



Board of Directors

June 15, 2021

District Office Building | 799 SW Columbia | Bend, Oregon

◆ ◆ ◆ ◆ ◆ ◆ ◆ ◆ ◆ ◆ ◆
To support Governor Brown's recommendation for social distancing, the Board of Directors conducted the regular board meeting by video.

The board meeting can be viewed on the website:

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

BOARD PRESENT

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

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
Kim Johnson, Community Engagement Supervisor

LEGAL

Paul Taylor, LBJ Lawyers

5:30 p.m. MEETING CONVENED

VISITORS

None

WORK SESSION

1. Deschutes County Historical Society – *Kelly Cannon-Miller, Kim Johnson and Julie Brown*

Ms. Brown said that the Hollinshead home project was initially presented to the board a year ago. She gave a brief history of the project and spoke about the relationship with the Rosengarth family that owned the house. The agreement on the renovation states that the district will maintain the collection as a museum. Homestead house tours have been hosted by the Rosengarth family with support of volunteers. She said after many years of operating the home, staff recognized the need to preserve the collection and share the historic importance of agriculture and irrigation. This project

allows for the continuation of storytelling into the future. The district partnered with the Deschutes Historical Society as experts on local history, preservation and historic interpretation. The scope was to preserve, transfer and store items, install interpretive panels and create a plan for future public access, management of tour opportunities and volunteer support. The Oregon Heritage Commission grant provided matching funding to support this phase of the project. Total project costs came in just under \$12,000. The grant covered about half of the costs. Two-hundred hours of time were logged between the district staff, historical society staff and volunteers,

Ms. Cannon-Miller said this project was really important to the historical society. The project was very personal to the Rosengarth family. She showed slides of the homestead house project, and explained that the goal was to attach personal stories to the things in the home and she shared some of the stories. The new interpretive panels acknowledge the indigenous families and speak to the history of sharecropping.

Ms. Johnson spoke about the next steps to host an open house in the fall/winter of 2021, With the support of the historical society, staff will continue development of a plan for managing tour opportunities and volunteer support, define scope of preservation and reinterpretation for the tack shed and apply for further grants to fund the tack shed work and interpretive panels for Hollingshead Barn.

The board commended the work on the project and the low cost.

2. Recreation Update – *Matt Mercer*

Mr. Mercer said he has three things to discuss this evening. Guidance, Kids Inc and OCF grant that was received. He said the state is getting close to the state goal of 70% vaccination, at 68% last night and expecting to reach the goal by Monday. The guidance will be lifted at 70% and the district will no longer have to limit capacity, require masks or proof of vaccinations. He said he is expecting that some limited restrictions will remain in place for kids camps and activities. Facilities will resume “drop in” use next week and will discontinue with the reservation system. On June 21, the new fee system will be introduced. This is a uniform fee will be honored at both Juniper Swim and Fitness Center and Larkspur Center. The senior center activity restrictions have been lifted and staff is working to bring these programs back to the Senior Center. There are FAQs online that explain what is happening. Camps begin next week; outdoor activities are planned as normal with some cohorts in place and some distancing. Staffing is still a challenge and has an impact on the number of kids that can be served.

Mr. Mercer next gave an update on Kids INC. He said the initial application period is completed, still taking applications, but not for the first lottery. Demand is high with about 1400 applications, with 1000 spots available. He added that about 18% of participants will apply for scholarships. Patrons will be notified next week of status. He said staff did not get a lot negative feedback about the lottery system and commented again that staffing is the biggest challenge for childcare programs.

Mr. Mercer said the district has received an Oregon Community Foundation grant for K-12 summer learning in the amount of \$150,000. He commended Sue Boettner and Michael Egging for their work

in applying for the grant. The purpose of the grant is to reach underserved youth that are at risk of falling further behind due to COVID. This will add support of scholarships to lower income families. With this funding the district will increase the scholarship assistance for every level of support up to 90%. The grant will fully fund Discover the Outdoors program, expanding outreach to lower income communities, and offer mobile and on the spot registration for programs to improve access.

Executive Director Horton spoke about the difficulty with hiring. He said that staff has hosted two job fairs that have resulted in hiring 38 people. The district is still struggling with hiring landscaping and custodial staff, but this is not unique to the district. Some of the positions are hard to hire due to the part-time positions. He announced that all offices will be open to the public on Monday.

3. In-person Board Meetings – *Don Horton*

Executive Director Horton said we are beginning to discuss in-person meetings and meeting the obligations of a new law that is expected to be signed in the legislature. The first meeting we would likely happen in August.

Ms. Reed explained that staff is working with OSU Cascades to hire an assistant producer to film and run the Zoom meeting for in-person meetings. This will allow the public to watch the meeting as it is happening and join virtually to make public comment. There will be a practice meeting prior to the first hybrid meeting.

CONSENT AGENDA

1. Minutes: 06/01/2021

Director Méndez said he would like to make a correction to the minutes in the good of the order. He clarified that his comments about the no shared space for the separated bike lanes is intended to be no shared space for through traffic. The space will be shared, but not with motor vehicles.

Director Méndez made a motion to approve the consent agenda with the minor amendment that I previously offered. Director Kropf seconded. The motion passed unanimously, 5-0.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Executive Director Horton reminded the board of the planned celebration for Director Schoenborn's retirement from the board.

CALENDAR

GOOD OF THE ORDER

Director Kropf commented about his daughter's swim lessons at Larkspur Center, he said it is a nice facility and he has enjoyed watching people enjoying the pools.

Director Méndez commented on the sexual assault that happened at Juniper Park. He said he appreciates the action the district is taking to prevent further problems. He suggested that further staff training may be necessary, but acknowledged that he thought staff did everything right. He also mentioned the importance of having resources available in the wake of a traumatic experience and remarked that mental health issues that can follow this type of issue. Executive Director Horton responded that the district does provide this type of training which may be the reason that staff responded well to this event. Staff is also required to take mandatory training on how to respond to

any kind of observed abuse in children and adults. In addition, he explained that the district has an employee assistance program to provided mental health assistance for staff that may need it. Director Schoen added that she wanted to commend Mr. Mercer for his staffing model of always having a manager on duty for cases like this. She mentioned that she had an issue that was brought to her by a community member and said she appreciated the staff response. Director Schoenborn said it has been an honor to work with everyone and it has been fun. He said parks and recreation is supposed to be fun and this has been one of the more rewarding things he has done.

ADJOURN 7:03 pm

Prepared by,
Sheila Reed
Executive Assistant

Nathan Hovekamp, Chair

Ariel Méndez, Vice-Chair



Jason Kropf



Deb Schoen

Ted Schoenborn