

**Bend Metro Park & Recreation District
Board of Directors
Work Session & Regular Meeting
Minutes
August 19, 2014**

BOARD PRESENT: Craig Chenoweth, Ted Schoenborn and Scott Asla.

STAFF PRESENT: Don Horton, Michelle Healy, Lindsey Lombard, Jan Taylor, Matt Mercer, Pat Erwert, Chelsea Schneider, Jim Figurski, Courtney Moran, Chris Zerger, Kim Johnson and Paula Lowery .

LEGAL COUNSEL: Neil Bryant.

MEDIA: None.

VISITORS: Michael Graham, Rondo, Keith Scott, Bill Smith, Bob Bagget, Nathan Hovekamp, Rannota McNair, John Gist and Christina Gist.

WORK SESSION

Vice-Chair Craig Chenoweth convened the work session at 5:36 pm.

Jan Taylor addressed the board regarding Chris Zerger's work with the district in the Community Relations Department that focused on district special events for the past 15 years, particularly July 4th and Pumpkin Festival. She noted that Chris will now be working at Park Services managing the park reservations and community special events. Jan cited Chris's talents, enthusiasm and amazing spirit that she brought to the special events. She stated the district's events are known to the public due to the heart and soul that Chris has put into them.

Chris Zerger thanked everyone and stated she had a ball doing the events. She stated she appreciated the freedom to be creative. She stated she is enjoying her new position at Park Services and excited about developing some facets of the reservation and community events program that she has not been able to implement due to the time constraints of managing special events.

Riley Ranch Nature Reserve Update

Jim Figurski shared a draft Riley Ranch Nature Reserve Master Plan and reported the citizens' advisory committee has endorsed the draft plan by consensus. He reviewed the work of the committee and staff leading up to the creation of the plan and identified each of the elements and levels of development, proposed uses, restricted activities such as prohibiting dogs and bikes, infrastructure and preliminary estimated costs. He explained the trail system, and noted the limitation of through access of the park and identified proposed trail connections from multiple locations that would allow bike use on the west side of the park. He addressed the big-ticket items of the plan including improvements of Glen Vista Road, Jeffers House remodel, north bridge construction, parking lots, boardwalks, and overlooks. He also identified other

elements of the plan including fencing, an entry gate, restrooms, gathering areas, interpretive signage, site furnishings, irrigation pond enhancements, construction staging, demolition, and erosion control. Jim shared a proposed concept plan for the Jeffers House and reviewed components of the plan in terms of potential uses. He also reviewed the bridge location and proposed type of structure. He cited the essential elements of Phase I needed to open the park to the public including the entry, parking lot, bridge, north trailhead and as much trail development as possible. He stated staff will be approaching the county with a phased conditional use master plan with the hope that the improvements on Glen Vista can be staged with each phase of development. He noted the Jeffers House would be closed during the first phase and until we determine what type of programming and uses would be appropriate for the facility. Jim reviewed the next steps including beginning the land use process, additional estimates refinement, and public open house October 9. He added the final proposed master plan will be brought to the board sometime in November.

Don Horton introduced citizen advisory committee members John and Christina Gist, Nathan Hovekamp and Ranotta McNair. Nathan Hovekamp addressed the board and expressed appreciation for the district's foresight and courage to acquire the property. He stated he is very pleased with the master plan process. He stated the staff and consultants have worked very hard and diligently to approach this thoughtfully and very carefully. He stated he is very pleased with the product we have. Scott Asla asked about not allowing bikes on a through trail somewhere through the park. He stated he feels we are excluding a lot of people if we don't offer a circular route. Nathan cited the committee's discussion about connectivity for bikes and to his way of thinking that is provided by the larger trail structure and a feature that bikers can visit on foot. Ranotta McNair addressed the board regarding the diverse geographic landscape and sensitivities considered in terms of bike use. She stated the main trails should provide the connectivity with Tumalo State Park and Shevlin Park and from her perspective, because there is so much available around the park, this site will not add something that is not already found pretty close by. Scott stated he has concerns about the walk for families with little kids. Jim stated the distance is slightly over one mile in length and there is a major obstacle in the rimrock and the grade. Don stated the park consists of 180 acres compared to Shevlin Park at 660 acres, where we have a lot of conflict of use with dogs and bikes. He stated if we really want this to be a site where people can get out and learn about nature they need to experience it slowly and on foot. He stated the citizens advisory committee stressed the importance of connectivity which resulted in staff working with the Coats family, Brooks Resources and adjacent neighbors in order to get the Deschutes River Trail connection and we are in the process of drawing up easements. Scott urged staff to establish the connectivity first to direct bike users to the appropriate route. He thanked Nathan and Ranotta for their input and stated that has clarified his understanding of the bike restrictions at Riley Ranch.

