

**Bend Metro Park & Recreation District  
Board of Directors  
Work Session & Regular Meeting  
November 3, 2009**

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

**STAFF PRESENT:** Bruce Ronning, Wayne Smith, Ed Moore, Paul Stell, Lindsey Lombard, Jan Taylor, Theresa Albert, Andie Lindgren and Paula Lowery.

**LEGAL COUNSEL:** Paul Taylor

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

**VISITORS:** See attached list.

**WORK SESSION**

Chair Scott Wallace convened a work session at 5:30 pm.

**Mirror Pond Discussion**

Bruce Ronning provided a brief report to the board regarding the status of the activities of the Mirror Pond Management Board, an ad hoc committee appointed by the city of Bend to address the siltation of Mirror Pond. He stated the management board has begun to identify a set of recommendations including hiring a project manager at an estimated cost of \$60,000. He stated the district has been asked to contribute a one-third share which is an unbudgeted item for the district. He explained the manager would be responsible for managing a scope of services contract to do an environmental study and other studies of the siltation problem and come up with a recommended solution. He added the scope of services compiled by the city and Deschutes Watershed Council is estimated to be a \$500,000 project. Bruce noted that there has been discussion of the management board to appoint the district as the lead managing partner on this project; however, he and Don Horton feel this would be inappropriate as the project will require engineering and the sort of expertise normally provided by a public works department. He stated this work is not something the district has the in-house capability of managing. Ruth Williamson stated that she feels this is going to be an opportunity for the community to work together using shared resources and funding, and while the city public works has a significant role, she feels the district needs to take a proactive role which she supports. Scott Wallace asked if the scope of work identifies funding alternatives. Bruce stated the scope of work, posted on the city's web site, does discuss funding alternatives in a general way, but without a refined plan it is hard to know what the cost will be.

**Park Resource Officer Update**

Ed Moore and Paul Stell provided an update of the Park Resource Officer program including a summary of the types of activities encountered and addressed by the police officer. They also reviewed the success of the program particularly in the area of reduced dog off leash violations, due in part to the opening of the district's off leash sites. Ed stated that we are off to a great start with this program. He added that an education program known as "Eagle Eye" will be introduced in the schools during the winter.

### **Fuel Program**

Theresa Albert presented a new policy establishing a fuel program benefit to allow employees to purchase fuel at a reduced price and pay for their usage through payroll deduction from their monthly paychecks. She noted there is no direct cost to the district although there is a cost in the form of administrative processing. Theresa stated the Employee Relations Committee has endorsed the benefit. She added that the district proposes providing this benefit for full time employees only at this time with a review of the policy next year to determine whether to extend the benefit to part time employees. Theresa stated that other businesses are able to provide this benefit and the League of Oregon Cities has recently signed a contract with Supervised Fuels so other cities will be able to provide this benefit for their employees, along with numerous other local businesses that are actively providing this benefit.

The work session was concluded at 6:30 pm.

### **REGULAR MEETING**

Board Chair Scott Wallace called the regular meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

### **Waterfowl Management Plan Public Comment**

Chair Scott Wallace stated that the board would be receiving public comment regarding the proposed Waterfowl Management Plan and the comment period would be left open until November 15. He stated the board would not be making a decision tonight.

Ed Moore and Paul Stell presented a staff report regarding the plan prepared by the U. S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Wildlife Services. Ed noted the report is available on the district's web site. He stated that the USDA and the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) are seeking public comment to assist them in making informed and educated decisions as how the management of Canada geese in the district and central Oregon should go forward.

### **VISITORS**

Steve Wursta representing Central Oregon Masters Aquatics presented a check in the amount of \$2,000 to the district for maintaining the electronic scoreboard at Juniper Swim & Fitness Center. He explained this is the third installment of their \$10,000 pledge to the fund. Scott Wallace thanked Steve for the donation.

Myra Hollibaugh addressed the board regarding public safety in the parks. She shared a flyer that had been distributed to the residents of Woodriver Village concerning a convicted sexual predator living in the neighborhood. She expressed concern for the safety of park and trail users, particularly children, seniors and single women.

Marilyn Miller addressed the board regarding the goose management plan. She stated she is opposed to killing the geese. She suggested that all of the controls previously used be continued and used at the same time. She also approved of using dogs to haze the geese. She stated the large concentration of geese and ducks is unhealthy and will spread disease. She stated that people come to Bend for tourism and she doesn't think we want to be known as the place where we kill our geese.

