



## Board of Directors

November 5, 2021

District Office Building | 799 SW Columbia | Bend, Oregon



**A video of the entire board meeting can be viewed on the website:**

<https://www.bendparksandrec.org/about/board-meeting-videos/>

### **BOARD PRESENT**

Ariel Méndez

Deb Schoen

Jason Kropf

Nathan Hovekamp

Zavier Borja

### **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

Rachel Colton, Park Planner

Sasha Sulia, Superintendent of Park Operations

Mike Duarte, Park Services Manager

Jason Powell, Construction Manager

### **5:30 p.m. MEETING CONVENED**

### **VISITORS**

None

### **WORK SESSION**

1. Park Services Report – Trail counters: *Sasha Sulia and Robin Thompson*

Mr. Thompson explained that there are 26 camera counters installed in various places. He explained the installation of the counters and the locations. He said the cameras are beneficial to:

- Identify trail use patterns, including recreation vs. commuter
- Maintenance
- Internal planning
- Share data with city and other organizations

He shared that he installed some cameras to count the river floaters, placing cameras in a couple of areas to get more accurate counts. He reviewed the Whitewater Park 2021 data and explained the changes in use of from 2020:

Totals		Change from 2020
All Trail Counters	267,841	+30%
<small>Memorial Day – Labor Day</small>		
June	67,093	+110%
July	122,560	+20%
August	71,871	+17%

He attributed the increase in June to higher temperatures in 2021 and the decline in August to wildfire smoke and lower temperatures. Peak days on the river were July 3 and 4 with 12,586 total floaters counted. He said trail use overall has increased 17% since the pandemic began and peaked in summer of 2020.

## 2. Service Level Updates – Matt Mercer

Mr. Mercer explained the ongoing staffing challenges in Kids INC, the resources that are being used to recruit and retain staff and said the focus is on maintaining the size of the program. He said staff has communicated with waitlisted families that it is unlikely that the program will be able to expand to let waiting families on the program due to staffing.

Mr. Mercer said converting part-time positions to full-time has gone very well. Facilities are still understaffed especially in the daytime hours. With a few more staff members, he is hopeful that the level of service can be restored in the facilities.

Mr. Mercer gave an update on sports, stating that referees and gym attendants are harder to find. Volunteer coaches have stepped up and most positions are filled and staff will rotate and check in on sites without gym attendants.

The ARPA fund requests have not been considered at the county commissioner level, he said the county does not see the district request as a viable use of the ARPA funds. The city may consider granting the district ARPA funds for childcare.

## CONSENT AGENDA

1. Minutes: 10/05/2021
2. Adopt River Habitat Restoration and Access Plan
3. Codify Personnel Policies

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

**BUSINESS SESSION**

**1. Ratify Full-Time Position for Human Resources – Theresa Albert**

Ms. Albert explained that the district has been challenged with hiring staff, many things have been tried and the volume of work has been high. By adding an additional staff member to Human Resources, she said this will allow the department to work more efficiently and respond to candidates quicker.

***Director Hovekamp made a motion to ratify the full-time Human Resources Specialist position. Director Schoen seconded. The motion passed unanimously, 5-0.***

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT**

Executive Director Horton announced that the Administrative Services Director, Kristin Donald, will begin December 8, there is a promising candidate for finance manager and the district is bringing aboard a new natural resources manager the last week of November. He said attended the Veterans Village open house yesterday and encouraged the board to attend the second open house next week. The Haul Road Trail is done, this is a 13-mile trail from the Whitewater Park to the Forest Service Visitors Center.

**PROJECT REPORT – In Board Packet**

**BOARD MEETINGS CALENDAR REVIEW**

**GOOD OF THE ORDER**

- Director Borja: Thanked staff for being at the Latino Community Association grand opening. He said some encouraging words directed at staff to persevere through the challenges and remarked that he appreciates the work they do. He congratulated the staff on the river habitat restoration plan and asked about meeting in person for board meetings.
- Director Hovekamp complimented the board leadership for meetings and agenda setting.
- Director Schoen said she met with Art in Public Places this week. Brooks Resources has allocated \$130,000 for an art piece in Alpenglow Park. Three finalists were chosen to be considered for the art piece. She said each artist will bring back a model in January to be selected by the committee. Director Schoen invited all to attend a free event on November 8 to hear speaker Charles Marohn speak about his book and organization “Strong Towns”.
- Director Kropf expressed appreciation for staff and thought the trail counter presentation was interesting especially the high use of parks and trails during COVID. Encouraged the board and staff to attend the next Veterans Village open house next week.
- Director Méndez commented about public input and asked if the board would like to consider allocating time in a board meeting to respond to respond comments in a public meeting. Visited the completed part of Coyner Trail that connects to Bear Creek School and praised the improvement. HE mentioned that California is moving toward a ban on gas powered lawn mowers and leaf blowers and suggested that the park district explore this idea as staff continues to make progress with using electric equipment.

**ADJOURN 7:21 pm**




Prepared by,

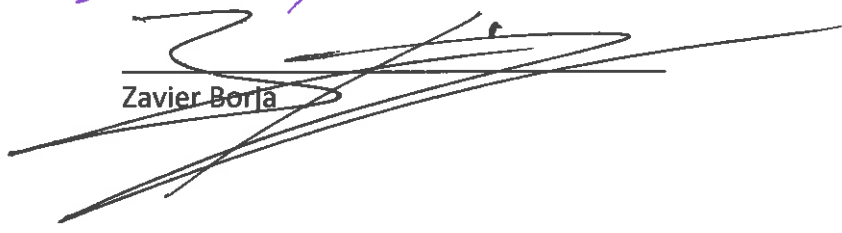
Sheila Reed  
Executive Assistant

  
Ariel Méndez, Chair

  
Deb Schoen, Vice-Chair

  
Jason Kropf

  
Nathan Hovekamp

  
Zavier Borja