

Ms. Emerson said beyond notification, providing communications and messaging to the public about situational behaviors like gatherings of people outside of the household is important. She added that the county is seeing cases come from at home barbecues and similar social gatherings. She said the county does not have any data that show cases are coming from the river, but said it is still important to encourage good social behaviors there.

The board asked the following questions:

- Would the county be able to contact trace to river activities?
- How much should the district warn river users of the risk?
- What does the county recommend in protecting people's privacy?
- Is the county sharing all information that they can share?
- What percentage of cases are coming from out of town?

Ms. Emerson responded that there have not been any cases traced back to district facilities or park areas. She explained that contact tracing refers to prolonged and close contact with an infected individual. The county's collected data does not capture activities that don't meet the threshold of close contact. For the public, she said there is a continuum of risk and passing someone on a trail wearing a mask is not a greater risk than passing someone at a grocery store; however, the evidence suggests that social gatherings from multiple households is a greater risk. Multiple people hanging out in large groups on a beach are higher risk and may be good information to share. Ms. Emerson said that one area that has not been shared as much is where cases are coming from: travel, employment related, or community spread. Ms. Emerson said she would send the information that the county has on this to the district for the board. She added that the county has been sharing travel data, but does not have a clear mechanism for tracking people that traveled here and then returned home and tested positive.

The board asked about the best practices for gaining compliance and enforcement. Ms. Emerson said that the best success comes from how the message is communicated. She said providing education and shifting social norms without shaming, normalizing the desired behaviors and making masks available are all ways to gain compliance.

The board spoke about the public misconception of authority that the district has to enforce rules and laws. Executive Director Horton added that the district is limited on enforcement measures and can only enforce using exclusion measures from district parks and facilities and currently the police are not enforcing the guidance. He said staff is concentrating on education measures to inform users of the rules, but the high numbers of users make it difficult to enforce and staff must rely on people to comply with the guidance. He added that OSHA is another enforcement agency and they can investigate businesses and agencies that are reported for not following the guidelines.

Ms. Emerson reiterated that signage about spacing people out and encouraging masks, putting out information that normalizes the guidance recommendation and allowing for easy access to face coverings are the best ways to gain compliance. She said the negative association with enforcement can carry other risks and asking for voluntary compliance is more successful overall.

The board expressed appreciation for Ms. Emerson's time

2. Update on COVID-19 Communication Plan – Julie Brown and Matt Mercer

Ms. Brown gave an overview of how the district will communicate COVID-19 cases. She said that it is important to remember that the district has a public communications policy that guides the district for all types of communication. This policy was included in the agenda packet. During this pandemic, staff has worked closely with Deschutes County Health services. She explained that this is not the first time that the agencies have worked together; last year an out of town visitor to Juniper reported a positive measles case. Together, the agencies decided to make this case a public announcement because measles is highly contagious, exposure was unknown and it posed a risk to the greater community.

Ms. Brown explained the district's overall objectives in communications pertaining to COVID-19:

- Contribute to the health and safety of the community.
- Maintain confidentiality while notifying others about potential exposure.
- Support district partner's role, Deschutes County in this case.
- Meet the district's high standards for transparency.

Ms. Brown said there are factors in deciding which communication tool to use. For example: if there is a confirmed COVID-19 case of a staff member or patron the following steps would be taken with the help of Deschutes County Health:

- Provide the details on contact tracing in a timely and complete manner.
- Determine if the district needs to suspend a program or close a facility.
- Begin notifications for participants (or guardians).
- Determine if broad public notification is necessary based on potential risk factors.

Ms. Brown said that it is the responsibility of the district to set the expectation with participants of when and if they would be notified of a COVID-19 case. A confirmed positive case with a very public facing staff member would lead the district to assess whether to notify more broadly with considerations to confidentiality. She said a template has been created in advance to provide the framework for a press release if needed.

