



Board Meeting Summary

July 7, 2026

District Office Building | 799 SW Columbia | Bend, Oregon



BOARD PRESENT

Cary Schneider	Nathan Hovekamp
Donna Owens	Deb Schoen
Jodie Schiffman	

The official minutes of the July 7, 2027 Bend Park and Recreation District Board of Directors meeting are captured via video recording and are available for viewing online at:

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

VISITORS

There were no visitor comments.

Staff Introduction

Trail Supervisor Andy Somerville introduced Justin Cravens, who joined the Trails Division as a Park Maintenance Worker II on June 23, 2026.

Somerville shared that Cravens began his parks career with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, where he worked on year-round maintenance and repair of hiking, biking, equestrian and cross-country ski trails. Cravens later moved to Central Oregon and worked for Oregon State Parks at Cove Palisades State Park, where he gained experience in trail repair, heavy equipment operation, maintenance, mechanics and construction-related work.

Cravens responded to board questions about differences between trail work in Wisconsin and Central Oregon, noting the drier soil conditions in Central Oregon compared with the heavy rain events and water-control needs in Wisconsin. He also shared that he is looking forward to focusing full-time on trail work and related maintenance. Board members welcomed Cravens to the district.

Work Session

There were no work session items.

Business Session

1. Election of Board Chair and Vice Chair

Outgoing Chair Donna Owens reflected on her year serving as chair and thanked Vice Chair Cary Schneider, former board leadership, fellow directors, district staff and senior leadership for their support and service. Owens expressed appreciation for the district's work, resiliency, and continued service to the community.

Director Hovekamp nominated Director Schneider to serve as Chair of the Bend Park and Recreation District Board of Directors for Fiscal Year 2026–27. There being no further nominations, nominations were closed. Director Schneider was elected Chair by a unanimous 5-0 roll call vote. (Owens, Schneider, Schoen, Schiffman, Hovekamp)

Director Schneider assumed responsibility for conducting the meeting as the newly elected Board Chair.

Director Owens nominated Director Schoen to serve as Vice Chair of the Bend Park and Recreation District Board of Directors for Fiscal Year 2026–27. There being no further nominations, nominations were closed. Director Schoen was elected Vice Chair by a unanimous 5-0 roll call vote. (Owens, Schneider, Schoen, Schiffman, Hovekamp)

2. Approval of Board Meeting Dates and Times

The Board considered the annual approval of regular meeting dates and times. Staff recommended continuing the district's long-standing schedule of regular 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 Owens 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 Schiffman seconded. The motion passed unanimously, 5-0, with a roll call vote. (Owens, Schneider, Schoen, Schiffman, Hovekamp)

3. Park Operations and Development Campus Additional Construction Contingency

BPRD Landscape Architect Bronwen Mastro presented a request to increase the construction contingency for the Park Operations and Development Campus renovation project from 10% to 15%, due to unforeseen conditions encountered during renovation and several improvements intended to enhance long-term functionality. The additional contingency would be funded within the existing project budget and would not increase overall project costs. She reported that the project remains on budget and progressing as planned. Board members discussed project savings, long-term efficiencies, and the proposed contingency increase before taking action.

Director Owens made a motion to approve an additional 5% contingency in the amount of \$144,925 for a total construction budget not to exceed \$3,333,275 for the Park Operations and Development Campus project. Director Schoen seconded. The motion passed unanimously, 5-0, with a roll call vote. (Owens, Schneider, Schoen, Schiffman, Hovekamp)

Executive Director's Report

Executive Director Michelle Healy provided updates on the Park Operations and Development Campus move-in, upcoming fundraising and staff appreciation events, the Fourth of July Pet Parade, the closure and evaluation of the boat structure at Harmon Park, repairs at the Old Bend Gym, and progress on the Columbia Park and Gilchrist Bridge projects. Board members discussed the Harmon Park boat feature and acknowledged the importance of addressing its long-term condition.

Good Of the Order

Directors thanked Donna Owens for her service as Board Chair and congratulated Cary Schneider and Deb Schoen on their election as Chair and Vice Chair.

Director Hovekamp expressed appreciation for the collaborative language in the draft City of Bend and BPRD Framework for Advancing Community Livability and Affordable Housing and emphasized opportunities for continued coordination between agencies, including potential future improvements near the Archie Briggs Road crossing of the Deschutes River Trail.

Director Schiffman expressed appreciation for the Board's respectful working relationship. Schiffman provided staff shout-outs for virtual and in-person fitness instructors and shared positive observations from recent visits to district parks and facilities

Director Schoen highlighted fundraising efforts by the Bend Park and Recreation Foundation, shared positive feedback regarding scooter camp and the Fourth of July Pet Parade.

Director Owens discussed the importance of continued collaboration with the City of Bend through the proposed framework, emphasizing mutual understanding of each agency's mission, funding sources, and budgeting processes. She also complimented staff on Discovery Park's native plant management and educational efforts, noted concerns regarding parking impacts near Pine Nursery Park, and expressed appreciation for the Fourth of July Pet Parade.

Board members generally agreed that the framework represents a positive step toward strengthening interagency collaboration and recognizing the importance of parks, recreation, and healthy community infrastructure. Chair Schneider closed board comments by thanking staff and volunteers for the Pet Parade, recognizing national media coverage of the event.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:34 p.m. The next board meeting is July 21, 2026. ###