

Board discussion focused on future river flow conditions under the Habitat Conservation Plan, project permitting, ongoing monitoring of erosion and safety concerns, public outreach plans, and the long-term maintenance needs of the facility. Directors discussed the importance of balancing recreation, ecological function, user safety, and financial sustainability. Staff emphasized that the base project will focus first on addressing safety concerns, erosion, maintenance access, and long-term durability, while potential recreational enhancements may be evaluated through additional design concepts.

Directors noted the significant recreational, environmental, and community value of the Whitewater Park and broader river corridor improvements. Staff highlighted the importance of creating a more sustainable facility that reduces future maintenance needs while continuing to serve a variety of recreational and ecological functions. Board members expressed appreciation for staff's work and the project's long-term vision.

2. City of Bend Shared Framework for Housing, Recreation Access, Interagency Collaboration and Community Vitality

Michelle introduced the proposed shared framework and noted that staff would seek direction to return with a resolution for formal consideration if the Board had no substantive concerns. Director Schoen shared that the City Council had also discussed the framework and supported maintaining alignment between the two agencies. She noted the document recognizes mutual benefit by supporting both housing and parks while avoiding actions that could compromise either agency's ability to deliver essential services. She added that the City appears to have a greater understanding of potential impacts to the district than in previous discussions and anticipated future conversations around issues such as SDC waivers, permitting, urban renewal impacts, transportation system fees, and other areas of mutual interest.

Director Hovekamp described the framework as a positive and aspirational starting point that expands beyond housing to broader topics such as transportation, recreation access, and community vitality. He appreciated that the document acknowledges the independent missions and responsibilities of both agencies while encouraging collaboration where interests align. Director Owens expressed support for the framework as a useful starting point. She noted that establishing a framework will provide continuity as future councils and boards change over time.

Michelle emphasized that the framework serves as a foundation for future discussions and that more detailed conversations will occur as specific tools and initiatives are considered. She noted that while the district may not be fully compensated for every financial impact, the framework could help identify opportunities to reduce impacts, improve processes, and strengthen collaboration between the agencies.

The Board expressed general support for the framework and directed staff to bring the item back for formal consideration at a future August business meeting.

Business Session

1. Coulter Grove Park Preferred Concept Design

Bronwen Mastro presented the preferred concept design for Coulter Grove Neighborhood Park, which was developed through multiple rounds of public outreach and community engagement. The proposed design emphasizes preservation of existing trees and includes a nature-based play area, gathering spaces, walking paths, open lawn areas, exercise stations, and a half-court basketball court. Staff noted that the project is currently estimated to be within budget and remains on schedule for a Spring 2028 opening.

Board members commended the extensive public outreach efforts, including engagement with neighborhood residents, apartment communities, and local students. Discussion focused on tree preservation, the importance of retaining the basketball court due to community demand, potential alternatives for the existing chain-link fence, safety considerations related to the parkway, and staff's recommendation not to pursue a sound wall due to cost, complexity, and limited benefit relative to investing in park amenities.

Motion: Director Schoen moved to approve the Coulter Grove Park Preferred Concept Design. Director Owens seconded the motion.

The motion passed unanimously, 4-0. (Owens, Schneider, Hovekamp, Schoen)

Executive Directors report

- Audit fieldwork has begun. The auditors have started their review and will return in the fall before presenting their findings to the Board later this year.
- District staff continue relocating to the new Boyd Acres facility. Planning, Development, and Park Steward staff have already moved, with additional departments transitioning through October.
- Kristin Toney was selected to attend the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) Leadership Academy in Chicago, a competitive professional development program.
- Nacho Grandma's Bingo raised approximately \$10,000, nearly doubling last year's fundraising total. Michelle thanked the Foundation and staff who supported the event.
- Pahlisch has closed on the former COID property adjacent to the district's river corridor. The district finalized an amendment with COID providing public access along the pipeline corridor, adding approximately 1.2 miles to the trail system. Staff are continuing discussions regarding future trail connections and site improvements.

Good of the Order

Director Owens congratulated the Foundation and staff on the success of Nacho Grandma's Bingo, noting that the event was fun and well attended. She also shared that she participated in the McKenzie River all-day rafting adventure through the district and had a great experience. She thanked staff involved in supporting the program and wished Director Schoen a happy birthday and Director Hovekamp safe travels.

Director Hovekamp reflected on spending time in District parks, along the river and on the Deschutes River Trail during the summer. He expressed appreciation for the district's role in shaping the community through parks, trails, river access and recreation amenities. He described the district's work as an important force for broad public access and thanked staff for their efforts.

Director Schoen also commented on Nacho Grandma's Bingo, noting that the decorations added greatly to the event and that the partnership with Dusty and the message of kindness and acceptance aligned well with District values. She also appreciated the addition of hats as a fundraiser. Director Schoen expressed appreciation for the district's partnership with local public arts organizations and complimented Ian's Whitewater Park presentation, noting the significance and quality of the river projects he is leading. Director Schneider wished Director Schoen a happy birthday. The meeting adjourned following Good of the Order. The next board meeting is August 18, 2026. ###