



**Bend Park &
Recreation**
DISTRICT

Board of Directors

April 3, 2018

District Office Building | 799 SW Columbia | Bend, Oregon

BOARD PRESENT

Nathan Hovekamp, Chair
Brady Fuller, Vice Chair
Ted Schoenborn
Ellen Grover

ABSENT

Lauren Sprang

STAFF PRESENT

Don Horton, Executive Director
Michelle Healy, Planning and Park Services Director
Lindsey Lombard, Administrative Services Director
Matt Mercer, Director of Recreation
Julie Brown, Manager of Communications and Community Relations
Sheila Reed, Assistant to the Executive Director
Brian Hudspeth, Development Manager
Jeff Hagler, Park Stewardship Manager
Sue Boettner, Recreation Manager
Sasha Sulia, Superintendent of Park Operations
Jessica Jameson, Head Coach Master Swim Program
Shannon Gillman, Aquatic Coordinator
Charlie Redline, Park Steward
Sue Glenn, Recreation Services Manager
Amanda Jameson, Outreach Coordinator
Ryan Richard, River Recreation Specialist
James Adams, River Recreation Specialist

LEGAL

Paul Taylor, BLJ Lawyers

MEDIA

Stephen Hamway, The Bulletin

AGENDA

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5:30 p.m. CONVENE MEETING

WORK SESSION

1. Recreation Program Report: Masters Swim Program – *Jessica Jameson (20 Min)*

Ms. Jameson presented the Masters Swim Program; she gave an overview of her experience and interest in swimming. She explained that in swimming the term Masters simply refers to a swimming group made up of adults 18 years and up, these swimmers are of various levels and abilities.

Juniper Swim and Fitness Center runs the Masters Swim Program as an added member benefit. This allows the program to reach facility members as well as the community in a greater capacity, adding value to member passes. The Masters Program connects with the adult swim instruction, swim fitness and technique classes and lap swimmers. Ms. Jameson said the Masters Swim Program was established in 1991 by Matt Mercer. At inception, the program offered 2 practices a week and now offers 17 practices a week.

Mission of the Masters Swim Program: “To provide a fun and positive environment, where participants will be challenged to build endurance and refine technique. Masters Swim encourages swimmers of all levels and abilities to participate, creating a supportive and dedicated aquatic community of like-minded individuals.”

Ms. Jameson introduced the team for the program, spoke about their vast experience and commitment to training. Participants were surveyed and the outcomes showed that having the variety of training opportunities was most important, followed by practices geared for distance swimming and practices for intensity and technique. This survey was used to help shape the training plan for this year.

Ms. Jamison closed with more positive survey results and testimonials to the program.

Mr. George Thurman, former Board Director, has been involved in the Master’s Program since 1991. He provided his testimonial about the program stating that he is 83 years old and is competing in the state championship this week. During his time as a board member, he was looking for more indoor activities. Mr. Thurman expressed his concern that Juniper pool is not big enough to serve the larger population today and encouraged more water opportunities in Bend.

2. Park Rules – *Jeff Hagler and Charlie Redline (20 Min)*

Mr. Hagler and Mr. Redline presented the Park Rules; last rules were adopted on May 2010. Mr. Hagler reviewed the goals of the update: reduce redundancies in the rules, create consistencies across the City of Bend laws and other entities, and address new and future issues in a broad and encompassing way (in anticipation of future issues).

Mr. Redline reviewed the Update Process: he explained that they have researched other rules and regulations with other districts, created a draft of the changes, met with staff, and created a second draft that is now with the attorneys. Working with other park districts, the rules and language can be made similar so that visitors are more likely to know what to expect from place to place.

Mr. Hagler spoke about the next steps: gain input from the board and then review with the City of Bend (using overlapping language with city rules), begin the ordinance adoption process and update the District website and educate park patrons.

Mr. Redline introduced the key issues for the updates on the rules.

- Article 1.3 states: “No person shall disturb, injure, or endanger the comfort, health, peace or safety of others on district property.” Important rule because it is so broad and encompassing.
- Other key issues include camping on District property, gathering areas of religious and political groups, restroom/locker room use, firearms on District property, dogs on leash, electronic bikes, parking lot use, and use of drones, slacklines, and letterboxing and geocaching sites. Specific rules and application for Riley Ranch rules. In addition, the District would like a clause allowing facilities, parks and other BPRD properties to create own rules and regulations for special circumstances.