In the case that a public facing staff member tests positive for COVID-19 the following steps would be taken:

- Report to Deschutes County Health Services.
- Provide all detail for contact tracing to the county.
- County, district department head and district human resources department collaborate to determine the next appropriate steps for notification to potentially exposed patrons.
- At risk employees would be sent home immediately to wait for further instructions.
- Evaluate if a program needs to be suspended or if a facility needs to close.
- Deep cleaning and sanitation to facility.
- Complete accident/incident reports.
- Coordinate with the county to issue press release.

Ms. Brown next talked about the district sign program. She said the district has been sharing drafts of signs with the county to ensure consistent public messages. The signs are continually updated with information as the guidance changes. Staff is working on visual assets with pictures of people wearing face coverings and modeling behaviors that need to be normalized.

Ms. Brown said she has reached out to other public agencies and peer agencies to discuss their communication plans and the district is in alignment with these agencies. Next month, she said that it will be important to work closely with the school district for operation of Kids, Inc. She said she would like to be sure that the district is coordinated with the school district plans and communications.

Ms. Brown responded to further questions about informing the public, she said it is important to make sure the response is appropriate to the risk of the community and avoid desensitizing the community with unnecessary information. Ms. Emerson joined the discussion and agreed with Ms. Brown about the possibility of desensitizing the public with information when public is not at risk. She added it can overwhelm the media and doesn't help to further encourage safe behaviors.

The board asked about signs in Spanish and if any of the park stewards speak Spanish. Ms. Brown responded that staff has been working to get as many of the district signs in Spanish as possible. She said that keeping signs in place has been a challenge through this time. Many signs that are out in public have disappeared. Staff is doing the best they can to replace signs and keep them updated. Staff is looking ahead at other district signage for further opportunities to create more in Spanish. She added the district webpage does have information in Spanish and is updated regularly. This takes a lot of time and translation resources. Ms. Healy confirmed later in the meeting that at least one park steward is fluent in Spanish and a couple of others can speak some Spanish.

3. Update on Parks and Facilities – Michelle Healy and Matt Mercer

Ms. Healy said the number of people in the parks continues to increase. She said she would like to address some questions that she has received about the data that is collected on river floaters. In 2017, staff installed two counters at the bridge at the Whitewater Park. The counters are intended to count the number of trips (not the number of people) taken on the river. The counters were located at the portage pathway and fish ladder area; the counters were not completely accurate and staff determined that the count could be 10-30 percent low due to multiple people being on one float or tethered, and only counted as one trip. This year, three counters have been installed and appear to be doing a better job of collecting data. The river tube concessionaire in past years has provided the district with zip code data of tube renters. She said that because the district does not have rentals this year, the district will have less data. The data from the concessionaire last year showed that 1:5 of the 30,000 tubes rented was a local rental. Many visitors were from outside of Central Oregon, but still from Oregon.

The board asked about new challenges that the park stewards are facing in parks. Ms. Healy responded that the district has seven park stewards and 85 parks to patrol. Stewards are working

hard to keep up a presence and doing their best to be positive and educate patrons. They are dealing with people that are not modeling safe behaviors and people that are upset about it. Jeff Hagler, Park Stewardship Manager, participates in weekly calls with other agencies to talk about enforcement. The focus of the calls has been education and voluntary compliance. Staff continues to work with bend patrol and the police force, but enforcement is very challenging.

