

John Curtis: Mr. Curtis said he supports the river access at Columbia Park.

Adam Mendel: Mr. Mendel gave his support for river access at Columbia Park and stated that taking away the access will not prevent kids from bridge jumping and overall it would be safer to have another access point.

Jan Baker: Ms. Baker stated that this area is the narrowest part of the river with homes nearby. She encouraged the board to think about the neighborhood and supports revegetation. She shared that the noise level is high on the river.

Lev Stryker: Mr. Stryker said the river access was a big part of his family's experience in the park. He supports a safe and clear access point.

Ulla Lundgren: Ms. Lundgren said the waterways belong to the public and supports the river access in the park. She said more than 75% voted in favor of access and is disappointed to see that the district is recommending no access.

WORK SESSION

1. Bend Fire Bond –*Todd Riley and Betsy Tucker*

Chief Riley gave the history of past Fire Department levies that have been passed in the service district; he said the last levy no longer supports all the growth in Bend and the call volume has outpaced the growth in Bend. He showed a map that outlines the service areas including the vast ambulance service area. He shared the services that the Fire Department provides to the community and explained that staffing fire stations and ambulance staff is at stake if this levy is not passed. He said he is here tonight to educate the community on why this levy is necessary.

2. Communications Update –*Julie Brown and Colleen McNally*

Ms. Brown introduced the Community Relations team and shared what the team does for the district. She said there are two segments of the work, community relations and marketing.

Ms. McNally shared the Play for Life branding statement and showed some examples of brand materials. Ms. Brown shared the multiple channels that are used to inform the community including websites, social media, newsletters and paid advertising.

Ms. McNally explained the communications for recreation programs and facilities and how the website is used. She said the most popular website pages are the recreational facilities, Playbook, job openings and Bend Whitewater Park and river activities. She said the website launched in 2018, has multiple contributors and is over 300 pages and mentioned plans for an audit with focus groups to enhance user experience and web accessibility improvements.

Ms. Brown spoke about the social media accounts for the district, including 17 accounts, with an average of 101 posts, direct messages and replies per week, Spanish language Facebook and Instagram pages.

Ms. McNally said recruiting became a priority for finding staff over the last couple of years. Many things were tried to recruit new and needed staff including new marketing efforts, job opportunities webpage and specific landing webpages to support priority positions in Recreation, Park Services and Aquatics.

Ms. Brown reviewed the latest campaign for dogs in parks and influencing good behavior. The campaign includes a submitted Bulletin article, Playbook, enforcement events, media relations, partner relations, social media, giveaway items and advertising.

Ms. McNally reviewed what is next: a printed Playbook, river season communications, enhancing the customer experience, trails experiences, new parks and trails, and recreation support will continue.

3. Stewardship Update – *Jeff Hagler*

Mr. Hagler reviewed the pyramid of park safety, explaining that the stewards are the largest part of the pyramid, with help from Bend Patrol to a lesser extent and finally the police when needed. The park stewardship division is made up on one manager, two full-time stewards and two seasonal stewards.

Ms. O’Hagan explained the park stewardship goals:

- Education for voluntary compliance
- Foster a sense of safety for patrons
- Reduce illegal activity
- Create a positive presence in parks
- Build positive relationships

She said education is the first line of defense for minor rule violations using outreach techniques.

Mr. Hagler spoke about the enforcement of district rules for higher level rule violations and he explained the options: verbal warning, written warning, exclusion and police trespass. He said incidents are tracked in a database.

Ms. O’Hagan said other duties of the park stewards include: facility support, garbage cleanup, graffiti removal, sharps disposal, animal rescue, tour guide, outreach, lost and found, and business use in the parks.

Mr. Hagler said handing out resources and rewarding people for following the rules with dog bones and logo items is one of the best parts of the job.

Ms. O’Hagan said the stewards participate in trauma and informed care and empathy driven trainings. They offer community resource information for the houseless community, and attend local meetings with groups that serve them.

Mr. Hagler reviewed the latest dogs on leash campaign, there will be focused patrols and the use of e-bikes to cover more ground. He added that community use of e-bikes have escalated complaints about unsafe use. The stewards have implemented a “share the trails” campaign with new A-frame signs, slow down signs and promotional BPRD logo bike bells as giveaways.

Mr. Hagler spoke about the private security hired by the district. He said Trident Professional Security has day patrol officers working 24 to 40 hours a week depending on the season and Bend Patrol Services are the assigned night patrol officers working every day and are also available for 24 hour on-call service and dispatch service. He explained the role of private security is to patrol all properties, lock/unlock all gates, enforce minor and higher level rule violations. The role of police and sheriff departments are utilized for the highest level of offenses including criminal and escalated activities. Mr. Hagler shared the tracker reports, noting that graffiti and vandalism are the most frequent incidents encountered. He added that park volunteers are also helpful and provide an additional 981 hours annually. A park volunteer for Shevlin Park shared her positive experience in the volunteer program. Mr. Hagler shared that incidents on non-compliance have been on the rise. Executive Director Horton shared some photos of graffiti and destruction in Ponderosa Park that happened over the weekend.

CONSENT AGENDA

1. Minutes: 2/21/2023
2. Resolution No. 2023-02 to apply for LGGP grant for Sawyer Park

Director Borja made a motion to approve the consent agenda. Director Barram seconded. The motion was approved unanimously, 4-0.

