



Board Meeting Summary

March 3, 2026

District Office Building | 799 SW Columbia | Bend, Oregon



BOARD PRESENT

- Cary Schneider
- Deb Schoen
- Donna Owens
- Jodie Schiffman
- Nathan Hovekamp

The Bend Park and Recreation District Board of Directors met on March 3, 2026, for its twice monthly meeting. A [video recording](#) of the meeting is available.

The next board meeting will be a Joint Meeting with the City of Bend at 4 p.m. on March 17, 2026.

Work Session –

A. Administrative Services Paid Intern Program

Staff provided an overview of the **Administrative Services Paid Intern Program**, a part-time internship program supporting students in accounting, business and information technology while meeting district operational needs. The program aligns with the district’s Strategic Plan priority for expanding partnerships and workforce development.

Two Oregon State University student interns have been gaining paid internship experience in Finance and IT since fall. Staff plans to expand the program to include a third internship focused on Purchasing and Contracts. The program supports workforce development, builds capacity during peak workload periods, and strengthens partnerships with local colleges.

B. Community Awareness and Perception Survey

Probolsky Research presented the results of the 2025 Community Awareness and Perception Survey, conducted in November and December 2025. The survey showed high overall satisfaction with Bend as a place to live, and strong community support for parks, trails and recreation services. Awareness and familiarity with the Bend Park & Recreation District are very high, and respondents expressed strong trust in the district and confidence that it is headed in the right direction. Parks and recreation were ranked as the highest-valued local government

service, with broad support for future investment, including possible bond funding and continued park land acquisition. Residents also expressed a desire to maintain park funding as Bend grows, with less support for reducing park revenues to address housing affordability through fee waivers or tax exemptions. The survey also identified opportunities for improvement in transparency and community partnerships.

Consent Agenda – Award Public Contract for Portable Restroom Services

Director Hovekamp made a motion to approve the consent agenda as presented for awarding a contract to provide portable toilet services. Director Schiffman seconded. The motion passed unanimously, 5-0 with a roll call vote. (Owens, Schneider, Schoen, Schiffman, Hovekamp)

Business Session – Memorandum of Understanding with High Desert Horticultural Center

Staff presented a proposed Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the High Desert Horticultural Center (HDHC) related to a proposed botanical garden and interpretive center at the SE Bend Regional Park site. The non-binding MOU establishes a framework for collaboration, allowing HDHC to pursue grant funding for conceptual design and ensuring its participation in the district's future public planning process for the site. The discussion emphasized that any potential botanical garden would be evaluated alongside other park uses during upcoming master planning, with no commitment to development or district funding beyond currently planned conceptual planning in the capital improvement program.

The board discussed the partnership's value in supporting public education, stewardship and community access related to horticulture and natural resources.

Director Hovekamp made a motion to authorize the Executive Director to sign the MOU with High Desert Horticultural Center to support consideration of a botanical garden at the Southeast Bend Regional Park site during the planning process. Director Schoen seconded. The motion passed unanimously, 5-0 with a roll call vote. (Owens, Schneider, Schoen, Schiffman, Hovekamp)

The Meeting adjourned at 7:28 pm