



how trail counters are used to gather data and how this informs district decisions, maintenance, and collaboration with other agencies. The group discussed the limitations and challenges associated with trail counters, such as wildlife, vegetation, vandalism, and weather impacts.

The presentation compared trail data from 2022, 2023 and 2024, noting increased usage of the Deschutes River Trail and highlighting specific trail segments. Mr. Sommerville detailed the use trends of several trails, including Bend Whitewater Park, Colorado Bridge underpass, Cedarwood, Shevlin Park Tumalo Creek South and North, and Fremont Road.

Ms. Hickman emphasized that trail usage data helps staff better understand who is using the trails, for what purposes (recreation or commuting), and how to enhance trail maintenance. She also mentioned the district's interest in engaging volunteers to assist with trail counting and analyzing weather and smoke patterns to manage trail usage.

Director Schneider inquired about better trail counters, and Ms. Hickman and Mr. Sommerville acknowledged the limitations of current technology but affirmed its reliability. Director Owens asked about using the data to support transportation-related fees with the city. Ms. Hickman said she is working with staff on this effort.

Director Hovekamp spoke about the community's focus on trails, advocating for improving trail surface treatments and levels of service. Executive Director Healy mentioned the use of the 2012 bond money for the southern bridge connection that could not get the necessary approvals to create the Colorado undercrossing (the district's most popular trail), while Ms. Barram suggested making data charts more inclusive for users with strollers or wheelchairs, a change Ms. Hickman agreed to implement.

## 2. Draft Strategic Plan – *Rachel Colton, Kristin Toney, Kelsey Schwartz*

Ms. Schwartz reviewed the Strategic Plan's vision, mission, and pledge. The vision is for the district to be a leader in building a community connected to nature, an active lifestyle, and each other. The mission is to strengthen community vitality and promote healthy, enriched lifestyles through parks, trails, and recreation. The pledge is to reflect the community, serve equitably, and operate with transparency and accountability.

Director Hovekamp commented on the pledge's wording and asked if some of the wording could be considered , while Director Schoen noted that transparency and equity have been longstanding industry terms. Ms. Colton added that CAPRA is requiring equity to be integrated into all district standards.

Ms. Schwartz also shared the values: Community, Inclusion, Safety, Staff, and Sustainability, and reviewed changes made to the plan in these areas. Ms. Colton discussed the planning and engagement process, including the SWOT analysis.

Director Owens inquired about the number of goals in each category and whether they should be organized differently. Ms. Colton clarified that fewer goals in one area did not indicate less focus, as all goals were interconnected.

Director Schoen reminded the board that they had previously directed staff to condense the plan. The board discussed changes to goal language. Ms. Colton outlined the plan's broad and adaptable implementation, with actions and performance measures to be refined over time, and board updates scheduled twice a year. She concluded by discussing the next steps, including updating and presenting the plan in October for implementation.

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

1. Minutes 9/3/2024
2. Codify personnel policies

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

### **EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS REPORT**

- Executive Director Healy reminded everyone of Don's retirement celebrations happening this week.
- She congratulated the JSFC maintenance team for completing the project five days ahead of schedule, allowing the 50-meter pool to open earlier. The side pools will remain open for a few more weeks.
- She expressed gratitude for two recent donations to the foundation: a second \$125K donation from the Hoffart Foundation for river access, bringing the total to \$250K, and a \$25K donation from the Estate of George Thayer to support recreation scholarships.
- Regarding Drake Park, two trees will be removed this Friday. Lee has coordinated communications with Julie. Two trails—the boardwalk and the upper trail just south of Mirror Pond Plaza—will be closed for most of the day due to their proximity to the trees. The closures will be marked with signs, barriers, and staff. *Think Wild* responded to an inquiry about the cut tree material and will take 3-4 logs to use for raccoon and skunk habitat. The logs will likely be delivered on Friday.
- Drake Park fencing work has been delayed until spring. A revised application will be submitted, proposing temporary fencing and enhanced planting in the area from the pedestrian bridge downstream to Coyner Point as the starting point.
- She shared that the Kids Inc program is experiencing staffing challenges in managing all the enrollments.
- Information was shared about the Bend Central District Open House event on Tuesday, September 24, from 4-7 pm at Open Space Studios. BPRD will host a table with information about park planning at 220 NE Lafayette Ave, Bend, OR 97701.

### **BOARD MEETINGS CALENDAR REVIEW**

#### **GOOD OF THE ORDER**


- Director Owens mentioned that she had fun at the Foundation Fundraiser on Sunday at the Pavilion.
- Director Schoen expressed her appreciation for the staff introductions and shared that she attended the Boys & Girls Club birthday celebration. She read a statement from a new community member, highlighting their love for the parks, and expressed her gratitude for the excellent work done by staff.

- Director Barram announced that the district had been awarded a large grant for Sawyer Park. She also shared that her youngest child was recently married in Shevlin Park, commenting on the park's beauty and the special memories created there.

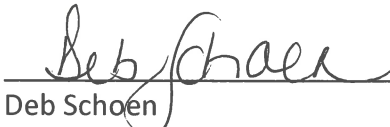
ADJOURN: 8:32 pm



Prepared by,  
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Assistant to the Executive Director

  
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Jodie Barram, Chair

  
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Donna Owens, Vice-Chair

  
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Deb Schoen

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Cary Schneider

  
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Nathan Hovekamp