



Board of Directors

February 18, 2020

District Office Building | 799 SW Columbia | Bend, Oregon

BOARD PRESENT

Ted Schoenborn, Chair
Nathan Hovekamp, Vice Chair
Ariel Méndez
Jason Kropf
Deb Schoen

STAFF PRESENT

Don Horton, Executive Director
Michelle Healy, Deputy Executive Director
Julie Brown, Manager of Communications and Community Relations
Lindsey Lombard, Administrative Services Director
Matt Mercer, Director of Recreation
Sheila Reed, Executive Assistant
Brian Hudspeth, Development Manager
Jeff Hagler, Park Stewardship Manager
Betsy Tucker, Finance Manager
Kristin Cunningham, Community Relations Assistant
Alan Adams, Facilities Specialist
Marcia Copple, Accountant
Sarah Bodo, Trail Planner
Sasha Sulia, Superintendent of Park Operations

MEDIA

Jacob Larsen, KTVZ
Brenna Visser, The Bulletin

5:30 p.m. MEETING CONVENED

STAFF INTRODUCTIONS

Kim O-Hagen
Taylor Beckley
Adam Eno

WORK SESSION

1. Park Services Report Park Steward Program – *Jeff Hagler*

Mr. Hagler introduced his presentation with the pyramid of park safety.

The Pyramid of Park Safety



He explained the table as a three-tiered approach to managing people in the parks. He explained that the park stewardship program is made up of one manager, two full time stewards, two seasonal stewards, and one part time steward. Next, he explained the following goals of the department and the levels of stewardship.

- Positive presence in parks
- Build positive relationships
- Educate and gain voluntary compliance of rule violations
- Foster a sense of safety
- Reduce illegal activity

Level 1 – The park stewards focus on minor rule violations and district outreach. Mr. Hagler said educating the public is the first priority for voluntary compliance. Enforcement is necessary for more serious park violations and can lead to exclusion from a park for a period of time. A list of people excluded from a park is shared with the police department and can be enforced with an arrest for criminal trespass II or may result in a ticket and fine.

Mr. Hagler shared the tools used to increase safety by increasing their presence and communication:

- **Incident Tracker System:** communication tool that informs of incidents that are happening quickly and efficiently.
- **Mobile Kiosk:** Education tool used at park events and high traffic areas.
- **Rewarding positive behavior:** Stewards give out dog treats, doggie bag holders, chap stick and other items.
- **Park stats:** allows stewards to adjust presence in parks as needed
- **Community Outreach:** Work with Central Oregon Homeless Leadership Coalition to provide information about services to homeless people when encountered in the parks. Also work with Bend Police Department and crisis response teams for people in need with mental illness episodes.

Level 2 – Bend Patrol Services (private security) provides services to lock and unlock park gates, park checks throughout the night and serve as the 24-hour call service. Bend Patrol Services operate as back up stewards, handle lower and higher-level contacts in the park and clear out restrooms and camps.

Level 3 – The district has a great working relationship with the Bend Police and Sheriff Departments. There is a weekly sharing of the exclusion list and a monthly communication meeting. These agencies deal with the highest-level contacts.

With all of these in place, Mr. Hagler said the park steward program is adequately staffed.

The board asked questions about the homeless issues in Bend. Mr. Hagler said homelessness is a community wide issue and he attends a monthly homeless leadership coalition meeting. Executive Director Horton reminded the board of the effort he is making to create the shared leadership coalition with other agencies in Bend and collectively they have identified homelessness as a priority. He commented that this will take a multi-agency effort to figure out the homeless issue.

The board inquired about the court case the Supreme Court refused to hear regarding homelessness and the ability to camp on public property if no shelter is available. Mr. Hagler said people can sleep in the park during open hours, but parks close at 10 pm.

2. City of Bend Transportation Bond Update – *Gena Goodman-Campbell, Chris Piper and Eric King*

Mr. Piper introduced the presentation stating that the city council voted unanimously on February 5, 2020 to place a \$190 million general obligation bond measure on the May 2020 ballot. The bond is in response to a traffic study that the community said the biggest problems are congestion and safety.

Mr. Piper said Bend is an outstanding place to live and the city council desires to demonstrate consistent stewardship of resources and quality of life. The following values guide them as the foundation for public trust and confidence:

- **Economic vitality**
- **Transportation and infrastructure**
- **Public safety and health**
- **Effective and efficient city operation**

Mr. Piper gave a history of Bend's streets. The impacts on the streets include:

- **Development patterns: Railroad, river, eight bridge crossings, five canal districts and Awbrey and Pilot Buttes**
- **Growth cycle: growth has happened quickly**
- **Property tax restrictions: These were capped by the voters in the 90's and have impacted the fire and police departments, making it more difficult to fund transportation.**

- Investments are incremental: The City would have liked to have done more on Reed Market Rd., but funding was limited.
- Development revenue is volatile: Impact fees and SDCs can fluctuate depending on the economy.