The Board asked questions about legal issues with language for issues that relate to political activity, service and comfort animals and recommended that rules are looked at carefully to address sensitive issues. The Board recommended considering ways to accommodate alternative transportation, such as electric bikes, so that the District is not discouraging alternate modes of transportation.

The Board recommended that the District reach out to user groups that may be affected by the rule changes. Executive Director Horton explained that ordinance is local law and this is the Board’s opportunity to create local law with rules and regulations for the park district. He further explained that the community will have the opportunity to give input before the adoption of the new rules.

Mr. Hagler finished by explaining the process for the changes to the rules, he stated that a draft will be brought back to the board, then undergo legal review, have 2 separate public readings, and finally a vote from the Board and an official recording at County Clerk’s office.

3. Needs-Based Assistance Program Report and Recommendations – *Matt Mercer and Sue Boettner (40 Min)*

Mr. Mercer reviewed the proposed policy changes for the Needs-Based Assistance Program. He explained that after reviewing the policy this year that there were some areas that could be updated in the policy. These changes include: removing fee waivers, correcting moderate income guidelines (aligning with the school district reduced fee lunch program policy) and alignment with current practices and terminology. He said these are simply housekeeping measures and there are no substantial changes to the policy.

Ms. Boettner spoke about the individuals that are qualifying and using the services of the District. The number of people qualifying for reduced fee services is trending down likely due to an improved economy, people leaving the area that can no longer afford to live here and an increase in options available from 3rd party resources. Ms. Boettner further explained that the partnerships are working

well, which contributes to the downward trend of applications for services directly from the District. The District is doing quite a bit of outreach to inform the community of these partnerships and lightening the load on the District. The partnerships are strong. The primary group that this program serves is still under the age of 18 and much of the adult program is made up of therapeutic recreation programs.

The partnerships and collaborations include:

Pacific Source	Mosaic Medical	Housing Works	BLS Latino Liaison
St. Charles	COPA	FAN Steering Committee	Alyce Hatch
Tour Deschutes Cancer Programs		Yes Grant (CFCO & Forest Service)	

Therapeutic programs for adults are offered all year and therapeutic youth programs are only offered in the summer. The therapeutic programs get additional funding provided by the Opdycke Fund through the BPRD Foundation, Federal funding through the K Plan and finally funding comes from the needs-based assistance. Most of the assistance is spent on youth recreation through the various childcare programs that are offered such as: Kids, Inc. and Operation Recreation child care programs.

Ms. Boettner went on to speak about the free and low cost programs that continue to be offered by the District: Days of Play, Kids on the Move, and Family Night at JSFC, Senior Center social activities (Lunch and Learn, free movies and health awareness).

Low Fee programs: Senior Center social activities bridge, pool, dances, Sunday family skate at the Pavilion.

Ms. Boettner presented the recommendations:

- Eliminate limitation on adult passes
- Acceptance of 3rd Party Eligibility Verification (makes the qualification process simpler)
- Update income guidelines to 2018 Federal Poverty Guidelines
- Approve budget allocation of \$265,000, including \$181,520 in General Fund support
- Increase outreach efforts
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The proposed changes for 2018-19 are intended to maintain the priorities of the organization while broadening the outreach efforts to reach more of the underserved in the community.

6:50 p.m. BREAK/TRANSITION

7:00 p.m. REGULAR MEETING

VISITORS

Justin Gottlieb – JSFC

Mr. Gottlieb spoke briefly about the difficulties of homelessness. Mr. Gottlieb just recently purchased a pass to Juniper Swim and Fitness and is pleased with the Juniper facilities.

Claudia Hinz – Drake Park Beautification Project

Ms. Hinz expressed concern about the proposed beautification project. Her concerns include planting of trees and vegetation that could obstruct the view of the river for community members and visitors.

Ms. Hinz expressed her doubts of the plan mitigating the problem with geese in the park and that the view of an iconic part of town should be open, she finished with asking the Board to reconsider this aspect of the plan.