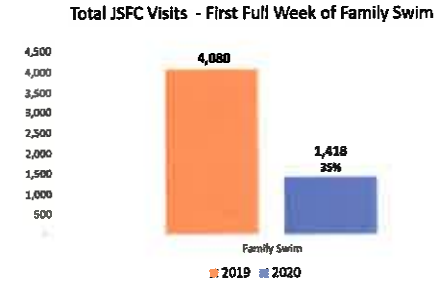
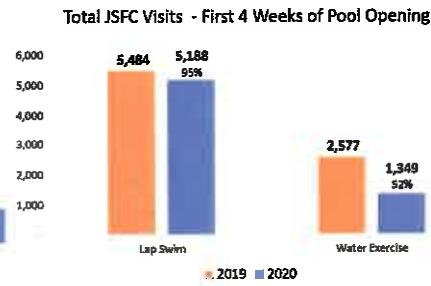
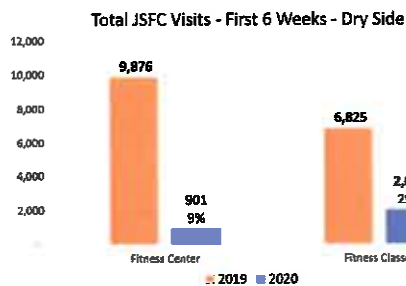
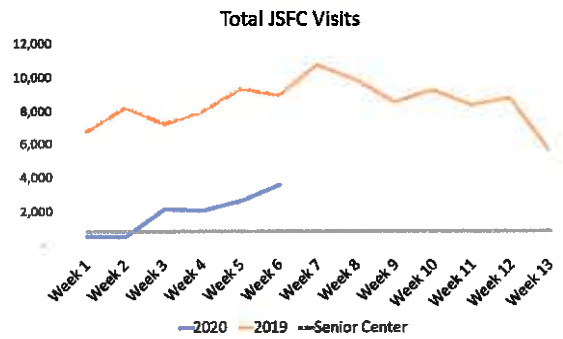
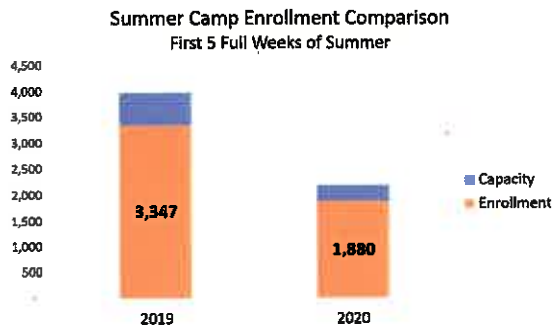
The board asked about adding stewards, handing out masks at the take-out point and signage that discourages floating the river. Ms. Healy said the stewards are spending more time along the river corridor, staff has considered a chute system at the beach that discourages hanging out on the beaches and would guide people as they enter and exit the river. The challenge with this is staff does not want to make it too hard to get in the river and send people to other areas to create their own access points.

Executive Director Horton said adding more park stewards may not be enough, he would like to see some presence from the Bend Police Department. Eric King, City Manager, has suggested that Community Resource Officers could be used to help at the river. Executive Director Horton said the solution would be to reduce the number of people using the river and no one knows how to effectively do that. He said there is a need to have more community efforts to control the behaviors on the river and shores. Executive Director Horton said that other cities are having the same type of issues. For the river, in a normal year, when school starts use drops drastically. Could be different this year with depending on the school schedule. The drop will still likely be enough to alleviate the concern.

Executive Director Horton said he wanted to speak about the rudimentary boat access at Columbia Park. The site has degraded over time and has become a safety hazard. Staff asked the city for permission to fence the area off until the district can decide how to fix it. Illegal bridge jumpers have used the access point to exit the river. He said the fencing will likely go up at the end of the week and because bridge jumping will be more difficult, may help curb some of the gathering in that area of the park.

Mr. Mercer shared some slides that show Juniper use this year compared to last year. He explained the slides show the impact to the district with limited capacity compared to attendance to facilities last year. He said late cancellations is affecting the camp attendance, but parents are reporting that kids are having fun and staff is working hard to maintain the guidelines.

Mr. Mercer spoke about the total visits to Juniper, he added that as new options open, attendance is increasing. The dry side visits to Juniper are low and the pool visits are more popular, particularly lap swim. He said that there is a trend across the nation that is showing that people are reluctant to attend group fitness classes during the pandemic. The warm weather offers more options for people to exercise outside of a gym. Some fitness classes at Juniper have already been eliminated due to low enrollment. Mr. Mercer said modified swim lessons will begin soon, parents will be required to attend and be in the water with their student. This is the last activity that is intended to be added this summer.



Mr. Mercer said that staff is planning ahead for fall under the following assumptions:

- Community is operating under current restrictions and guidelines.
- School will be in session with elementary schools operating 5 days a week.
- The District will have access to school facilities.