Ted Schoenborn asked about the level of development in the master plan. Jim stated that in terms of trail density and associated amenities it would be towards the higher level. He stated Phase 1 is toward a lower level option. Ted stated he thinks it is a wonderful design and the trail connectivity solution makes the whole idea of a nature reserve possible. Craig Chenoweth stated he appreciated the prioritization of needs and encouraged staff to keep going forward with that. He asked if staff is comfortable with being able to supply the amenities necessary to serve this park in how special and unique it is given additional cost cutting measures. Jim

stated the real key will be going through the land use process with the county and determining what the Glen Vista requirements are. He noted the concerns of the neighbors with regard to improvements on Glen Vista and the challenge to seek a balance with the county requirements. He stated there are ways we can phase or stage the overlooks and boardwalks in terms of cost savings. Scott Asla asked if there are opportunities for partnerships to help fund the development. Don stated there may be grants available, and there will be educational partnerships in terms of operating the park. Craig Chenoweth asked staff to keep the board in the loop on the priorities as it is one of those areas that can be a little more sensitive to the public in terms of understanding what we are providing the community, and it would be good if we were informed to help out on that side of things.

Don recapped the next steps including community input, and determining support for the restrictions involving bikes and dogs; revisiting the master plan to incorporate any changes as a result of the public meetings; and returning to the board for adoption of the master plan. He added that hopefully by that time staff will have more information regarding the off-site requirements and a more refined budget before we get into engineering.

John Gist addressed the board and stated that he has lived at the end of Glen Vista on Cheney Road for the past 13 years. He shared his concerns with the previously proposed Brooks Resources development of 4,000 homes and stated this is a positive thing for us. He added that there is balance the master plan brought forward and he feels it will quell a lot of the fears of his neighbors. He stated getting this site on the plat as a reserve is key and he thinks this site adds a missing element to the park system.

Don introduced Suzanne Cunningham, representing ESA locally, and explained that she has done a lot of work on the public outreach and inventory of this project and will be assisting with the land use process for this site. He added she is also working with staff on the Shevlin Park Management Plan.

Environmental, Cultural and Historical Education Planning

Don Horton reminded the board of the Portland tour of environmental education and nature center sites and local tour of Shevlin and Riley Ranch, and the board's discussion regarding the district's direction with environmental education. He stated that he and staff have created and provided in the board report a guideline addressing the district's role in providing outdoor education for the community. Michelle Healy stated it was staff's understanding that the consensus of the board the district does have a role to provide environmental, cultural and historical educational opportunities, not including a year around, staffed, drop-in nature center. She reviewed the elements of the guideline noting that the district does provide self-guided interpretation and will continue to plan for that in all of the projects we do. She explained guided interpretation involves bringing in people to offer programming and the district could provide venues for different opportunities that could include some support amenities rather than a facility that other providers could operate which would require a significant investment on the part of the district. Don Horton noted that the district does not want to duplicate what the High Desert Museum and Sunriver Nature Center provide and prefers to partner with those organizations such as providing a venue and supporting their programs. Michelle noted there have been discussions through the Deschutes Children's Forest and other avenues regarding

how we complement each other and provide the greatest level of service for everyone. Matt Mercer described the types of support amenities that have been discussed and explained the goal is to provide the support space needed for outdoor learning. He stated there is a clear consensus of the people providing outdoor education opportunities that this would be a big priority and a great resource for the community, and clearly a role the district could play. Michelle cited the area of programmed adventure through camps and noted the district offers Cougar Camp and the Deschutes Children's Forest is a collaborative of several organizations whose common interest is environmental education through which other camp opportunities could be provided. Don explained these guidelines will help inform what the district does with Riley Ranch, and the potential remodel of the Jeffers House is being evaluated for providing multi-purpose programmable space for the district as well as other groups. He stated for the district, the nature center is the park and suggested using the house to support what we do outdoors. He noted funding to remodel the house is not available, yet. Michelle added that the work being done at Shevlin Park is including this same conversation. Ted Schoenborn stated that the initial discussion included Skyliner Lodge and Camp Tamarack and asked how that fits into this discussion. Matt stated the community goal to provide outdoor learning opportunities is to include different experiences with eco-systems within which to offer these programs and Skyliner Lodge, Camp Tamarack, Shevlin Park and Riley Ranch offer a variety of surroundings. Ted Schoenborn stated it would be helpful to have the prime players identified in these guidelines along with their role in providing these programs. Scott Asla stated there are a lot of inner-city spaces we can use for nature areas that he doesn't want to give up. He cited the Larkspur area and other sites that exist within neighborhoods. Don Horton explained the district's work with the school district in developing naturehoods that are sites located in district parks adjacent to schools. Ted Schoenborn stated the interpretive opportunities exist along our trails and in our facilities, and need to be addressed as well. Matt Mercer stated naturehoods should be an added category in the guidelines. Michelle stated that staff is working on an inventory of potential naturehood sites that will be shared with the board. Don Horton stated that staff will continue to work on the guidelines and add the recommendations of the board.

