



Board of Directors

March 30, 2020 – Special Session

District Office Building | 799 SW Columbia | Bend, Oregon

To support Governor Brown's recommendation for social distancing, the Board of Directors conducted this meeting by video and live streamed on Facebook.

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
Sheila Reed, Executive Assistant

LEGAL

Paul Taylor, BLJ Attorneys

4:00 p.m. MEETING CONVENED

VISITORS

Justin Gottlieb: Mr. Gottlieb shared his views on the COVID-19 virus with a written statement that was read at the meeting. His statement included some personal observations about the virus and theories about the spread of it. Mr. Gottlieb supports the district direction of shutting down park amenities and encouraged the directors to stay safe, sanitary and sane.

BUSINESS SESSION

1. Resolution 2020-05, Declaring Emergency Conditions Exist and Granting Authority to Take All Necessary Actions to Prepare and Respond Effectively to the Coronavirus (COVID-19) – *Don Horton and Paul Taylor, Attorney, BLJ Attorneys (15 min)*

Executive Director Horton said this meeting is necessary due to the impacts of COVID-19 on district operations. Other agencies have adopted emergency resolutions similar to this and Paul Taylor, attorney for the district, has drafted the resolution that is before the board today. Executive Director Horton said there are ten points that have already impacted the district and are a part of the resolution.

- Reassignment of patrons and staff: Patrons have not been reassigned due to facility closures. Staff members have been equipped to work from home. Limited staff are working at their work spaces in certain locations.
- Alternative recreation options: Facebook Live fitness videos
- Modify personnel policies: Federal legislation and state direction to make changes to some policies, for example the federal requirement to give two additional weeks paid sick time. The

district will need a policy in place by April 1 to outline how this will be offered. EFMLA, at the federal level modifications have been made and need to add this to the policy as well.

- Improvements to protect district property: There has already been some vandalism to district property, particularly in restrooms. The district is trying to keep all restrooms open so that people have more places to wash their hands. This will take additional funding to do.
- Transfer of district funds to address an emergency: This has not been necessary yet, but it may be in the future, may need to transfer funds out of the contingency fund to cover some of the costs of this closure.
- Limit congregations of people on district property: Canceled events that attract ten or more people, encouraging people to get out and use parks and trails, but maintain the six feet social distancing.
- Closing or limiting access to district property:
- Adopting actions of the Federal and State Government: A good example is the EFMLA order.
- Apply for state and federal assistance: Special districts are now listed as agencies that may qualify for available funds.
- Extending the effective date of April 30, 2020: The resolution can be extended based on the Governor's orders.

The board agreed that they could meet again to extend the resolution. In case the board is not able to meet, the Executive Director would have the authority to extend the resolution.

Director Hovekamp made a motion to approve Resolution 2020-05, a resolution of the Board of the Bend Park and Recreation District declaring emergency conditions exist and granting authority to the executive director to take all necessary actions to prepare and respond effectively to the Coronavirus (COVID-19). Director Schoen seconded, the motion passed unanimously, 5-0.

Director Kropf asked Executive Director Horton if he is concerned about the impact that other closures may have on the district. Executive Director Horton replied that closures of other parks and recreation areas will have a big impact on district property especially as the weather begins to warm up. He has a meeting with the city and forest service later in the week and will discuss this with them.

Director Hovekamp added that it would have been preferable to have had a conversation with the district prior to making the decisions that were made by the forest service and even a cautionary to the district in making future decisions to consider impacts to other agencies as well.

Director Schoenborn mentioned that some people are not social distancing in the parks and he has heard some complaints. Executive Director Horton said staff are aware of these issues and doing more to help people to comply. He said the majority of people are abiding by the rules and it is very much appreciated. Director Schoenborn said this is really showing how valued the parks and trails are for people to use during this time.

Director Méndez would like to see more space open up for the public to get outside while maintaining a safe distance and asked if Executive Director Horton could ask the city for options to close down roads and parking lots to create these kinds of spaces.

Director Schoenborn asked Director Méndez if he would craft a message from the board in support of mental health issues and keeping spaces open. He suggested that at the next board meeting the board could discuss publicly and show support. Director Mendez supports encouraging people to get

out for a walk and discouraging people from taking a drive due to the accidents that can happen in a vehicle.

The board expressed support for keeping restrooms open and the continuation of extra cleaning and precautions.

Director Kropf asked about the possibility of allowing patrons to donate refunded programs (from canceled programs) back to the district workers that have been laid off. Executive Director Horton responded that some staff that have been laid-off have asked how they can donate their paychecks to a variety of district programs. Executive Director Horton recommended donating back to the foundation for scholarships. Director Schoenborn mentioned he was considering donating his stimulus check back to something like the scholarship fund and wondered if this idea should be suggested to the community.

Director Mendez said he feels very comfortable giving the Executive Director this much discretion because of his excellent track record in handling this crisis so far. He further expressed his appreciation for the well-reasoned and competent staff and thanked Executive Director Horton.

ADJOURN 4:34pm

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Prepared by,
Sheila Reed
Executive Assistant



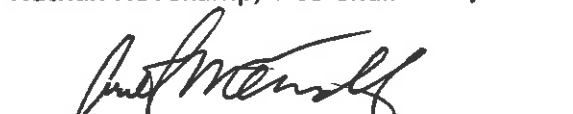
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