Karen Coulter addressed the board regarding the goose management plan. She stated that although she is not a resident of Bend she uses the park quite often as a place to relax and the ducks, swans and geese are part of that aesthetic experience. She stated she is opposed to killing the geese as she does not think it is necessary and would be totally ineffective. She stated if you don't deal with the root causes of why they are there, more geese will come back and become residents. She approved of dog hazing and suggested using some landscaping options such as native plants and less grass next to the river. She stated the geese are wild and need to exist on their own and we need to think about how to co-exist with them.

Mert Troyer addressed the board regarding the goose management plan. He stated that we manage the deer and elk herds and wild turkeys by killing them, and we are just groping around with a lot of other things that hasn't worked for how many years. He stated that ODFW sells licenses to kill the deer, elk and other wild game that get overpopulated and spread disease and he is in favor of using lethal means and giving the geese to homeless shelters and people who could benefit by it.

Al Patterson addressed the board regarding the goose management plan. He thanked the board and the district for dealing with a contentious issue. He stated he walks in the parks every day and dodging the goose poop is virtually impossible and he thinks it is a problem that needs to be solved. He referred to an article he had written for The Bulletin and noted that he owns a couple of herding dogs. He stated the critical thing is to consistently create a hostile environment including the previously used methods. He stated that hundreds of us own dogs and suggested that owners be trained and certified to use dogs for hazing the geese. He stated the key is to have people in all of the different parks at different times.

Scott Beckstead, the senior state director for the Oregon Humane Society, addressed the board regarding the goose management plan. He thanked the board for the open and transparent manner it is using to work on this problem. He expressed his appreciation to the board and staff for the good work and earnest effort made to date in trying to solve this problem in a manner that takes into consideration the needs of the people and the geese. He stated the Humane Society of the United States is strongly opposed to the killing geese as a means of controlling the population. He stated this will not solve the problem because it is not a sustainable or long-term solution. He stated they believe there are other options that can be tried including all of the methods that have been tried at the same time, and there might be some techniques that haven't been tried yet. He stated there are many other communities around the United States and around the globe that have confronted the Canada goose overpopulation problem and have successfully resolved those problems using non-lethal methods. He cited a program used in Rockford, Illinois. He stated the Humane Society wants to help and be part of the solution and stands ready to secure volunteers to help.

Victor Chudowsky addressed the board regarding the goose management plan. He stated he fully supports whatever is the most effective way to rid our parks of geese. He stated he supports killing geese if it can be shown to reduce the number of geese and increase the cleanliness of our parks. He stated that it is ludicrous to say our tourism might be affected by killing geese and cited the killing of 2,000 geese in New York City and he has yet to hear of anyone cancelling a trip to New York City because of that. He asked the board refrain from being concerned about the minority of animal rights activists and use whatever method is most effective to keep the parks clean and available by the vast majority of residents.

Kristine Simon addressed the board regarding the goose management plan. She stated that she and her husband moved to Bend about four years ago. She stated that about 10 years ago they dealt with this same issue in southeast Michigan. She stated they were part of a pilot project of egg gathering and replacement. She stated that program is still in existence with the involvement of volunteers and concerned citizens in the community who were in the majority employing non-lethal management of Canada geese in urban settings. She stated the program is in operation throughout the entire state of Michigan. She stated that prior to this programs the geese removed by lethal means were so tainted with toxins they couldn't be used in soup kitchens. She stated she is a strong supporter of non-lethal methods and it will take a commitment of the citizens of the community to work together to get the numbers down and stabilize the numbers. She stated there are many strategies out there that need to be used on a consistent basis.

Dave Ledder addressed the board regarding the goose management plan. He cited his past involvement with the district and the Waterfowl Advisory Committee that primarily addressed the problem of the mute swans. He stated he does not support killing the geese which is a short-term solution to a larger problem. He stated we have created a tremendous habitat and urged the board to think about the design of future parks. He stated we need to think long and hard about a long-term solution including education and park design.

Bert Larson addressed the board regarding the goose management plan. He stated he lives and plays golf in Awbrey Glen and asked if they are in the same basket as the public parks because if not they will find different ways to get rid of the geese. He stated he does not advocate getting rid of all of them. He stated they create a health hazard when members play the golf course they bring the goose grease into the restaurant on their shoes. He stated he agrees with all the previous speakers, but unfortunately the lethal method may be the last resort we have. He stated we need to step up to the plate and do something and if there are non-lethal methods, he is all for it, but if that is the only resort we have got to move forward.

