



## Board of Directors

March 5, 2024

District Office Building | 799 SW Columbia | Bend, Oregon



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

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

### **BOARD PRESENT**

Nathan Hovekamp

Donna Owens

Deb Schoen

Jodie Barram

### **BOARD ABSENT**

Zavier Borja

### **STAFF PRESENT**

Don Horton, Executive Director

Michelle Healy, Deputy Executive Director

Matt Mercer, Director of Recreation

Kristin Toney, Administrative Services Director

Julie Brown, Manager of Communications and Community Relations

Sheila Reed, Assistant to the Executive Director

Brian Hudspeth, Development Manager

Henry Stroud, Planner

Sara Anselment, Planner

### **VISITORS**

**Chip Conrad:** Mr. Conrad said he loves the surf wave at the Whitewater Park and he is part of a group piloting a high school surf team at Summit High School. They are helping with beach clean-up and he informed the board that the kids are excited to do more to help.

**Robbie Silverman:** Ms. Silverman advocated for the park district to address the MUPTE requirement for open space. She said the bar has been set too low for the public benefit. She said there is not enough public space in the new developments because they do not go beyond the ten percent requirement.

**Abigail Schneider:** Ms. Schneider said she uses park facilities daily and advocated for the South UGB bridge.

**Maitreya Sriram:** Mr. Sriram said he supports the South UGB bridge to ease traffic and emissions. He said there are two kinds of people in Bend, some that can afford the money and the time to recreate and enjoy the area and those who cannot. He said that people that have a harder time should not be excluded from access.

Ms. Anselment reviewed next steps for follow up this summer which includes a draft comprehensive plan update, adoption of the comprehensive plan and revision of the SDC project list.

### **CONSENT**

1. Minutes: 01/16/2024
2. Resolution No. 2024-02 Local Government Grant Program – Miller’s Landing Access and Restoration Project
3. Board Duties and Responsibilities Policy Manual

***Director Owens made a motion to approve the consent agenda. Director Schoen seconded. The motion was approved unanimously, 4-0.***

### **BUSINESS SESSION**

1. Resolution No. 2024-03 Establishing Criteria and a Process for Considering Requests for Tax Exemptions and Fee Waivers – *Michelle Healy*

Ms. Healy explained a couple of changes to the resolution based on comments from the city council and city staff. She said the resolution does not prohibit the board from granting exemptions, and it can be modified as needed in the future. The board discussed their support for the resolution and thanked the city council and staff for their contributions. The resolution was discussed as a tool for the board to use when granting exemptions to be more transparent and removes some of the emotions tied to decisions.

***Director Schoen made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2024-03 establishing criteria for the consideration of requests for tax exemptions or fee waivers. I move to adopt Resolution No. 2024-03 establishing criteria for the consideration of requests for tax exemptions or fee waivers. Director Owens seconded. The motion was approved unanimously, 4-0.***

2. City of Bend Non-Profit Property Tax Exemption Program – Central Oregon Veteran and Community Outreach (COVO) – *Michelle Healy*

Ms. Healy gave the history of the project and explained the different tax exemption programs that have been presented to the board. She said the COVO project is part of the non-profit program and is intended to serve low income people. She explained that this program is not new, but is new to the city of Bend. It requires 51% of the taxing agencies to approve the tax exemption and is approved on an annual basis by the city of Bend. She added that there is a short window for approval dictated by the state, and the county has already approved the application.

Ms. Healy explained that COVO has applied for a tax exemption for eight properties. The tax exemption from the district is about \$3300 annually and goes up with increases every year. She said she used resolution 2024-03 as a tool to discuss the exemption stating the financial impact is low, the project is

- Director Barram said she appreciates the community that we serve. She appreciates hearing from the community and the staff responses. She said the recreation staff is doing a stellar job in responding to the noise concerns of the Pavilion.
- Director Hovekamp updated the board on the executive director search, he said it is almost complete with an announcement coming soon. He also announced that Director Borja has decided to resign and will make remarks at the next meeting. Staff will move ahead in a recruitment process to fill the vacancy.

**ADJOURN 8:35pm**



Prepared by,

Sheila Reed  
Assistant to the Executive Director

  
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Nathan Hovekamp, Chair

  
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Jodie Barram, Vice-Chair

  
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Donna Owens

  
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Zavier Borja

  
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Deb Schoen