



## Board of Directors

April 2, 2024

District Office Building | 799 SW Columbia | Bend, Oregon



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

<https://www.bendparksandrec.org/about/board-meeting-videos/>

### **BOARD PRESENT**

Nathan Hovekamp

Donna Owens

Deb Schoen

Jodie Barram

### **STAFF PRESENT**

Michelle Healy, Deputy Executive Director

Matt Mercer, Director of Recreation

Kristin Toney, Administrative Services Director

Julie Brown, Manager of Communications and Community Relations

Sheila Reed, Assistant to the Executive Director

Brian Hudspeth, Development Manager

Michael Egging, Recreation Business Manager

Cathi Ellis, Recreation Manager

Jeff Hagler, Park Stewards Manager

Henry Stroud, Planner

### **VISITORS**

None

### **WORK SESSION**

1. Central Oregon Sportsplex Alliance – Derek Berry

Mr. Berry spoke to the board about the Central Oregon Sportsplex Alliance. He said it is a non-profit with a mission to improve the health and economic vitality of Central Oregon. He said that the growth of sports has overwhelmed some of the amenities in the region and there is a need for more indoor and outdoor facilities. He said the alliance is aiming to form partnerships with all the cities that surround Bend. He gave a history of the sports projects that have failed in the past and said that the goal is to build a community driven center.

Mr. Berry reviewed the sports plex concept that includes:

- Outdoor Turf/Multi-Sport Facilities
- Indoor Multi Use Turf Fields
- Indoor and Outdoor Sports Events Space
- Pools
- Tracks
- Indoor Training
- Ice Sports Development Areas

He explained the positive impacts of sports on kids including research that shows that active kids do better in life. He said this type of facility would allow kids to practice in any weather and conditions and could serve as an emergency shelter.

Mr. Berry described their group as made up of volunteers from local counties with an executive board, sports advisory body and pro-athlete and sports performance advisory board. He explained the principles of the alliance as unite, advocate, communicate and support. He said the location is planned for the Deschutes County Expo Center with public funding to build, but may also seek private funding and suggested something could be built on park and recreation land, he shared his concerns that private funding may price some kids out.

He asked for funding from the district to help pay for the feasibility study to get started. He said they have raised about \$60,000 from other agencies and the feasibility study will provide direction on what to build and the associated costs.

### **CONSENT**

1. Minutes: 03/19/2024
2. Board Policy - Archive Policy
3. Board Policy - Definitions Policy
4. Accept Collier Property Dedication

*Director Schoen made a motion to approve the consent agenda. Director Owens seconded. The motion was approved unanimously, 4-0.*

### **BUSINESS SESSION**

1. Needs-based Assistance Annual Report and Approve Needs-based Assistance Plan for 2024-2025 – *Matt Mercer*

Mr. Mercer shared the structure of the needs-based assistance program, He said it includes outreach and targeted programs, recreation scholarships, therapeutic recreation and inclusion support, free and low-cost activities, and additional financial support from other outside sources. He spoke about the number of households that qualify for the scholarship programs continues to increase to record levels, and of those qualifying most continue to be high need. He said an estimated \$710,000 will be given in scholarships this year and budgeted for \$650,000. He explained that average assistance per household is decreasing over time to \$567 this year, Youth Recreation (includes Kids, Inc) is the highest use by program followed by JSFC/Larkspur swim lessons/passes and art enrichment. This year, 53% of SNAP households in Bend have been approved for scholarships in the district up from 23% in 2020. He attributed the growth to outreach efforts despite SNAP recipients declining in the area.

Mr. Mercer reviewed the scholarship resources as:

Tax Support: \$545,000

Sponsorships: \$58,000

Donations: \$27,000

Cell Tower leases: \$80,000

Other assistance sources include:  
BPRD Foundation Gap Fund  
Therapeutic Recreation Opdyke Fund  
Partner Contributions  
Medicaid Flexible Funds  
Medicare Advantage Funds

Mr. Mercer spoke about the outreach efforts to low income housing communities, Latino families, community partnerships, special events and targeted activities.

He explained the 2024-25 plan highlights for scholarship use and scholarship resources.

#### **Scholarship use:**

- No changes in qualification and assistance levels
- Use expected to level off
- Budget \$725,000 - \$75,000 over current year budget and \$15,000 over estimate
- Employ strategies to remain within budget as necessary

#### **Scholarship Resources**

- General Fund: \$500,000
- Food and Beverage division profits: \$30,000
- Grants: \$30,000

#### **Sustainable strategies**

- Increase alternative funding sources
  - Food and beverage profits
  - Sponsorships
  - Grants
  - Donations
- Reduce expenditures for childcare program
  - Consider ERDC program for Kids INC
  - Separate childcare from general scholarship program
  - Consider a household cap on assistance

He reviewed the funding sources for 2024-25 year.