Mr. Piper said that Bend has a limited property tax revenue and is funded lower than comparable cities in Oregon.

Ms. Goodman-Campbell spoke about the transportation planning and priorities, stating that bonds will pay for citywide projects:

- East-west connections: these are a top priority determined from the various outreach opportunities
- Traffic flow/intersection improvements
- Safe travel and access in neighborhoods for pedestrians, bicycles and motor vehicles and includes safe routes to schools and parks

Ms. Goodman-Campbell showed a map of the 12 key routes in the plan with the desire to connect people to parks, schools and jobs. The map shows the focus of creating safe east-west and north-south bike pedestrian corridors. The investment is about \$22 million; \$2 million will be covered by future Core Area Urban Renewal funds. The map and bond information can be found on the City of Bend Website: <https://www.bendoregon.gov/city-projects/safe-travel>

Ms. Goodman-Campbell reviewed the Go Bond project list and summary and added that this approach is positioning the city in a more forward-thinking approach, not just fixing the problems of today. The six things to know about Bend's safe travel and improvements are:

1. Tackles the #1 issue Bend residents want their leaders to do something about – traffic congestion and safety.
2. Funds priority projects citywide.
3. Builds better east-west connections that reduce drivers' time behind the wheel and improve Bend's livability.
4. Supports safe access to schools, parks and jobs.
5. Addresses congestion on main roads to reduce cut-through traffic on neighborhood streets.
6. Helps Bend prepare for the future.

The board asked questions about the lessons learned from the last bond. Mr. King responded that just relying on development to fix problems doesn't work, the city now needs to fill in the gaps.

The board asked about other safety measures that could be met, such as flashing beacons for street crossings and other ideas to address crossings for every school and park. Mr. King responded by saying that \$8 million was set aside for the neighborhood safety program; this

will be leveraged to apply for more state dollars and hopefully have a multiplying effect. This is not the only way of addressing these issues, there are other pieces in place to secure alternate funds.

Ms. Goodman-Campbell said the council recognizes that there needs to be a creation of a sidewalk program to fill in where needed and another funding source will be required to do this.

Mr. Piper said it is a difficult task and they are trying to be as inclusive as possible. He spoke about the need for more engagement and a bringing of information back to the council. He added new opportunities will be identified and this will help the city to move forward and play less catch up in the future.

The board asked about ODOT as a partner. Mr. King said the relationship has improved greatly the past few years. They are updating their parkway plan also and working with the city to make the improvements. ODOT is thinking more and more about all modes of travel. He closed by responding to a question about HB 4103 that delegates more control over local speed limits, Mr. King said the city is very supportive of this bill.

6:50 p.m. BREAK/TRANSITION

7:00 p.m. BUSINESS SESSION

VISITORS

Erik Fernandez: Mr. Fernandez expressed concern about the tree removal in Drake Park for the trail project. He said the district has some trust issues in the community and cutting down trees with four-foot diameters will not help. He added that protecting the trees would be better for relationships with the environmental community.

CONSENT AGENDA

1. Meeting Minutes – 1/21/2020
2. Approve Resolution No. 2020-03 - Local Government Grant Program Riverbend Access Project
3. Approve Resolution No. 2020-04 – Land and Water Conservation Fund Grant Drake Park Project

Director Hovekamp made a motion to approve the consent agenda. Director Kropf seconded. The motion passed unanimously, 5-0.

BUSINESS SESSION

1. Bend 2030 Presentation on Leadership Alliance – *Ryan Swagerty and Laura Fritz*

Mr. Swagerty is on the board of directors for Bend 2030 and Laura Fritz is the interim director. Mr. Swagerty said Bend 2030 is the keeper and champion of the city's vision. Bend 2030 was

created to bring the community together to create a vision for the future of the community. He added that the intent is to seek to engage the whole community, particularly those that are less likely to engage.

Mr. Swagerty spoke about the Leadership Alliance, he said this is made up of community leaders and helps Bend 2030 keep their fingers on the pulse of the community. The financial support enables the organization to continue the work already begun and manage the ongoing and future efforts. He said he is here to ask the board to renew their commitment because the organization fits well with park issues.

He added that this year, Bend 2030 is updating the community vision. The last time this was done was in 2008 and this vision represents a fraction of the people that are here today. The new vision will look toward 2050.

The board asked what other organizations the district partnered with in this way. Executive Director Horton replied that the district made a two-year contribution to the Environmental Center. He said for the district to make this contribution, the money donated must be spent on specific projects with park and recreation interest.

