



Board of Directors

September 3, 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

Donna Owens
Deb Schoen
Jodie Barram
Cary Schneider
Nathan Hovekamp

STAFF PRESENT

Michelle Healy, Executive Director
Matt Mercer, Director of Recreation
Kristin Toney, Administrative Services Director
Julie Brown, Director of Community Engagement
Sheila Reed, Assistant to the Executive Director
Sasha Sulia, Director of Park Services
Brian Hudspeth, Director of Planning and Development
Ian Isaacson, Landscape Architect
Henry Stroud, Principal Planner
Jason Powell, Construction Manager
Rachel Colton, Planner
Sue Glenn, Recreation Manager
Paul Reinhardt, Larkspur Recreation Center Manager
Cathi Ellis, Recreation and Inclusion Manager

VISITORS

Ken Kelso and Donn Curry: Mr. Kelso said they are here to follow up on the last meeting. They asked for any updates on adjustments to the access of the fenced park and paved path. They said they polled their neighbors and reported that less than 50% of them were in receipt of the mailers that the district sent out. They asked if there are any plans for more stewardship at the park for enforcement of the park rules and mentioned that the events at the barn are at times too loud for the neighborhood.

Ken Fuller: Mr. Fuller commended the district for the extra security presence at Juniper Park and asked the board to continue the pilot project. He said he is part of the Neighborhood Watch in the area and remarked that the security has really helped bring more families using the park again.

Chris Skully: Mr. Skully said connectivity of greenways and equitable trail access are the hallmarks of the community. He commented that SW Bend is the most underserved neighborhood and noted the National Forest is just across the river stating a footbridge would address more access. He added that there are many myths that the opposition uses to argue against the bridge and shared a few examples.

WORK SESSION

1. Art Station Project Update – *Jason Powell and Matt Mercer and Corey Martin, Hacker Architects*

Mr. Powell presented the concept for the new Art Station as a 4,880-square-foot building with three classrooms, stating that as the project grew in size, so did the costs. He said that staff started looking at ways to control the costs and shared the updated design. With \$3 million allocated for the project, the current design now stands at \$4.29 million. Mr. Martin explained that the building's location was slightly adjusted to simplify construction and reduce costs. He reviewed the designs, highlighting the compact, straightforward layout, which includes a covered entry, restrooms, classrooms, offices, kiln area, and storage. He emphasized safety features and the potential for future expansion, showing views of the building from all sides.

Mr. Powell stated that building permits would be applied for by the end of the year, with construction planned for 2025-2026 and the opening set for 2026.

Director Owens expressed concern over the costs, appreciating the efforts to reduce them but suggested more could be done. She proposed exploring pre-made building options, though Mr. Martin noted that such designs may not save money, especially given the site's unique challenges. Mr. Powell suggested reducing the building's footprint as the best way to cut costs. Director Owens also raised the possibility of a different location.

Mr. Mercer cautioned against downsizing the building, acknowledging that rising prices in the Bend market are a consistent concern. Director Schoen expressed enthusiasm for the project, emphasizing the importance of supporting children's creative development. Director Hovekamp said he believed the building size was already minimal. He critiqued the industrial design, suggesting the need for more wall space and less glass, and agreed with Owens regarding concerns about the cost.

Director Barram inquired about the impact on SDC funds. Executive Director Healy said that SDCs were coming in higher than expected, so this project will not replace another. She advised that making the building smaller now could lead to more expensive expansions later.

Mr. Mercer mentioned that Juniper Park was the only other viable site, though it was less suitable than Larkspur Park. Mr. Martin added that changing the industrial design would further increase costs. Director Barram supported the design and future expansion potential, while Director Schneider suggested seeking grants or sponsorships to offset the costs.

Mr. Mercer acknowledged the difficulty of obtaining grants for this type of project but agreed to explore sponsorship opportunities. He stated that staff would proceed with the current concept, with minor modifications, and offered to bring it back to the board for further review.

