



Hood River Valley Parks and Recreation District Special Board Meeting
Thursday, April 14, 2022 5:30 pm
In Person at the Hood River Aquatic Center
Or Via Zoom
Minutes

In Attendance:

Staff: Mark Hickok, Marcie Wily

Board: Anna Cavaleri, Mike McCarthy, Nan Noteboom (virtual) and Suzanne Cross

Public: Noah Noteboom

Call Special Meeting to Order

Anna Cavaleri called the meeting to order at 5:34pm.

Cavaleri acknowledged Mahurin's resignation from the board, effective April 8. She noted Mahurin's years of service, as well as stating that the board will be discussing procedural next steps at the regularly scheduled board meeting on April 21.

Comments from the General Public (3 minutes per person, per subject, Maximum 30 minutes public comment taken)

New Business

1. **Strategic Discussion Regarding Future Funding Strategies** Hickok (90 mins)

Action: Provide feedback

Hickok began with the Dissolution and Bond/Reformation Timeline. If the board wants to go on the ballot in November 2022, the board must present a Resolution to the City Council by May 2022 for dissolution and reformation, with the first hearing in June 2022. If the board desires to go another route, like an operation levy, capital bond, or a sales tax, then the timeline is not until August 30th. The city and county both expressed the desire to have more involvement and understanding in the process. The board agreed that they need to meet with the other districts to talk about HRVPRD Master Plan.

Cavaleri suggested going through some possible scenarios and then calling all the agencies together.

Hickok reviewed various options for raising revenue. A local option levy would create funding for operations and maintenance purposes. They can be imposed for five years. A general obligation bond raises taxes to be used to purchase bonds for specific capital investments but cannot be used for operations. Costs would be spread over a long period and therefore are borne by both current and future residents. Reforming the District creates a new permanent levy. Revenues could be used for operation and maintenance purposes. A Food and Beverage Tax would be a viable way to tax the tourist, but we would have to coordinate closely with the county because counties are allowed to implement a food and beverage tax and they would have to collect on the District's behalf.

Hickok went over estimated rate scenarios that is needed to build and operate a new pool and future parks and trails. The tax rate required to support this would be \$1.32 total, which combines the new capital rate at \$0.67 and the redistricting rate for operations at \$0.66. These numbers are an estimation and will change with interest rates and change in scope. He then went over some numbers for other agencies, how much they are spending on operations and any revenue generated. Hickok discussed what that would mean in terms of needs. The District would need a shop and some sort of yard for maintenance and operations. Those are extra costs that are not a part of the calculation. The group talked about the pros and cons of the

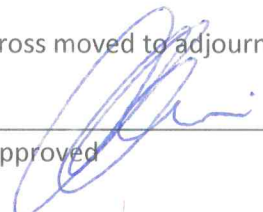
various options and the desire to avoid nickel and diming constituents, as well other funding scenarios, like grants or a capital campaign. The group acknowledged that a pro for a sales tax is that you could sell the pool as a reason to implement a sales tax. Cavaleri suggested starting with a capital bond to build the pool and parks then work on figuring out the operations. Noteboom suggested going for operations first then a capital bond. Cavaleri advocated for partnering with another organizations, and exploring other pool sites as a viable option, which would allow for the pool to operate during construction. Cross agreed that a strong partnership would increase the likelihood of success and a bond can be phased out over five or six years. The board also concluded that the sales tax option would be the most difficult to pass with the voters.

The group talked about getting the agencies back together again to discuss long-term goals. This would also allow for the other districts to provide feedback and ideas of what the HRVPRD could do to achieve its goal. The board wanted to address the other agencies' concerns, particularly as it relates to compression. The board asked Hickok and Wily to investigate how other districts deal with the cap and how many districts have already hit the compression cap.

McCarthy thought it was important to form a stakeholder's group for help with future bond or levy measures. The group decided to hold a meeting for agency leaders on April 28th to discuss long term strategy of parks and recreation. As it's a public meeting, the board could invite people who might be interested in helping out in the future to listen in on the discussion.

Adjourn

Cross moved to adjourn. McCarthy seconded. All approved.



Approved



Attest

20 April 2022
Date

4-20-22
Date