Director Schoenborn recused himself from the vote because he serves on the board of Bend 2030.

Director Hovekamp made a motion to provide financial support to Bend 2030 in the amount of \$5,000. Director Schoen seconded. The motion passed unanimously, 4-0.

2. Perception Survey – Sarah Bodo and Michael Simone, RRC

Ms. Bodo introduced Michael Simone from RRC Associates and gave the introduction of the survey.

Mr. Simone explained the survey and the methodology. He explained that 5500 surveys were mailed, the response was strong with 978 completed. An open link online survey received 740 responses. Mr. Simone said the respondents were diverse in their perspectives, backgrounds and preferences; signaling a strong representation from the entire community.

Mr. Simone reviewed the report in the board packet and spoke about the key findings from the survey. Overall, the community was familiar with the district, knew that the district is a separate agency from the city and 83 percent believe the district is moving in the right direction. Residents are very satisfied with the district services; 92 percent are somewhat satisfied or very satisfied. The top six items (when removing the don't know responses) that respondents agree the district does well include:

- maintains parks and trails well (95%)
- offers quality programs and facilities (96%)

- act as good stewards of the environment (94%)
- should provide the community places to gather (92%)
- inclusive (91%)
- meets the parks and recreation needs of the community. (91%)

The bottom five with a range of 83 percent to 91 percent (when removing the don't know responses) responses include:

- well managed (90%)
- customer service (91%)
- reasonable fees (84%)
- partners effectively with others (84%)
- good commuting options via trails (83%)

Most respondents said more commercial activities in parks could be considered and the number of events in parks is just about right. More people supported an equal amount of emphasis on preserving natural environments and providing recreational access. Nearly half prefer the district place equal emphasis on recreation and transportation-focused trails. Residents continue to report the Playbook and brochures as the most popular way to receive information and social media is the best way to reach younger residents.

There was a large portion of "don't know" responses about perspectives on taxes, transparency and trust. The respondents that answered other than "don't know". the level of agreement rose to 87 percent for trust, 80 percent for using taxpayer money wisely (this percentage continues to increase over the last few years) and 76 percent for transparency.

Mr. Simone said Parks, trails, and recreation services have always rated quite high in the value received per dollar spent, with very little change in results over time. He said it's clear that the community sees significant value in parks, trails, and recreation despite the small minority that has issues with the level of property taxes being collected and how those dollars are being spent in some cases.

The board asked if there was anything in the survey that was unexpected. Executive Director Horton said there have been some big political issues in the past few years since the last survey. He expected this to have an impact on the trust responses, but the survey did not show that, the survey has been consistently good over the years and the high levels of satisfaction were very pleasing to staff.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- Executive Director Horton reminded the board of the ribbon cutting for the new fields that the FC Timbers built.
- Information of the Drake Park trail project and tree removal were provided. Executive Director Horton said the city code requires permission to remove trees for the project. The district added any tree that may be removed to avoid interruption of the project to

get permission. This project has been worked on by a team of trail and ADA professionals for three years to make the trail ADA compliant. The plan is designed to save and plant ponderosa trees in the park which will help to balance the variance of trees in the park. The board requested a walk through the park to see the project and the plan.

- The financial forecast: Director Horton mentioned some changes to the financial forecast. Staff had discussed moving the bike park project out to a further date, but have decided not to do that after all. He invited Ms. Lombard to speak about the revision to the forecast.

Ms. Lombard said the financial forecast and recreation subsidy she presented at the board workshop were very conservative. She has revised the forecast that is less conservative and likely more accurate. She explained the original forecast projected a deficit in the reserves. The new projections show a couple of scenarios that reach reserve saving goals. She explained the opportunity the board has to use reserves if needed. The forecast allows for the bike park to be developed as planned, there is a possibility the expert course feature could be delayed. She finished by letting the board know that staff will bring back the bid with staff recommendations for the board to decide on the direction of the project.

PROJECT REPORT

BOARD MEETINGS CALENDAR REVIEW


GOOD OF THE ORDER

Director Méndez mentioned the Downtown Bend Business Association kiosks, he said there is advertising space available for purchase that the district may want to consider.

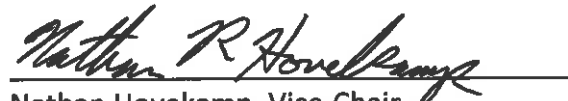
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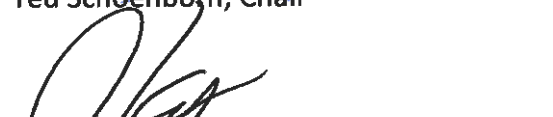
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