Kathy Neilson addressed the board regarding the goose management plan. She stated she is wondering if we can seek out other solutions as she doesn't want to kill geese for what they do naturally. She suggested asking other people in other areas about what they do with their parks and wildlife. She stated maybe we can find machines that clean grass and pathways. She stated we are sending a bad message for our town and to our kids. She stated if we can reach out to other organizations that help save animals maybe they can give us some good ideas.

Brian Shannon addressed the board regarding the goose management plan. He stated he is not in favor of a mass killing of the geese, but if lethal means is done selectively and gradually that is a solution to be left on the table. He stated he lives on the park and his children use the park every day and he deals with the mess in his front yard. He stated we have worked hard to regulate how dogs use the park and to bring dogs in to harass the geese seems to be a double standard. He stated we have spent thousands of dollars in other solutions and it seems the lethal technique would be more cost effective.

Alicia Mehlis addressed the board regarding the goose management plan. She stated she is opposed to killing the geese. She stated there are many humane and effective means for controlling the situation although there is a lack of consistency. She stated using volunteers to clean the parks would be highly effective and she would volunteer to assist.

Mike Hollern addressed the board regarding the goose management plan. He stated that he has lived on Mirror Pond for the last 40 plus years and has observed the efforts to control the goose population. He stated until recently he would have been in favor of using non-lethal means to address the problem. He stated he has come to the conclusion that humane, lethal reduction seems to be the most logical method. He stated the problem will be a continued problem that will require continued reduction. He shared two methods he has used including two dead geese decoys and a simulated coyote figure. He stated they have worked for a few days and then the geese return. He stated the problem with harassment is that it transfers the problem to someone else. He stated this is a national problem and he thinks we might be honored for being the community that dealt with the problem rather than being the community that has the parks full of the goose droppings for tourists and children.

Craig Anderson addressed the board regarding the goose management plan. He stated he is an avid waterfowl hunter and he agrees there is a problem with the geese in Bend. He stated that hunting should be allowed in the lower parts of the Old Mill. He stated it has been proven that animal management has worked for the deer, elk, bear, cougar and allowing hunters to eradicate the problem the city is having is the better way of doing it rather than spending money on trying to deal with the Canada geese. He stated allowing us to hunt and easing up on the regulations of where and how we hunt would be best. He stated not only do we support by paying for the tags and stamps to legally hunt, we would be supporting the local economy and ODFW. He stated allowing us to come closer to Bend to catch the flight patterns of these ducks and geese would substantially help to bring down the numbers of geese.

Clella Thomas addressed the board regarding the goose management plan. She stated she is on the Bend Community Center's board and very much aware of the need to feed the hungry in this community. She stated she does not know whether these geese would be edible, but they are free range, grass fed, locally grown and she would like to consider the idea of feeding them to the hungry in our community.

Keith Cyrus addressed the board regarding the goose management plan. He stated this is a regional issue and a lot of things have changed in creating the habitat. He stated he sees the need to mitigate the problem and is in favor of lethal means. He also supported expanding hunting and feeding the needy.

Dave Williams, USDA Wildlife Services, addressed the board and visitors regarding the department's areas of responsibility and efforts to assist citizens and organizations with the management of wildlife conflict issues. He stated they are not a regulatory agency and do not have management authority rather provide technical advise as to what the options are for management of wildlife conflict. He stated they can provide documentation and assist with permit application. He explained the various services offered by his agency and processes to be followed.

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

**Minutes: September 1, September 15 and October 6, 2009**

**Adoption of Resolution No. 317, Bend Heroes Memorial Criteria**

**Approval of Central Oregon Basketball Officials contract**

**Approval of Fuel Program**

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

### **EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS REPORT**

Jan Taylor reminded the board of the retreat scheduled for November 30. The board determined to conduct an afternoon session beginning at 12:30 pm.

Jan Taylor asked the board to keep Thursdays in January open for the joint meeting of the school board, city council and district board.

Scott Wallace shared a draft of agenda topics for the board retreat and requested the board review the topics and share any comments or questions with him. He noted this will be the first of two or three retreat meetings to be conducted by the board.

### **GOOD OF THE ORDER**

George Thayer stated he thought this had been a very productive meeting and a lot of ideas came out.

Scott Wallace thanked everyone for coming and Ed Moore and Paul Stell for framing the issue. He stated it was very important for people to understand that this is not something we have determined we need to address in the last year and that it has been an ongoing challenge for the district.

As there was no further business the meeting was adjourned at 8:40 pm.

Prepared by,

Paula Lowery  
Executive Assistant

---

Scott Wallace, Chair

---

George Thayer, Vice-Chair

---

Ted Schoenborn

---

Ruth Williamson

---

Scott Asla