



Board Meeting Summary

April 7, 2026

District Office Building | 799 SW Columbia | Bend, Oregon



BOARD PRESENT

Cary Schneider
Deb Schoen
Donna Owens

Jodie Schiffman
Nathan Hovekamp

The BPRD board of directors met on April 7 to approve the needs-based assistance plan for next year, learn about Trust for Public Lands expertise, be updated about possible parking expansion at Larkspur Community Center, and review its performance evaluation timeline and process for the executive director. A [video recording](#) of the meeting is available.

Trust for Public Lands presentation

The work session opened with an informational presentation from the Trust for Public Land (TPL) on its conservation finance services. TPL outlined how it supports public agencies in exploring voter-approved funding measures—such as bonds—for parks, trails, land acquisition, and major capital projects. The discussion provided background on how communities across Oregon and the nation plan for long-term investment in parks, trails and recreation infrastructure. The board plans to revisit at a future meeting.

Larkspur Community Center parking expansion feasibility study

Staff next provided an update on the Larkspur Community Center parking expansion feasibility study. Since opening in 2021, the center has experienced increased demand and recurring parking shortages during peak times. Additionally, the location is a confluence of activity with a popular playground and the construction of the Art Station. A 2025 parking study identified potential locations for up to 56 additional spaces. Staff described ongoing evaluation of land use approvals, costs, and design considerations. Any future decision to construct additional parking will depend on city approvals and financial feasibility.

Executive Director annual performance evaluation procedure and 2026 timeline

The final work session item reviewed the Executive Director annual performance evaluation procedure and 2026 timeline. Staff presented the structured evaluation process, which includes a self-assessment, board input, executive sessions, and final approval in open session later this

spring. The board discussed the timeline and confirmed alignment with established procedures and state requirements.

Consent Agenda

The board approved the consent agenda adopting Resolution No. 2026-02 Appointing the Executive Secretary, Registered Agent and Budget Officer; Resolution No. 2026-03 Authorizing Signers on the District's Financial Accounts, and 2026-04 Support of Local Government Grant Program for the Hollinshead Park Improvement Project, which includes accessibility upgrades, a new restroom, parking improvements, and preservation of historic features. **Director Schoen made the motion to approve the consent agenda minus the fourth consent agenda item to Approve the Columbia Park Access Project. Director Schiffman seconded the motion.** The motion passed unanimously with a roll call vote.

The board opted to move the fourth consent item off of the agenda for further discussion.

Gilchrist Bridge

The board discussed a request to approve an amendment to a professional services agreement to support design and permitting for the Gilchrist Bridge replacement as part of the Columbia Park access project, with costs reimbursed by the City of Bend.

Bridge designs have been prepared to 30 percent. Director Hovekamp expressed concern about planned bridge cable treatment for safety and aesthetics and does not support the current design. Project Manager Ian Isaacson shared similar designs at Farewell Bend Park, Bend Whitewater Park pedestrian bridge, Drake Park and First Street Rapids. **Director Schoen moved to adopt Resolution No. 2026-04 authorizing district staff to apply to the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department for a 2026 Local Government Grant Program grant in support of the Hollinshead Park Improvement Project. Director Schiffman seconded the motion.** The resolution was approved 4-1 (Hovekamp opposed).

Needs-Based Assistance report and plan for next year

BPRD staff prepare a plan annually to guide the district in how it reduces barriers and provides financial assistance for recreation programs and facility access. In the business session, staff shared the Needs-Based Assistance Report for fiscal year 2025–26, including the usage trends and funding projections for the Recreation Scholarship Program, which supports residents with limited financial resources. Staff also provided information about outreach and inclusion services.

For the fiscal year 2026-27 plan, staff recommended continuing the program while gradually adjusting scholarship assistance levels over several years to ensure long-term financial sustainability. The proposed plan maintains meaningful access to programs, especially for youth, families, youth and adults with disabilities, and providing essential childcare—while aligning

with recently adopted financial guidelines. The board approved the 2026–27 plan, which will be incorporated into the upcoming budget.

Director Schneider made a motion to approve the Needs-Based Assistance Plan for 2026-27 and include funding to support the plan in the 2026-2027 Fiscal Year budget proposal. Director Schoen seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously, 5-0 with a roll call vote. (Owens, Schneider, Schoen, Schiffman, Hovekamp)

The board of directors have a budget project tour on Friday, April 17. The next board meeting is April 21.