REGULAR MEETING

Vice-Chair, Craig Chenoweth called the regular meeting to order at 7:09 pm.

VISITORS

Keith Scott addressed the board regarding Mirror Pond. He stated he would like the district and city to share in the management of the pond and that he would support a bond measure to fund the future care of Mirror Pond.

Bill Smith addressed the board regarding Pilot Butte State Park. He explained that he has been a volunteer through a small non-profit that supports Pilot Butte. He asked if the district is going to take over Pilot Butte and shared rumors that are circulating to that affect. Don Horton assured him the district is not going to take over Pilot Butte and explained concerns regarding liabilities surrounding the vehicles and hikers use of the road along with additional work that needs to be done in the park. Bill explained that the rumors and concerns make it harder for them to do their work along with everyone else.

Bob Baggett addressed the board regarding Pilot Butte. He stated his group is interesting in helping state parks in addressing the issues with the Butte. Don Horton stated there is a concern regarding the Larkspur Trail connection and the district anticipates discussing improving that section of the trail with state parks to address safety concerns.

CONSENT AGENDA

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Ted Schoenborn moved to approve the consent agenda. Scott Asla seconded the motion. Ted Schoenborn, Scott Asla and Craig Chenoweth all voted aye. Motion passed.

Colorado Dam Safe Passage Project Update

Don Horton explained this will be a two-part presentation to update the board on the project and more concrete budget information will be provided at the next board meeting. He stated that Bend Paddle Trail Alliance (BPTA) would like the district to do more on the project and will likely make a presentation to the board in that regard at the next meeting.

Chelsea Schneider conducted a PowerPoint presentation and provided a project overview addressing the goals of the project including the Deschutes River Trail, paddle trail, fish passage, habitat restoration, and whitewater recreation. She identified and explained constraints associated with the project as: the requirement to maintain upstream pond elevation; providing access for management of frazil ice; riparian areas; protection of private lands; a requirement to direct river users safely along the river trail; and the potential for endangered species listing of the Oregon Spotted Frog. Chelsea presented a schematic design of the project and reviewed the elements including three river channels, safety and flow control, riparian restoration, replacement of the existing pedestrian bridge, relocation of the existing beach, and preservation and/or replacement of existing osprey poles. She also described the elements and operation of the three river channels, river access, beach design, trail improvements, the undercrossing and the riparian restoration. Chelsea stated an extensive public outreach process has been conducted and staff has been working closely with business owners and stakeholders who will be notified about necessary street closures during construction. She explained the outreach to regulatory agencies has worked very well and that is reflected in a smooth permitting process. Chelsea identified continuing issues including challenges relative to the river frontage adjacent to Bill Smith's property in terms of vegetation, rock wall and river level. She also cited concerns with regard to flow control, frazil ice and selection and maintenance of vegetation. She added the restriction of access to the whitewater channel during the spring osprey nesting months is also under consideration as well as parking and management of events.

Craig Chenoweth asked how wide the safe passage channel is. Chelsea explained the clear width is approximately 40 feet and the flow-through portion is around 12 feet. Scott Asla asked if that will be sufficient for the numbers of people using the passage. Chelsea explained the design of the flow-through moves people quickly through the channel in single file. Scott Asla asked if there will be conflicts with the McKay beach users and those using the beach to take out. Don Horton explained it is anticipated the new Miller's Landing beach will be the preferred location for families and beach users reducing the activity on the McKay beach.

