Board Meeting Summary

November 3, 2026

District Office Building | 799 SW Columbia | Bend, Oregon

DIRECTORS PRESENT: Jodie Schiffman, Donna Owens, Deb Schoen (Vice Chair) and Cary Schneider (Chair)

DIRECTOR ABSENT: Nathan Hovekamp

The official minutes of the November 3, 2026, Bend Park and Recreation District Board of Directors meeting are captured by video recording and are available for viewing on the Board Meetings webpage: https://www.bendparksandrec.org/about/board_meetings/.

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order. Chair Schneider conducted roll call. Directors Schiffman, Owens, Schoen and Schneider were present; Director Hovekamp was absent.

VISITOR COMMENTS

Scott Hand, vice president of the Sunrise Village HOA Board, provided comment regarding the Deschutes River Trail South project. Speaking on behalf of the HOA Board and community, he expressed concern about the scope of the current trail study, communication with nearby residents and potential impacts to Sunrise Village property. He asked the district to remove Section 2 from further consideration and evaluate a route using the existing Deschutes River Trail, Forest Road 4600.100, Century Drive and the Haul Road Trail as a no-build alternative.

WORK SESSION

City of Bend Economic Development Initiatives

City of Bend Economic Development Officer Katie Brooks provided an overview of the City's economic development priorities and current economic conditions, including business and workforce development, employment land readiness and urban renewal. The Board discussed opportunities for early collaboration, particularly where future development intersects with parks, trails, transportation and district finances, and emphasized proactive planning and consideration of potential financial impacts.

Hollinshead-Matson Homestead Museum Partnership

Community Engagement Director Julie Brown, Community Engagement Supervisor Kim Johnson and Deschutes Historical Museum Executive Director Kelly Cannon provided an update on the partnership supporting interpretation and public access at the Hollinshead-Matson Homestead. The phased work has included collection research, interpretive exhibits and panels, volunteer development and regular public open houses, supported in part by Oregon Heritage grants and district funding.

Second-Saturday open houses held from May through October drew nearly 400 visitors, including more than 100 visitors on each of two days that coincided with Central Oregon Master Gardeners and OSU Extension events. A core group of five volunteers has helped host visitors and learn the homestead stories directly from Sharon Rosengarth, who was born in the house. Staff reported that oral histories and video recordings of Sharon and Tony Rosengarth have also been incorporated into multimedia exhibits.

The district has budgeted approximately $4,800 annually to support museum staff time, volunteer coordination and training. The Board expressed support for continuing the partnership and preserving district history as the Hollinshead Park project moves forward. Staff are coordinating future interior and exterior interpretation, with the next holiday open house planned for December 12.

Budget Committee Selection Process

Administrative Services Director Kristin Toney reviewed the process for filling one Budget Committee vacancy following the completion of Joanne Matthews' third consecutive three-year term. Applicants must reside within district boundaries, be registered voters and be willing to serve a three-year term, with a maximum of three consecutive terms. Staff proposed continuing the existing application and Board ranking process.

The Board supported keeping the current process. Directors discussed how to evaluate application responses and confirmed that each director would independently rank the top three candidates using the application as a whole rather than a prescribed weighting of individual questions. Staff planned to open the application process the following morning, with appointment anticipated for the December 15 meeting. Directors also discussed recognizing Matthews for nine years of service while remaining mindful of ethics requirements concerning compensation or gifts.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- Orchard Park: The district is working with Asian and Pacific Islanders of Central Oregon and the City of Bend to address historic racially restrictive covenant language associated with the park. The City Attorney is assisting with the legal process, while interpretive signage and tree planting are also being considered.
- Harmon Park: Staff anticipate receiving three proposals for a replacement play feature and will conduct community outreach before selecting a design. Accessibility and surfacing improvements are also planned, with installation targeted for next summer.
- Park Closures: Sawyer and Columbia parks remain closed, with Columbia expected to reopen in spring or summer.
- Sylvan Park: Surfacing installation has been delayed until temperatures are suitable; the remainder of the park remains open.

GOOD OF THE ORDER

Director Schiffman shared that she has been enjoying the district's virtual classes and visiting parks to see fall colors and seasonal maintenance. She said she was looking forward to winter recreation opportunities, including visiting The Pavilion.

Director Owens reported walking along the recently opened COID river corridor and visiting Sylvan Park. She complimented the improvements and noted that the partially closed park continues to be actively used, including the tennis courts.

Vice Chair Schoen had no additional items to report.

Chair Schneider recognized Dave Arnold and Natalie Macsalka for their work developing a Board portal that will provide directors with easier access to prior presentation materials and thanked them for the effort involved in organizing the resource.

MEETING CONCLUSION

The meeting adjourned following Good of the Order.