***Director Owens made a motion to approve the Needs-Based Assistance Plan for Fiscal Year 2024-25 and include funding resources to support the plan in the 2024-25 Budget Proposal. Director Barram seconded. The motion was approved unanimously, 4-0.***

## **2. Determine Board Member Appointment Finalists**

Director Hovekamp said there were ten applicants for the vacant board seat. He thanked the applicants for their interest in serving on the board of directors. He said the board received the

complied scores after the board members individually scored the applications. Director Schoen suggested that they either appoint the top scoring applicant or select five to interview. Director Barram said she had a similar thought to appoint the top scoring applicant and offer other opportunities to the other applicants. She said she appreciated all the information that the applications provided. Director Owens said the process states that there would be an interview, but she could support either option mentioned. Director Hovekamp agreed that both options are reasonable. The board continued to discuss the options and decided to appoint the top candidate.

***Director Schoen made a motion to appoint the top scoring applicant to be named to the board of directors. Director Barram seconded. The motion was approved unanimously, 4-0.***

***Director Schoen made a motion to nominated Cary Schneider to be appointed to the board of directors. Director Barram seconded. The motion was approved unanimously, 4-0.***

The board discussed the budget committee seat opening that Cary Schneider will vacate. They agreed to open it to the general public and invited the board applicants to apply for the seat as well.

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT**

- Executive Director Horton spoke about a temporary bill on recreation immunity, he said the board members received a printout in their packet about it (attached to the minutes). He said legal counsel for the district has agreed to work further on this topic for a more permanent resolution.
- He announced the Riverfront Street plan community outreach is planned April 18, 5-7 pm at the district office. He invited the board to attend to see the three concept plans.
- He informed the board of the date of the next Community Celebration scheduled for April 12 at Larkspur Center and said the board was welcome to attend.

**BOARD MEETINGS CALENDAR REVIEW**

**GOOD OF THE ORDER**

- Director Schoen welcomed all the staff introduced at the meeting and mentioned the work and progress at Little Fawn Park. She asked for clarification on whether the Sports Complex will come before the board again for the donation. Ms. Healy said the donation amount would be within the approval of the executive director.
- Director Owens said she picked up a list of events from Larkspur Center and read some of events that were part of an Aprils Fool’s joke.
- Director Barram said she will be virtual next meeting.
- Director Hovekamp thanked all the applicants for the board vacancy and welcomed Cary to the board seat. He mentioned that he is pleased that the district is acquiring a small area of property at Discovery Park to improve the trail alignment there.


**ADJOURN: 7:35 pm**



Prepared by,

Sheila Reed  
Assistant to the Executive Director

  
Nathan Hovekamp, Chair

  
Donna Owens

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Jodie Barram, Vice-Chair

  
Deb Schoen

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Cary Schneider





**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**  
**March 27, 2024**

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## **Governor Signs Bill Restoring Recreational Immunity**

SALEM, Ore. – Governor Tina Kotek today signed SB 1576, legislation containing temporary language which restores recreational immunity for local governments responsible for access to hiking trails and other recreational sites across Oregon.

A recent court ruling in a case involving an injury sustained on a public trail took away the immunity public and private landowners enjoyed when allowing free access to their property for recreational purposes. SB 1576 temporarily clarifies that running, walking, and cycling are recreational activities, and the public is not liable for injuries sustained while enjoying them.

“SB 1576 allows cities to open, and keep open, trails, bridges and staircases to allow Oregonians and their guests to recreate without carrying extra liability and risk for the public,” said League of Oregon Cities Lobbyist Scott Winkels. “It’s appropriate the Legislature adopted a temporary fix this session, and we look forward to working in the 2025 legislative session towards a durable solution to protect access to free recreation.”

CIS, which insures many of Oregon’s cities and counties, also issued the following statement:

“Because SB 1576 went into effect immediately, all trails that were previously closed due to the *Fields v. City of Newport* court decision can now be reopened without undue risk to local government budgets and programs. CIS’ previous advice to close improved trails is rescinded.

CIS is very happy to encourage local governments throughout Oregon to let their constituents know that all trails and recreational opportunities are open for business once again and will remain open throughout the summer season.”

### **About the League of Oregon Cities**

Founded in 1925, the League of Oregon Cities is a voluntary association representing all 241 of Oregon’s incorporated cities. The LOC helps city governments serve their citizens by providing legislative advocacy services, policy consultation, intergovernmental relations assistance, networking and training, technical assistance, and publications.

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