2. 2019 Strategic Plan – Final Action Item Update – *Rachel Colton*

Ms. Colton reviewed the 2019 plan, which had a five-year implementation period and included 83 action items. She presented the plan's pillars, desired outcomes, and action items, summarizing the progress year by year. Ms. Colton highlighted key achievements under each pillar, noting that while a

few action items were still in progress or on hold, the plan was considered completed. She said the draft of the new strategic plan would be shared on the website and presented to the board.

Director Hovekamp inquired about the relationship between the strategic plan and the Comprehensive Plan. Ms. Colton explained that the strategic plan focuses internally, while the comprehensive plan is externally focused, particularly on the project list. One crossover between the two plans is the Mission, Vision, and Values, which are part of the strategic plan and will be discussed in the coming weeks. The guiding statements are intended to be applied consistently across both plans, with updates reflected on the website. Data from the comprehensive plan, such as the community needs assessment, has also informed internal planning to address community needs.

CONSENT

1. Minutes: 7/16/2024

Director Hovekamp made a motion to approve the consent agenda. Director Owens seconded. The motion was approved unanimously, 5-0.

BUSINESS SESSION

1. IGA with the City of Bend for Transportation Fee Billing – *Kristin Toney*

Ms. Toney explained that the main goal of the Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) is to simplify the process of managing utility bills, as adding extra fees to multiple bills is time-consuming. By consolidating fees into one bill, efficiency is improved. The City of Bend has adopted a transportation fee as part of their code, and the district falls under the non-residential category. Phase one includes calculating the square footage of district buildings and per acre of parks with off-street parking. She said there could be a potential for some credit back for work performed by the district on trails, which is included in the IGA. The total cost for the fee to the district is just under \$17,000 and has already been incorporated into the budget in anticipation of the IGA.

Director Owens and Hovekamp shared their dislike for the transportation fee and asked staff if the district had any involvement in writing the IGA. Ms. Toney explained that the city wrote the IGA and the district was able to review it. She remarked that the district does not have much say over this fee, and it is better to have one billed fee than billed to every district account.

Director Hovekamp said he was sympathetic to the city for being in a position to try to catch up on some of these fees, but expressed his concern for the hardship that these fees present to other agencies. He called out the section that mentions a credit back to the district, noting high hopes that this will happen despite the language making no commitments.

Director Hovekamp asked what would happen if the board does not pass the IGA. Executive Director Healy said the city would charge the district on all the utility bills and it would cost the district more.

Director Schneider made a motion to authorize the executive director to sign the IGA with the city of Bend regarding transportation fee billing. Director Schoen seconded. The motion was approved, 3-2. Directors Hovekamp and Owens voted against the motion.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS REPORT

Executive Director Healy reported the following:

- Hired HR Manager Kathleen Hinman, who will join the district on September 26th. She previously worked for the county.
- An email was sent to the board regarding the transportation plan, the city is accepting comments until Sept. 7.
- In October, the board will hear from staff on an update of park rules.
- Staff has begun the SDC update with Deb Gilardi, which will run concurrently with the Comprehensive Plan and finish by early 2025.
- Executive Director Healy met with Forest Service regarding the South UGB project. Holly Jewkes acknowledged the project's persistence and suggested meeting again in October with State Parks to discuss what a community vision could look like.
- Pavilion Palooza fundraiser is this Sunday, and the natural resources crew has been hosting a variety of volunteer events this summer.
- Fall registration was once again highly successful.

BOARD MEETINGS CALENDAR REVIEW


GOOD OF THE ORDER

- Director Schoen said the staff picnic was a great event at Alpenglow Park.
- Director Hovekamp pointed out the staff recognition for Don Horton at the next meeting. He said there is a joint city and county meeting next week with houseless issues on the agenda. He thanked the board for a great discussion on the topics tonight.
- Director Schneider congratulated to the lifeguards for their five-star rating award, remarking that it is quite an accomplishment.
- Director Owens offered staff appreciation for a successful summer.
- Director Barram thanked Executive Director Healy for stepping into her new role and commended staff for their work.

ADJOURN: 7:39 pm




Prepared by,
Sheila Reed
Assistant to the Executive Director



Jodie Barram, Chair



Donna Owens, Vice-Chair



Deb Schoen



Cary Schneider



Nathan Hovekamp