



**Hood River Valley Parks and Recreation District  
Board of Directors Special Meeting,  
Wednesday, April 1, 2020 - 6:00pm  
Zoom.us virtual meeting**

HRVPRD is taking steps to limit exposure to and spread of COVID-19 (novel coronavirus). In support of state and federal guidelines for social distancing, we will hold this meeting by using Zoom Conferencing. Members of the public can call in to listen to the meeting. To join the meeting 253-215-8782 and enter Meeting ID: 757 344 960 or click the link [here](#). A speaker phone will be set up in the lobby of the aquatic center for the members of the public who do not have the ability to call. Members of the HRVPRD Board and staff will participate by telephone and internet, they will not be on site at the Aquatic Center during the meeting. HRVPRD strongly urges the public to listen by telephone to limit public contact.

**Minutes**

**In attendance:**

**Board:** Suzanne Cross, Nan Noteboom, Mike McCarthy, Glenna Mahurin, Anna Cavaleri

**Staff:** Marcie Wily, Mark Hickok, Mike Howard

**Legal Counsel:** Ruben Cleveland

**Members of the Public:** Susan Crowley, Linda Maddox

**Special District Board Meeting – Goal Setting and Strategy**

**Call Meeting to Order**

Mahurin called the meeting to order at 6:00pm.

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

Susan Crowley gave feedback regarding the goal setting discussion from the March 4th Special Board Meeting. Crowley stated that her general concern was that there are a lot needs for the Parks District to focus on, and she felt that the board might be making a lot of big decisions regarding the future without a lot of flexibility built in. She expressed concern about the board's decision to support a robust vision for the pool. She stated that the pool would require most of the funds secured in any sort of approved initiative or measure, leaving very little funds for other park projects in the community. She urged the board to give more detailed consideration to their strategy for the future.

Linda Maddox spoke, urging the board to be cautious when doing any sort of negotiations for parkland acquisition purchases. She said with the current situation with COVID-19 that appraisals may come in higher than is realistic and property values are likely to decrease, and she urged the board to be prudent and wait for thing to settle before making big decisions.

1. Directors Report

Hickok (20)

**Action:** Informational, no action needed

Hickok gave an update for the Parks District since the COVID-19 pandemic started. The pool has been closed at the end of the day 14, 2020, which was earlier than mandated by the state. Hickok stated that as of April 1, 2020 the part time staff, lifeguards, instructors, and front desk staff, were laid off and encouraged to apply for unemployment benefits. Full time staff is continuing to work. Parks closed on March 23<sup>rd</sup>, and Hickok stated that the Parks District worked in conjunction with other agencies to post signage and messaging as a joint measure. The Indian Creek Trail and Westside Trail remain open. People have expressed frustration about trails have been busy. Discussion ensued about trails and ways to help with parking concerns near trailheads, like allowing parking at Golden Eagle Park. The board expressed support of keeping trails open.

2. **FY 2020-21 Goal Setting and Strategy Discussion**

Hickok (30)

**Action:** Discuss and provide feedback

Hickok began a discussion on goal setting and a timeline for the county ballot measure. At the previous special board meeting on March 3th, 2020, the board of directors approved the decision to put a dissolution of the Parks District and its current tax rate and a reformation of a new Parks District at a higher rate on the Hood River County Ballot for November, 2020. Hickok reported that the Parks District can still work with the timeline for the ballot initiative but that the pandemic and holding virtual public meetings complicated the process and warranted the question of whether or not the plan should be shifted or changed, based on the information brought on by COVID-19. Hickok pointed out that the alternative would be to continue repairing the pool as needed and assess the situation and potential for voter support as time went on.

Discussion ensued. Mahurin expressed concern that by postponing the ballot measure, the Parks District would not be able to accomplish its goals for the community. Noteboom said that she thought that it might be better to stay the course for a while, which would allow for flexibility, and pull out at a later time if warranted. Cross expressed the desire to wait on the measure, saying that with the current state of people's lives, it was the wrong time to ask the community for support. McCarthy expressed nervousness about going forward with the measure. Cavaleri also expressed that with people losing work that it might not be the best time to put the measure on the ballot.

The group reviewed the various deadlines and tasks needed in order to put the measure on the ballot for November 2020, with May 4<sup>th</sup> as the date the Board of Commissioners would have to approve the adoption of formation. Hickok pointed out much had been completed in the process, and that if the board chose to put the initiative on hold, that the Parks District would not have to start from the beginning if they decided to try again. Cleaveland said that the initiative could be pulled from the ballot in mid-August, but one would need to consider how the optics might look to the public. Conversation ensued with the group expressing concern over putting it on the ballot in such a precarious time for the community and the country. Mahurin asked for consensus and the group agreed to wait to put any sort of initiative on the county ballot and agreed to wait until a later time. The board instructed staff to inform the county that we are not moving forward with redistricting plans for the November Election.

**Executive Session**

- 3. Executive Session, per ORS 192.660(2)(e). To conduct deliberations with persons designated by the governing body to negotiate real property transactions *(The District Board will now meet in executive session. All members of the audience are asked to leave the room. No decision may be made in executive session. At the end of the executive session, we will return to open session and welcome the audience back into the room.)*

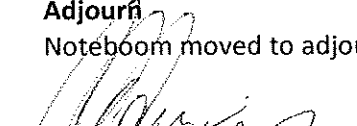
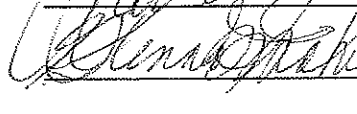
Mahurin called the meeting into Executive Session per ORS 192.660(2)(e).

Noteboom moved to exit, Cavaleri seconded. All agreed.

The board instructed staff to go forward with negotiations in the purchase of real estate.

**Adjourn**

Noteboom moved to adjourn the meeting. Cavaleri seconded. All approved.

	Approved By	<u>June 7, 2020</u>	Date
	Approved By	<u>7/15/20</u>	Date