Susan Crosby – Drake Park Beautification Project

Ms. Crosby shares her concerns with Ms. Hinz and reiterated that the park is a valuable part of our community and should be protected. She spoke of her history of living near the park and asked the Board to preserve the vision of the former developers of Drake Park.

Renee Wade – Cell Tower

Ms. Wade, a parent at Seven Peaks School and member of the Safety committee, shared her fears about the leased Verizon cell tower by the parking lot of the school. Seven Peaks School had an Independent study done last September by EMF Survey on the RF levels. She is concerned about the health of children on the playground at the school and asked the Board to consider removing the tower.

Giselle Buecus – Cell Tower

Ms. Buecus, a parent at Seven Peaks School and member of the safety committee, shared her concerns about the report that Seven Peaks School commissioned last fall. She spoke about outdated FCC guidelines and independent studies done in other countries about the safety of the RF emitted from this type of tower. She asked the Board to consider removing the tower.

Corey Buecus – Cell Tower

Mr. Buecus, a parent at Seven Peaks, expressed his concerns about the cell tower on the Bulletin property and the tower adjacent to the school. He stated that the towers put the children in the middle of a perfect storm of radio frequency. He also spoke of other independent studies.

Vida Barrum – Cell Tower

Ms. Barrum, a parent at Cascade Middle School, spoke about parents making decisions about attending other schools because of health concerns of the tower on this property. Ms. Barrum said parents should choose on the best environment for their kids based on education, not safety.

Kristy Holmberg – Cell Tower

Ms. Holmberg, a parent at Seven Peaks, acknowledged the conflicting points of view of cell towers. She asked her pediatrician about the safety of the cell tower and the response was that there is conflicting information and no studies on developing brains because the data will be accumulated over time. Ms. Holmberg feels that parents should not have to take the risk and is concerned that when the evidence is there, it will be too late. She asked the Board to consider looking at the contract for this tower.

Heather Kittlebrew – Cell Tower

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Ms. Kittlebrew, a parent at Seven Peaks and member of the safety committee, was unaware of the tower until the report and is investigating other schools now because of the tower. She asked the Board to take into consideration that the school is likely to lose students.

Chairman Hovekamp thanked the parents for speaking and invited them to stay engaged in the issue.

CONSENT AGENDA

1. Meeting Minutes – 3/06/2018

Director Fuller made a motion to approve the minutes. Director Schoenborn seconded. The motion passed unanimously, 4-0.

BUSINESS SESSION

1. Memorandum of Understanding with Upper Deschutes Watershed Council (UDWC) – Perry Brooks and Ryan Houston (45 min)

Mr. Brooks introduced James Adams, Ryan Richards as Recreation Specialists of the District and Ryan Houston from UDWC. Mr. Brooks explained that since the last presentation to the Board there has been some progress made with meetings, assessments, collecting photos and a presentation to the UDWC Board. This relationship with the District and UDWC dates back to 20 years of working together and this work furthers that relationship.

Mr. Houston reviewed some of the projects of collaboration. Currently the focus is riparian zones, which are fairly rare in the high desert at only about 2% of the area, and stated that 75 % of wildlife is dependent on these areas. Riparian areas have many roles: they function as a filter for run off and nutrients, provide nesting and foraging opportunities, reduce erosion, and create habitat. Mr. Houston went on to say that riparian management is one of the UDWC's highest priorities for the urban reaches of the Deschutes River.

The goal of the partnership with the District is balancing recreation for the community and supporting the needs of the environment. At this time, users of the river are creating their own access points and the erosion that is occurring in these areas is significant. Natural recovery does not happen fast enough to mitigate the damage done.

Mr. Adams spoke about the approach of assessment; in this phase the need is to establish the baseline and current health of the ecosystems. The assessment includes many features of the river as well as human impact. The river use is high and 50 access points have been identified in less than ¼ of a mile that have been created by river users. Fencing and prohibitive planting can prevent users from creating these access points. The access points that are there now can help to determine where the next access points could be made. Mr. Adams said that going forward, the plan includes doing surveys quarterly and using that information to establish patterns in user sites, providing the information needed to be really thoughtful about how the restoration is done.

