



Board of Directors

June 16, 2026

District Office Building | 799 SW Columbia | Bend, Oregon

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

https://www.bendparksandrec.org/about/board_meetings/

BOARD PRESENT

Donna Owens
Cary Schneider
Jodi Schiffman
Deb Schoen
Nathan Hovekamp

VISITOR COMMENTS

Justin Gottlieb provided public comment regarding the district's goose egg oiling program. Mr. Gottlieb shared his involvement in discussions surrounding the program in 2011 and stated that the practice is an effective and cost-efficient tool for managing goose populations and impacts within district parks. He encouraged the Board not to revisit the issue and offered historical materials related to previous discussions. Mr. Gottlieb also wished the Board and community a happy Fourth of July and encouraged participation in community events.

STAFF INTRODUCTIONS

Joel introduced Scott Odenbrett, who recently joined the district as a Park Steward. Mr. Odenbrett discussed his background in public service, including service in the U.S. Army and a career in the fire service. He shared his enthusiasm for continuing to serve the community through his work with the district. Board members asked questions regarding his transition into the position and welcomed him to the organization.

Jason introduced Josh Olson, the district's new Parks Facility Supervisor. Mr. Olson discussed his experience in construction and facilities management and spoke about his decision to relocate to Bend. Board members asked about his first few weeks with the district and welcomed him to the organization. Staff noted Mr. Olson had already successfully managed several projects despite weather-related challenges during his first weeks on the job.

WORK SESSION – Climate Adaptation Plan Update

Planner Quinn Kever and Principal Planner Henry Stroud presented an update on the district's Climate Adaptation Plan. Staff explained that the plan is intended to identify strategies that will help the district respond to impacts associated with climate change and complement the district's Environmental Sustainability Plan.

Staff reviewed research findings and identified extreme heat, drought, wildfire, wildfire smoke, and extreme rainfall as the primary climate risks facing the district. Staff discussed anticipated impacts to facilities, parks, natural resources, operations, recreation programs, staff, and patrons. Focus group feedback from district staff identified concerns related to employee safety, continuity of operations, irrigation demands, facility limitations during smoke events, wildfire mitigation costs, and infrastructure impacts resulting from increased storm events.

Staff also reviewed potential adaptation strategies including additional indoor recreation and cooling spaces, enhanced air quality monitoring, improved air filtration systems, increased shade and water access, investment in climate-resilient equipment and infrastructure, stormwater improvements, and flexible work schedules during periods of extreme weather.

Director Hovekamp asked how the Climate Adaptation Plan differed from the district's Environmental Sustainability Plan. Staff explained that the Sustainability Plan focuses on mitigation while the Adaptation Plan focuses on responding to impacts already occurring. Director Schneider commented on the connection between climate adaptation planning and future recreation facility needs. Director Schoen emphasized the importance of employee health and safety and expressed appreciation for the long-term approach being taken. Director Hovekamp discussed balancing wildfire mitigation efforts with ecological and habitat considerations. Director Schiffman asked about adaptation practices being used in communities with more extreme climates. Staff indicated additional outreach and research with peer agencies is planned as the project progresses. Board members thanked staff for the presentation and expressed support for continuing development of the plan.

WORK SESSION – Recreation Facility Planning and Feasibility Study

Matt Mercer presented the final Recreation Facility Planning and Feasibility Study. He explained that the core findings previously shared with the Board remain unchanged and reviewed additions made to the final report, including a combined aquatic, fitness, and gymnasium recreation center concept, reserve replacement funding estimates, visitation projections, and expanded funding discussions.

Mr. Mercer reviewed recreation facility options evaluated in the study, including an aquatic and fitness center, an ice facility, an athletic center, and a combined recreation center. He discussed projected development costs, operating subsidies, reserve funding needs, anticipated visitation levels, and site requirements for each option.

Board members discussed facility design, future expansion opportunities, changing demographics, and flexibility for future programming. Director Hovekamp asked questions regarding opportunities for future facility expansion and long-term planning. Director Schoen asked about multi-story facility design considerations and associated costs. Director Schiffman asked about tournament demand and gymnasium programming opportunities. The Board also discussed facility utilization and the importance of creating flexible multipurpose spaces.

Mr. Mercer reviewed potential funding options including system development charges, partnerships, debt financing, bond measures, operational funding strategies, and local option levies. Discussion included the challenges associated with both capital construction and long-term operational funding.

Director Hovekamp commented on the importance of maintaining recreation service levels and continuing a thoughtful, data-driven planning process. Director Schoen emphasized the need to prioritize future facility investments and understand the operational impacts associated with new facilities.

Board members thanked Mr. Mercer for his extensive work on the study and recognized the report as an important planning resource for future district decisions.

BUSINESS SESSION – Resolution No. 2026-10 Annexation Request

Sarah Anselment presented a request to annex a 45.27-acre property located outside the Urban Growth Boundary into the Bend Park & Recreation District. She reviewed the property location, its relationship to existing district boundaries, Riley Ranch Nature Reserve, and nearby trail connections. Staff also discussed efforts to obtain a trail easement that would provide improved public access within the area.

Director Hovekamp asked questions regarding trail alignments, access, scenic resource protection, and future development surrounding Riley Ranch. Director Schoen asked questions regarding proposed trail connectivity and public access. Staff clarified that the annexation would not affect existing trail easements and reviewed the surrounding zoning and development characteristics.

Director Schiffman made a motion to approve Resolution No. 2026-10 authorizing annexation of a 45.27-acre property into the Bend Park & Recreation District and authorizing the Executive Director to execute all necessary documents to complete the annexation. Director Schoen seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously, 5-0. (Director Schoen, Director Schiffman, Director Hovekamp, Director Schneider, Director Owens)

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

1. Staff received Planning Commission approval for the Columbia Park and Gilchrist Bridge project. Additional design and geotechnical issues have resulted in increased project costs currently under review with the City of Bend.
2. Staff provided an update regarding the South UGB Trail Connection planning effort and upcoming public engagement activities.
3. Alicia Gifford was selected to participate in the Oregon Recreation and Park Association Leadership Academy. Board members congratulated her on the achievement.
4. Staff completed annual goose management efforts, including relocation of approximately 40 goslings and continued use of other management techniques.
5. Summer recreation camps have begun and recreation staff are actively supporting numerous programs and activities throughout the district.
6. Staff reviewed recent Oregon Health Authority guidance related to public swimming pools and wildfire smoke and reported district practices remain aligned with state guidance.
7. Juniper Swim & Fitness Center has reopened following annual maintenance and facility improvement projects. Staff recognized the facilities team for successfully completing the work within the planned shutdown period.

GOOD OF THE ORDER

Director Schoen commented on recent improvements at Pilot Butte, Pine Nursery Park, and Shevlin Park and expressed appreciation for staff efforts and weekly updates.

Director Hovekamp thanked staff for the evening presentations and commented on the importance of the planning efforts underway. He also expressed concern regarding a recent survey related to the South UGB trail connection process, noting that some of the questions appeared biased and did not reflect the district's transparent planning efforts.

Director Schneider thanked staff for the presentations and recognized Chair Owens for her leadership throughout the year. Director Schiffman thanked staff for their efforts supporting the Employee Wellness Fair and commented on the successful use of The Pavilion as a venue for the event. Board members also noted the cancellation of the August 4, 2026 Board meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Owens adjourned the regular meeting and announced that the Board would meet in Executive Session pursuant to ORS 192.660(2)(h) to consult with legal counsel regarding current or likely litigation. No action followed the Executive Session.