Mr. Mercer said that staff is recommending that the timeline for renovating the indoor pool at Juniper and opening Larkspur Community Center be adjusted to late 2020 or early 2021. The following reasons were considered in making this recommendation:

- COVID-19 pandemic is not at the end and facilities are operating under a lot of restrictions.
- Facilities are experiencing a decrease in demand for the services and there is a lot of capacity available at Juniper.
- The closure and renovation of the indoor pool at Juniper should coincide with the opening of Larkspur in order to offer services to the public and maintain pool capacity during the Juniper pool closure.
- The additional time may allow for redesign to the pool renovation and bring costs closer to the budgeted costs.
- Reduces operating costs to the district until full programming can resume.
- Larkspur Community Center was designed with older population in mind and would like to delay opening until this population feels more comfortable using the facility.

Mr. Mercer said it is important to keep the district financially stable. The revenue generated from the services being offered are not enough to cover the costs. Providing services this summer will cost more than what was budgeted and operating both facilities in the fall for three months would cost the district an additional \$400,000. He said there is a contingency fund for money needed outside of the budget, but staff wants to be careful that it is not spent in the first few months since the end of

the pandemic is unknown. He pointed out that the community can still be served very well with the additional capacity available at Juniper.

The board asked for an update on fall team sports. Mr. Mercer said that staff is working with the school district to operate Kids, Inc. and the school district would like it to operate at full capacity. The district can offer no contact sports; staff is planning to run fall soccer. Flag football is still being worked out and it is unknown if basketball programs will be offered in the winter. The Timbers soccer club will be operating under the same recreational sport guidelines as the district. Mr. Mercer said that a lot of the district sports are played in conjunction with the school district, so if schools are not open, the district will not likely operate those programs.

CONSENT AGENDA

1. Minutes – 07/07/2020

Director Mendez made a motion to approve the consent agenda with corrections. Director Schoen seconded. The motion passed unanimously, 5-0.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- Executive Director Horton said the only agenda item on the August 4 agenda will not be ready and recommended canceling the next board meeting. The board agreed to cancel the meeting.
- Director Kropf asked if Executive Director Horton anticipated that mask enforcement would be discussed at the shared governance meeting tomorrow. Executive Director Horton replied that he did not anticipate that it would be discussed until after the city council addresses it at the special call meeting on Thursday morning.

PROJECT REPORT

BOARD MEETINGS CALENDAR REVIEW

GOOD OF THE ORDER

- Director Kropf would like staff to continue to think about potential options and solutions for the river. He added that he had been in contact with a Warm Springs archeologist that may work with the district on signs that acknowledge the indigenous people that lived in the areas of the district parks.
- Director Schoen said she would like to discuss holding board meetings in person. She said that there has been some criticism of school boards that are meeting virtually and plan to open schools in the fall. She added that she thinks the board does better work when everyone is in the same room. The board discussed the idea and agreed that in person meetings are better, but expressed reservations about attending in person due to being in an enclosed space for an extended period of time. The board decided that meeting virtually was still effective and the best way to meet until the guidelines are lifted.
- Director Méndez said he liked the idea of handing out masks to river users and eliminating excuses for not wearing them. He said handing out masks helps normalizing the behavior.
- Director Hovekamp thanked the board for their confidence in him and electing him as the chair. He commented that the board made a good selection on choosing Director Méndez as

vice chair. Director Hovekamp commented that he is proud of the district's ability to be reasonable with communications and follow the guidelines in a non-partisan and rational manner.

ADJOURN: 8:20 pm



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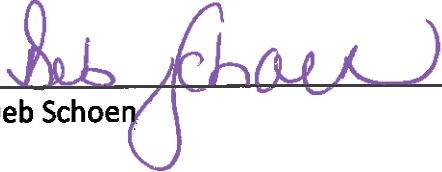


Nathan Hovekamp, Chair



Ariel Méndez, Vice-Chair

Jason Kropf



Deb Schoen



Ted Schoenborn