**Board of Directors**

July 1, 2025

**District Office Building | 799 SW Columbia | Bend, Oregon**

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**BOARD PRESENT**

Nathan Hovekamp

Deb Schoen

Cary Schneider

Donna Owens

Jodie Schiffman

**Summary of the July 1 board of directors meeting**

The board of directors heard from Visit Bend regarding its Economic Review, swore in board members, elected board member positions, approved Park Rules Ordinance No. 14 and Resolution No. 2025-12, and approved the Executive Director’s Evaluation. A [video recording](https://www.bendparksandrec.org/about/board-meeting-videos/) is available.

**Visit Bend Economic Reports Review**

The Board received a presentation on the Visit Bend Economic Report from representatives of Visit Bend and ECO Northwest. The presentation covered the use of Transient Room Tax (TRT) funds allocated to Visit Bend through a contract with the City of Bend. Key areas of focus included the organization's emphasis on people, economy, and place, along with community concerns about over-tourism, the economic impact of tourism, and the implementation of a destination stewardship program. Long-term priorities were also discussed.

The report highlighted the goal of supporting a sustainable strategy to preserve and enhance quality of life and visitor experiences in the Bend region. Data shared included trends related to Deschutes County’s population growth, housing prices and production, and regional visitation patterns using PlacerAI data. Findings showed that while residents make up the majority of park and recreation users, during peak times, visitor use matches resident use—contributing to a sense of overcrowding.

The presentation also addressed the economic impact of major tourist attractions, including the Bend White Water Park. The park’s total estimated financial output is $26.5 million, with an estimated value benefit of $35.8 million.

**Second Reading and Approval of Park Rules Ordinance No. 14**

The board approved a second reading of proposed Ordinance No. 14. The reading was done by title only, and the ordinance was presented for a vote. Staff and legal counsel were available to answer questions.

***Director Schnieder made a motion to conduct the second reading of Ordinance No. 14 by title only. Director Schiffman seconded. The motion passed unanimously, 5-0. (Schneider, Schoen, Owens, Hovekamp and Schiffman)***

***Director Schiffman made a motion to adopt Ordinance No. 14. Director Hovekamp seconded. The motion passed unanimously, 5-0. (Schneider, Schoen, Owens, Hovekamp and Schiffman)***

**Approve Resolution No. 2025-12 – SE Bend Regional Park Site Restrictive Covenant**

The Rose property update was presented to the board for a vote. The property includes two tax lots, with a County-approved zone change to RR10 for one lot to support future development. Central Oregon LandWatch raised concerns about the implications of the new zoning. To address these concerns and avoid potential appeals, the district proposed a 20-year restrictive covenant ensuring no residential development on the site.

***Director Schoen made the motion to adopt Resolution No. 2025–12 authorizing the executive director to finalize and execute a restrictive covenant on the formerly*** ***Exclusive Farm Use - Tumalo/Redmond/Bend*** ***zoned portion of Tax Lot 200 of the SE Bend Regional Park Site per the terms and conditions described in the resolution. Director Schiffman seconded. Director Hovekamp abstained, the motion passed 4-0 (Schneider, Schoen, Owens, and Schiffman)***

**Swearing in of newly elected board members**

Directors Schneider, Hovekamp, and Schoen were sworn in as they began their new terms.

**Election of Board Chair and Vice-Chair, appointment of Board Secretary and Budget Officer, and approval of board meeting dates and time.**

The Board rotates leadership on an annual basis. For the 2025–26 fiscal year, the Board elected Donna Owens as Chair and Cary Schneider as Vice Chair. The Board also recognized and thanked Jodie Schiffman for her leadership during the past year. In addition, the Executive Director was reappointed to serve as Executive Secretary, and the Administrative Services Director was reappointed as Budget Officer. The Board approved continuing the existing meeting schedule with no changes.

***Director Schiffman made a motion to nominate Director Owens to serve as chair of the Bend Park & Recreation District Board of Directors for Fiscal Year 2025-2026. Director Schoen seconded. The motion passed unanimously, 5-0. (Schneider, Schoen, Owens, Hovekamp and Schiffman)***

***Director Hovekamp made a motion to nominate Director Scheider to serve as vice-chair of the Bend Park & Recreation District Board of Directors for Fiscal Year 2025-2026. Director Barram seconded. The motion passed unanimously, 5-0. (Schneider, Schoen, Owens, Hovekamp and Schiffman)***

***Director Schoen made a motion to appoint Michelle Healy, executive director, to serve as executive secretary of the Bend Park and Recreation District Board of Directors for fiscal year 2025-26. Director Schneider seconded. The motion passed unanimously, 5-0. (Schneider, Schoen, Owens, Hovekamp and Schiffman)***

***Director Hovekamp made a motion to appoint Kristin Toney, executive director of administrative services, to serve as budget officer of the Bend Park and Recreation District Board of Directors for fiscal year 2025-26. Director Schoen seconded. The motion passed unanimously, 5-0. (Schneider, Schoen, Owens, Hovekamp and Schiffman)***

***Director Schiffman made a motion that the Bend Park and Recreation District Board of Directors hold regular public meetings on the first and third Tuesdays of each month, beginning at 5:30 p.m. with a work session, followed by a business session, unless otherwise noticed. Director Schneider seconded. The motion passed unanimously, 5-0. (Schneider, Schoen, Owens, Hovekamp and Schiffman)***

**Approve Executive Director’s Evaluation**

The board reviewed the Executive Director's performance based on key objectives and annual goals. A self-review was completed by the executive director and each board member conducted an individual evaluation. A 3% performance merit increase was recommended, and board members shared comments and congratulations on a successful first year.

***Director Schoen made the motion to approve the executive director’s evaluation for 2024-25, approve the goals for next fiscal year and merit increase in accordance with the employment contract. Director Hovekamp seconded. The motion passed unanimously, 5-0. (Schneider, Schoen, Owens, Hovekamp and Schiffman)***

**Employee Recognition**

The board of directors recognized the Recreation Director for his 36 years of service and upcoming retirement. The Executive Director and board members shared personal reflections and expressed their appreciation for his contributions to the district.

Next board meeting is July 15