



Board of Directors

March 13, 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
Julie Brown, Manager of Communications and Community Relations
Lindsey Lombard, Administrative Services Director
Matt Mercer, Director of Recreation
Sheila Reed, Executive Assistant
Sasha Sulia, Superintendent of Park Operations

MEDIA

Brenna Visser, The Bulletin
Isaac Biehl, Source Weekly
Jordan Williams, KTVZ

12:00 p.m. MEETING CONVENED

BUSINESS SESSION

1. COVID Virus Update – Don Horton, Julie Brown and Matt Mercer

Executive Director Horton thanked the board for coming on short notice. He added another item to the agenda, he said he would like to discuss how to do board meetings during this time moving forward. Executive Director Horton passed out an update to the board explaining the decisions that have already been made in response to Governor Brown's order, advice from the Public Health Department and directions given to schools to cancel all non-essential programming. Executive Director Horton reviewed this handout; it is attached to the minutes. He said the Senior Center will close this evening at 5 pm, Therapeutic Recreation programs have been canceled along with other programs and events scheduled in district buildings. Staff has been directed to take extra measures with cleaning and more hand sanitizers have been placed in facilities. Signs have been posted asking patrons to wipe down equipment before and after use, CDC signs have been hung throughout. Supervisors have been advised how to handle employees that may be sick. Executive Director Horton said he did not know what the financial impact will be, and will need to be discussed when more is known. Internal meetings that are not necessary have been canceled and cleaning measures of the meeting spaces are in place and limited to less than 25 people with social distancing. Next, he

discussed the youth and adult programs that are wrapping up in the next couple of weeks and programs that are scheduled to begin.

Based on the Governors announcement to close schools, Kids INC programs have been canceled through April 1. All programs on school sites are canceled. Other agencies in other states are shutting down, but keeping park services running.

Executive Director Horton asked the board what direction they would like the district to take for further actions, he added that information is coming in quickly and there will be a need for quick response. Executive Director Horton invited Matt Mercer to speak about programming.

Mr. Mercer said staff has already taken some actions due to the school closures. He said most programs are ending soon anyway; staff is reporting very few cancellations for spring break programs and programs remain full. Mr. Mercer said the spring session starts March 30, activities include: sports, enrichment, swim lessons, etc. He presented several options for partial and full closures of programs and facilities.

Executive Director Horton said the district can try to follow what the Governor has asked, but need to think about the balance of what the community expects of the district. Isolation of seniors is a serious issue, he expressed his concerns about the older population doing poorly in isolation. He added that older adult programs have already been cancelled at Juniper. He asked the board what they thought was important, to stay open and offer some limited access or close altogether.

The board shared a range of ideas. One director recommended full closure of all programs and facilities. Another director said the district could screen programs by determining the ones that allow for social distancing. The board spoke of the unintended consequences of isolation, that include higher rates of depression, suicide and overdoses and expressed concern for families that don't have other options outside of what the district provides. Concerns about the impact on staff were also discussed. Executive Director Horton shared that other agencies are laying off part-time staff and looking into laying off full-time staff as well. The district is working to reassign employees, but recognize that this will not be possible for every employee. The district is offering 2 weeks of pay so far for part-time employees without work and the board supported doing what the district can to mitigate the impact to employees.

The board discussed options to keep childcare programs open to help parents that count on the district. Executive Director Horton said he will rely on the health department for direction while facilities are open and will follow the school district schedule if the district decides to close. Staff and the board all agreed that keeping the community safe is a priority. Trying to safely keep facilities open to serve the community is also important. Executive Director Horton said he felt confident that he understood the direction the board would support and said his biggest concern is not knowing how long this will all last.

The board decided to cancel the next board meeting scheduled for March 17 and asked staff to look at other options to reduce the number of people that would need to attend meetings.

VISITORS

None

Recreation Facility and Program Update (3/13/2020)

Programs Taking Place Prior to March 30 when our next program cycle begins.

Programs that are underway but will be finishing soon:

- Youth and adult swim lessons (ends March 20)
- Novice swim team (ending March 20)
- Busy Buddies Preschool Program (ending March 20)
- Youth Hockey League (ends March 14)
- Ice Skating Lessons (ends March 19)
- Adult Hockey (One more game night on March 18)
- Soccer/Jrs and youth soccer league at Cascade Indoor Sports (ending April 15)
- Martial Arts programs (ending April 2)

Programs that are scheduled but have not yet started

- All scheduled spring break youth camps including the relocation of several camps that were originally supposed to take place in schools.
- Several sports camps scheduled for the week of March 15-19

Options under Consideration for current programs:


- Cancellation of all programs effective immediately OR complete current session of program in process (through March 20).
- Cancel scheduled spring break programs (or plan to operate).
- Consider additional facility closures (full or partial).
 - Partial options include cancelling instructed group exercise classes and only offering self-directed drop-in use, and/or
 - Not offering larger drop-in activities such as recreation swims and open skates.
 - Any decision would likely be through March 29 initially with assessment ongoing.

Options under Consideration for Next Session beginning March 30 or later

- Run as scheduled
- Delay/Postpone
- Cancel some or all


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Executive Assistant


Nathan Hovekamp, Vice-Chair

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[Signature]


Ariel Méndez

Deb Schöen