Mr. Houston reviewed the project categories, priorities and costs. Overall about \$2.0M of work is planned and could be done over the next 5-10 years. The next steps begin with a binding agreement with the MOU to create a collaborative agreement, and then pursue funding.

The Board commented on the appreciation for the collaboration with UDWC and encourages more of these types of partnerships. Questions were asked about the management of users and behaviors, how to handle the view vs. vegetation argument and the varying opinions of aesthetics, and asked

questions about the funding of the project. Mr. Houston stated that there will be a component of public outreach with each project. Executive Director Horton responded to the funding questions explaining that the joint effort between the District and UDWC have some expertise in grant writing and much of the projects are grant eligible, we can match and work together to accomplish.

Director Grover moved to authorize the Executive Director to negotiate and sign a memorandum of understanding with the Upper Deschutes Watershed Council to facilitate long-term collaboration on riparian area management along District owned property along the Deschutes River and Tumalo Creek. Director Fuller seconded. The motion passed unanimously, 4-0.

2. Needs-Based Assistance Policy and Needs-Based Assistance Plan for Fiscal Year 2018 – Matt Mercer (10 Min)

Mr. Mercer briefly reviewed the changes to the plan. He then spoke about the passes that are running through programs like the Pacific Source Medicaid program. Mr. Mercer explained that people that are found to benefit from a District program could be given a prescription from a medical professional for the passes with the hope of prompting people to use them. Mr. Mercer advocated for using the eligibility verification with the other partners (who have eligibility guidelines) which would save staff time and encourage users to the program by making the process simpler for users.

The Board asked questions about safeguards for the eligibility through partners, Mr. Mercer explained that users must have income levels that meet the level of the District and most partners have guidelines that will fit within the District's guidelines. He mentioned that measures can be written to prevent misuse. The Board commented on the program and supported the direction of the changes.

Director Schoenborn moved to approve the revisions made to the Needs-Based Assistance Policy. Director Grover seconded. The motion passed unanimously, 4-0.

Director Fuller moved to approve the Needs-Based Assistance Plan for Fiscal Year 2018-19. Director Schoenborn seconded. The motion passed unanimously, 4-0.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

The District now owns 7 acres of property for a planned neighborhood park near the Stone Creek development and Silver Rail Elementary School.

Concession update: Tumalo Creek has been awarded the contract. The river plan this year is to encourage more people to use the parking lot near the Pavilion and use Cascades East Transit System for river transportation. Executive Director Horton said the District would like to create an atmosphere at the parking that is inviting so that people want to be there. The tube rentals will move there, this will free up some areas in the parking lot at Riverbend. Eventually, the use of the free lot across the street from the District Office will be developed making it wise to change the behavior of river floaters now.

Cell tower: Executive Director Horton spoke about the concerns of the visitors regarding the cell tower. The same concerns came up several years ago and were addressed. When the cell tower was installed,

Verizon was required to go through the public process. After the cell tower was completed, some concerns were expressed from a group of parents at Seven Peaks School. As a result, Verizon conducted a study and shared the results with the principal and parents.

UGB Bridge: Oregon Consensus, created by the Oregon Legislature, is a conflict resolution group that helps communities work on sensitive issues such as the South UGB Bridge. They are a consulting firm that leads the process and recommends which parties, for and against, are invited to the table for discussion. Executive Director Horton commented that the District should remain at arm's length on the development and let the process play out.

BOARD MEETINGS CALENDAR REVIEW

PROJECT REPORT: Attachment in Board Report

GOOD OF THE ORDER

ADJOURN 8:39

EXECUTIVE SESSION – The Board met in Executive Session upon adjournment of the regular meeting pursuant to ORS 192.660(2)(e) for the purpose of discussing real property transactions and ORS 192.660(2)(h) for the purpose of consultation with counsel concerning legal rights and duties regarding current litigation or litigation likely to be filed.

Prepared by,
Sheila Reed
Executive Assistant




Nathan Hovekamp, Chair



Brady Fuller, Vice-Chair



Ellen Grover



Ted Schoenborn



Lauren Sprang