Chelsea stated the district needs to keep in mind the broader community interest and we need to keep costs under control, as this is a bond project, and maintain the mission of providing safe passage. She added that discussions are continuing regarding the operations and management of channels, flooding, and adhering to the letter of the permits. She stated the McKay Park renovation will continue following the safe passage project, as will the Deschutes River Trail and city sewer line work. She briefly reviewed the project timeline with an anticipated completion of the safe passage toward the end of June 2015. She provided a recap of the budget noting that it is anticipated that more refined information will be provided for the board on September 2. She stated that \$7.5 million is currently allocated with \$6.45 million in bond funding, and BPTA's commitment of \$900,000. She identified the areas anticipated to be over budget including the guaranteed maximum price (GMP) in the amount of \$129,000 and additional Architectural and Engineering Services (A&E) largely due to stakeholder requests and value engineering, along with construction administration services.

Chelsea stated the contractor will be developing a price for a base project as well as price for an enhanced alternate. She explained the enhanced alternate is BPTA's preferred alternative specific to the pneumatic system and the number of gates installed. She described the number and location of the gates contemplated for the enhanced alternate. She stated the base project only considers the flow control gates that will allow us to direct how much flow goes to each channel and when. She added that if this is out of reach, an alternate that could be explored would be the installation of only the infrastructure for the gates. She stated this would create an opportunity for BPTA to add the gates in the future, if they were able to secure necessary funding. Don Horton stated that he anticipates BPTA will present a proposal to add the infrastructure estimated at \$200,000. He stated BPTA is willing to raise \$200,000; however, they want a loan from the district to do this work with a repayment schedule of five years. He stated he has advised BPTA it is unlikely the district will loan them \$200,000. He added it is estimated the bladder system will cost an additional \$400,000 which BPTA thinks the district should pay for. Don reviewed the history of the project elements and the process leading to the addition of bladders to the project. He stated the board will need to make difficult decisions regarding the route we take at the next meeting. The board discussed the elements of the enhanced alternative and funding request at length, and agreed that adding the infrastructure may be appropriate depending on more defined cost information, and in light of the amount of public funding for the project, they were not in favor of funding the bladder system.

Don Horton reviewed the elements of the habitat channel and Bill Smith's concerns with respect to his preference for a view of open water. He explained staff has asked the engineers to redesign the channel and identified challenges in creating spillways due to fluctuating water levels. He shared staff concerns in meeting the community's expectations associated with the bond project and balancing that with an agreeable solution for Bill Smith. He also explained that as it is currently designed it does not meet the requirements for a habitat channel. Don explained Bill's concerns regarding activity on the river during the osprey-nesting season. He stated initially the district agreed to restrict beach access April 1 through May 15 and noted the original discussions regarding the whitewater play area addressed creating a facility for the local community and that has evolved to be more of a destination spot. Chelsea identified the location of existing osprey poles and nesting platforms and explained the district will be placing

an additional pole to accommodate the osprey. Don stated that Bill Smith wants to provide an easement to the district for the trail system throughout the Old Mill District and land under the water, as well as dedicate the land under the bridge and the bridge to the district. He also stressed that from an operational standpoint the district needs to have control of the project in terms of meeting regulatory agencies requirements and in the community interest.

Pickleball Memorandum of Understanding

Don Horton referred to the memorandum of understanding (MOU) with the Bend Park and Recreation Foundation, the district and Werner Zehnder provided in the board report regarding the donation toward the construction of eight pickleball courts at the Pine Nursery. He reviewed the elements of the MOU and explained components of the project. He explained that once the design is completed staff will meet with the donor and the Pickleball Club to prioritize the amenities, and he expects the district will need to contribute to the project. He stated staff would provide a recommendation to the board regarding the district's contribution when all of the information is finalized. He added the MOU was modeled after the district's agreement regarding the Bend Heroes Memorial. He stated that staff is recommending board approval of the Pickleball MOU. Scott Asla moved to authorize the Executive Director to negotiate and execute a contract with the Bend Park and Recreation Foundation and Werner Zehnder for the development of eight pickleball courts at the Pine Nursery. Ted Schoenborn seconded the motion. Scott Asla, Ted Schoenborn and Craig Chenoweth all voted aye. Motion passed.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Don Horton stated that two board volunteers are needed for the codification of personnel policies committee. Scott Asla and Ted Schoenborn volunteered to serve on the committee.

Don Horton reminded the board the Gopher Broke Golf Tournament is scheduled for September 12.

As there was no further business the meeting was adjourned at 8:35 pm.

Prepared by,

Paula Lowery
Executive Assistant

Dan Fishkin, Chair

Craig Chenoweth, Vice-Chair

Ted Schoenborn

Scott Asla

Scott Wallace