BUSINESS SESSION

1. Millers, McKay and Columbia Parks project update and initial concept approval – *Ian Isaacson*

Mr. Isaacson said this project is just a piece of the river restoration project. He reviewed the parks in the project. He explained the criteria of the staff recommendations for each location and reviewed each project and staff recommendations.

The board asked questions about the river access in Columbia Park, staff explained that neighborhood parks do not get certain amenities to avoid drawing more of the public to them. This is due to lack of parking and the disruption that can be detrimental to the surrounding neighborhood.

Mr. Isaacson showed the two concepts for Miller's Landing Park and asked the board for their feedback based on the pros and cons of the concepts. Executive Director Horton discussed some of the features of the concepts with the board and pointed out the proximity to the neighborhood for the consideration of access. The board asked to hear further visitor comments from the audience.

Julia Cardwell: Ms. Cardwell said she lives in the area and uses Columbia Park daily with her family. She supports river access at Columbia. She added that crowds are already a reality and does not feel that the access will cause any more of a burden.

Lauren Mark: Ms. Mark said she is an ecologist and shared her support for river access to provide kids with a connection to nature. She stated that the ecological benefit of closing the access is quite small and shouldn't come at the expense of the neighbors.

Desiree Morris: Ms. Morris advocated for the river access. She spoke about the safety benefits for people to exit the river sooner if needed.

Karen Harding: Ms. Harding said there is not enough space for people to recreate and the project funding for this should come from the tax burden on the citizens.

Director Hovekamp thanked Mr. Isaacson for the opportunity to weigh in on the concept and commented that they are glad further public input planned. He favors both access points at Miller's Landing and an access point at Columbia Park. Director Schoen agreed with Director Hovekamp's comments. Director Borja shared his agreement. Director Barram said the price increase on every design is a challenge, she said if there is an option to do good work at a lower price, then she feels that is what they should do. She said she agrees with staff recommendation on McKay Park, prefers Miller's Landing concept one on both access points, and after public comment prefers a scaled back concept two at Columbia Park.

Executive Director Horton appreciated the comments about cost and pointed out that none of the projects have funding at this point and added this will be a long process. Mr. Isaacson said his preference is all access points will be open to all of the public and said at Columbia other considerations will need to be made for the access point.

Director Hovekamp made a motion to approve the staff recommendations for the development of preferred conceptual designs (concept 2) at McKay Park and Miller's Landing Park – Access Point #1, to approve the conceptual design providing for developed river access and improvements (concept 2) at Miller's Landing Park Access Point 2 and to move forward with providing developed river access improvement (concept 2) at Columbia Park.

Executive Director Horton and Director Barram requested the motion be revised to vote on each project individually. Director Hovekamp withdrew the motion.

Director Hovekamp made a motion to approve the staff recommendations for the development of preferred conceptual designs (concept two) at McKay Park. Director Borja seconded. The motion was approved unanimously, 4-0.

Director Hovekamp made a motion to approve the staff recommendations for the development of the preferred conceptual designs (concept 2) at Miller's Landing Park Access Point 1. Director Schoen seconded. Directors Schoen and Hovekamp voted in favor, Directors Barram and Borja opposed. The motion failed, 2-2.

Director Hovekamp made a motion to approve the conceptual design of providing a developed river access improvement at Miller's Landing Park (concept 2) Access Point 2. Director Borja seconded. Directors Schoen, Borja and Hovekamp voted in favor, Director Barram opposed. The motion passed, 3-1.

Director Hovekamp made a motion to direct staff to move forward with providing developed river access improvement (concept two) at Columbia Park. Director Borja seconded. The motion was approved unanimously, 4-0.

Executive Director Horton asked for the opportunity to bring a new concept for Miller's Landing Park access point 1 back to the board at a later date.

Director Hovekamp made a motion to approve the development of river access improvements at Miller's Landing Park access point 1, consistent with concept 2, allowing staff to continue the process of design evaluation. Director Borja seconded. The motion was approved unanimously, 4-0.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Executive Director Horton said there continues to be an escalation of graffiti in parks. He said summer registration has gone very well with one more day to go. He shared the registration numbers continue to escalate year over year and summer registrations are up over last year. He gave an update on the improvements at the Whitewater Park. He said the no leash rule is still in place, and helmets and pdfs will be available again this summer and a new higher resolution webcam is planned for installation. He said staff is meeting with the fire department to ensure proper training and protocols and signs in the park have been reviewed.

PROJECT REPORT

BOARD MEETINGS CALENDAR

GOOD OF THE ORDER

- Director Barram thanked the staff for all their work and entertaining her questions and comments.
- Director Borja thanked community members for showing up and thanked staff for their efforts.
- Director Hovekamp said it was a good discussion tonight and thanked staff for their reports.

- Director Schoen thanked Director Hovekamp for his motions and commented about the increase of program registration. She thanked staff for their reports and said she was heartened to see the amount of public comment and attendance at the meeting tonight.

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ADJOURN 9:17 pm




Prepared by,

Sheila Reed
Executive Assistant



Deb Schoen, Chair



Donna Owens

Nathan Hovekamp, Vice-Chair

Zavier Borja



Jodie Barram