

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

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

STAFF PRESENT: Don Horton, Lindsey Lombard, Dave Crowther, Bruce Ronning, Paul Stell, Steve Jorgensen, Audrey Robeson and Paula Lowery.

LEGAL COUNSEL: Paul Taylor.

MEDIA: None.

VISITORS: See attached list.

WORK SESSION

Board Technology Training

Audrey Robeson conducted training on the use of the new computer notebooks the board will use to view board reports and attachments in place of paper copies of those documents.

REGULAR MEETING

Chair Scott Wallace called the regular meeting to order at 6:45 pm.

STAFF INTRODUCTIONS

Don Horton explained the Excellence Awards Program. He stated this is an opportunity for staff to recognize their fellow employees and introduced the excellence award winners for 2009: Kim Johnson, Pat Erwert, Steve Walz, Jason Powell, Vickie Dawley, Katie Burns, Mike Cranmer, Sandra Conaway, Vicki DeGaetano, Renee Wells, Patty Campbell and Wyndee Phillips.

BUSINESS SESSION

District Insurance Update

Jeff Griffin, Wilson-Heirgood Associates, presented information on the district's past year regarding insurance issues and services provided by Wilson-Heirgood Associates. He also reviewed issues the district may be facing in the coming year. He explained the OSHA inspection process and potential for citations resulting in fines. He stated the district is in a three-year rate freeze due to its loss history and noted the district received a longevity check in the amount of \$26,282 last year.

Peace Bridges, Inc. Proposal

Don Horton explained that John Schwechten, representing Peace Bridges has met with Ruth Williamson and himself regarding the idea of a peace park concept for Pacific Park including a peace pole. John Schwechten presented background about the Peace Bridges organization. He noted that the Bend City Council designated the Portland Avenue Bridge as the "Peace Bridge of Bend" in December of last year. He explained a peace pole is either four or six sided with the words "May Peace Prevail on Earth" written in

several languages down the side of each pole. John also explained the concept of creating a naturalized peace garden to complement the peace pole, and the organization's desire to further discuss the proposal with the board and staff. He explained the organization seeks to create peaceful spaces because so many others in our world cannot as they are trapped by circumstances beyond their control. He stated that in this context we speak of the world's innocent victims, so often the women and children, who become the collateral damage of our failures to peacefully resolve our conflicts. He stated the purpose of the peace garden and peace pole is to remind us that peace is our most precious and fragile commodity, and something we cannot afford to take for granted, but all too often do. John introduced Bob Brookover who gave a brief description of the proposal for a peace pole to be placed in Pacific Park. He explained the poles can be made of aluminum, fiberglass or wood, and they are embedded in concrete. Emilie Marlinghaus shared concepts for a peace garden in Pacific Park, including the potential removal of the rock walls and restoration of a naturalized riparian habitat, along with the removal of lawn area and most non-native species currently growing there. She stated the organization envisions the use of native plant materials used informally within a more formal framework to create a beautiful, peaceful, welcoming, nurturing and ultimately sustainable space. George Thayer stated he thinks it is an exciting idea and he looks forward to the group refining their plans for future board consideration. Don stated that staff has discussed the need to redevelop Pacific Park at some point in the future. He noted that an in house concept has been very similar in terms of removing the hardscape along the river to reestablish the riparian habitat to enhance the Deschutes River Trail that is slated to go through the park along the river eventually including the Pacific Power property where the existing switch station is located. He clarified the proposal from Peace Bridges at this time is centered on the pole which will be the first phase of what might develop into a stronger partnership in the future. Scott Wallace noted the success the district has experienced with other organizations citing the recent Veterans' Memorial, and the board generally supports that type of community involvement and partnering. Ruth Williamson moved to allow the Peace Bridges, Inc., to erect a "Peace Pole" in Pacific Park. Ted Schoenborn seconded the motion. Ruth Williamson, Ted Schoenborn, George Thayer, Scott Asla and Scott Wallace all voted aye. Motion passed.

CONSENT AGENDA

Minutes – November 3 & November 17, 2009

Award Pioneer Park to Revere Phase I Deschutes Trail construction contract

Award Pine Nursery plaza contract

Approve Resolution No. 318 – in support of Deschutes County Noxious Weed Ordinance

Scott Wallace asked for clarification regarding the matching grant from Oregon State Parks for the Pioneer Park trail project, and if that is based on the amount actually spent. Bruce Ronning explained it is a 50-50 match and the project was estimated to cost \$130,000 for the purposes of the grant. He stated that as a result of the engineering and final bidding process the cost of the project was reduced substantially; however, the district will receive 50% of what is spent on the project and the amount of the grant will be reduced proportionately by the cost of the project. Scott Asla moved to approve the consent agenda. Ruth Williamson seconded the motion. Scott Asla, Ruth Williamson, Ted Schoenborn, George Thayer and Scott Wallace all voted aye. Motion passed.

GOOD OF THE ORDER

Ruth Williamson stated it is an honor to work with people who are as broad thinking as the board and district staff with regard to the idea of a peace park. She stated she appreciates the openness to their

suggestion and she thinks it will be a beautiful addition to our community. She thanked the board and staff for considering the proposal.

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The board convened an executive session at 7:50 pm pursuant to ORS 192.660 (2) (e) for the purpose of discussing real property transactions.

Prepared by,

Paula Lowery
Executive Assistant

Scott Wallace, Chair

George Thayer, Vice-Chair

Ted Schoenborn

Ruth Williamson

Scott Asla