



Board of Directors

March 1, 2022

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

BOARD ABSENT

Zavier Borja

STAFF PRESENT

Don Horton, Executive Director
Michelle Healy, Deputy Executive Director
Julie Brown, Manager of Communications and Community Relations
Kristin Donald, Administrative Services Director
Matt Mercer, Director of Recreation
Sheila Reed, Executive Assistant
Brian Hudspeth, Development Manager
Bronwen Mastro, Landscape Architect

5:30 p.m. MEETING CONVENED

VISITORS

None

WORK SESSION

1. Tax Exemption programs – *Lynne McConnell, Amy Fraley and Allison Platt, city of Bend*

Council Perkins made opening comments about the commitment the city has for creating affordable housing and thanked the board for their partnership. Ms. McConnell reviewed the agenda and spoke about Bend AMI and housing affordability.

Ms. Fraley spoke about the non-profit tax exemption program requirements. She said it is adopted by ordinance and explained exemption length, lease and ownership options, location, limitation and

approval of the exemption. She noted that Central Oregon Veterans Outreach, Kor Community Land Trust and Habitat for Humanity as examples of non-profit tax exemption recipients.

Ms. McConnell explained the Middle-Income Tax exemption as a new program and reviewed the program requirements. Ms. Platt spoke about the multiple unit property tax exemption, reviewed the public benefit requirements, comments and questions from the taxing districts. She reviewed the schedule and said the city council will potentially adopt priority programs in May.

2. Recreation Update – *Matt Mercer*

Mr. Mercer gave an update on additional hours that have been opened at Larkspur Community Center to better serve the community. He explained that some closures are still necessary due to short supply in staff. He said that staff has been tracking attendance and responding to the demand in the facilities.

Mr. Mercer said the families in the Kids, INC program have been asked to respond to a survey and he will update the board when the information is available. He spoke about the lifting of the mask mandates and said staff is recommending that the district continue to follow the state guidance. He said that people should choose what is comfortable for them. He added the high air quality conditions will be maintained in the facilities and he is looking at additional enhanced air quality systems.

Mr. Mercer explained an internship partnership with high school aged students working in Kids, INC. He said students can work 8-20 hours weekly, they are paid and receive academic credit as well. The program includes leadership training and mentorship support. An additional partnership with COCC and OSU Cascades offers a scholarship program. The district will pay students and fund up to \$5250 annually for students with 8 credits and in good standing that are working for Kids, INC. A commitment of 20 hours a week of work is required to qualify for the scholarship. He said he will bring this plan back to the board for approval.

CONSENT AGENDA

1. Minutes: 02/15/2022

Director Schoen made a motion to approve the consent agenda as presented. Director Kropf seconded. The motion passed unanimously, 3-0. Director Hovekamp abstained from the vote because he did not attend this meeting.

BUSINESS SESSION

1. Award Sawyer Park Asset Improvement Project design contract – *Bronwen Mastro*

Ms. Mastro reviewed how the request for proposal (RFP) for Sawyer Park was written to encompass more of the project than parking. She reported that two proposals were received and the submission

from Greenworks was selected by staff. The proposal had multimodal access, safety measures and a more comprehensive approach for the park project. She mentioned the grant funding that is already in the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) for the project and commented that there is potential for a larger grant on this project.

Director Kropf made a motion to authorize the executive director to award a professional services contract for Sawyer Park Asset Replacement to GreenWorks P.C. with a cost not to exceed \$181,600.65, and to approve an additional 10% contingency of \$18,160, for a total design budget not to exceed \$199,760.65. Director Hovekamp seconded. The motion passed unanimously, 4-0.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT

Executive Director Horton reminded the board that staff is planning to return to in-person meetings on April 5. He mentioned the link to watch the meeting tonight experienced technical difficulties and may have prevented patrons from participating in the meeting.

PROJECT REPORT

BOARD MEETINGS CALENDAR REVIEW

GOOD OF THE ORDER

- Director Hovekamp said he is committed to looking at all the options the city is proposing. He said he sometimes feels that he is painted into a corner of that may appear callous with affordable housing. He shared his concerns of fairness to existing community members that have paid into the system to give tax breaks to developers that may result in a subsidy for builders that are already profiting.
- Director Schoen shared the concerns expressed by Director Hovekamp. She complimented the city on the presentation and answering the board’s questions.
- Director Kropf said if the market decides the housing built, then the needs will not be met for the entire community. He shared his concerns for the critical junction that Bend is in and said he is keeping an open mind.
- Director Méndez asked if the city’s plans will accomplish the end goal and said he would like to see measures taken to be effective. He shared this link to the CDC https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/science/community-levels.html?CDC_AA_refVal=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.cdc.gov%2Fcoronavirus%2F2019-ncov%2Fmore%2Faboutcovidcountycheck%2Findex.html and explained that the guidelines are encouraging local areas to make their own decisions. He reiterated his desire to see a stronger recommendation from the district.

ADJOURN 8:03 pm



Prepared by,

Sheila Reed
Executive Assistant



Ariel Méndez, Chair



Jason Kropf

Zavier Borja



Deb Schoen, Vice-Chair



Nathan Hovekamp