer, Vice-Chair

Ted Schoenborn

Ruth Williamson

Scott Asla