



Hood River Valley Parks and Recreation District Regular Board Meeting
Wednesday, December 15, 2021 6:00 pm
Via Zoom

Minutes

In Attendance:

Staff: Mark Hickok, Marcie Wily

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

District Attorney: Ruben Cleaveland

Public: Dan Spatz, Columbia Gorge Community College

Regular District Board Meeting

Call Regular Meeting to Order

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

No comments.

Review Minutes

1. November 17, 2021 – Regular Board Meeting Minutes

Action: Consider a motion to approve the November 17, 2021 meeting minutes

Mahurin moved to accept the November 17, 2021 minutes as written. Noteboom seconded. All approved.

Old Business

2. Ag Tech Alliance MOU

Action: Review and Consider a motion to approve the MOU

Hickok gave an overview of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) from the Ag Tech Alliance. At the previous meeting, the board asked for legal counsel to review it. Cleaveland stated that the MOU does tie up the property for a year. The board is not able to decide to sell the property for a year. The MOU can be modified but it does require mutual consent. Dan Spatz, from Columbia Gorge Community College, spoke about the work the alliance has done to date, including research on other similar programs, seeking additional funding, and making sure that there is a great partnership between the Community College and the Parks District. The MOU is intended to be a statement of assurance. The board deliberated and had some questions and comments. McCarthy wanted to know if they had the funds to purchase the property. Noteboom stated that she had attended meetings for the alliance and stated there was growing support for the program. She stated support of the program and approval of the MOU. Cross expressed support of the program. Cavaleri stated that she was satisfied with the legal review and stated support of the program. Mahurin expressed support for the program, the MOU, and the potential partnership with the CGCC. McCarthy stated that he was not in support project or spending a year tying up the property on the MOU.

Noteboom made a motion to approve the MOU. Mahurin seconded the motion. No further discussion ensued. Mahurin, yes; Noteboom, yes; Cross, yes; Cavaleri, yes; McCarthy, no.

3. District Reforming Strategy and Timeline

Action: Review and provide feedback

Hickok gave an overview of the strategy and timeline. Hickok gave an overview of the County

Board of Commissioners meeting, where he and Nan Noteboom presented information on the order formation of a new parks district. The BOC had a couple of issues. One issue they had was segmentation of the various agencies and parks. The second issue was the plan to borrow capital debt against the general tax rate rather than putting a separate bond on the ballot. The BOC Commissioners main concern was that the extra tax rate needed to pay the capital debt would put the county closer to the \$10 per thousand tax cap triggering compression which would affect the ability to do operating levies. The County BOC made it clear that they would not pass the order of formation under the current way it was being presented. Hickok gave an overview of some different strategies for funding if the board decided to go a different route. One option would be to try to get three votes (reformation, dissolution and bond), petition the citizens for the order formation, or retool the ask to the voters and delay until the November Ballot. The board discussed the various options. They also discussed asking for the operational dollars in the May election and following up with a capital bond in a later election. The board discussed the various options. Noteboom moved to withdraw the petition for dissolution and for reformation on the May ballot. Cross seconded the motion. All approved.

Reports (*informational, no action needed*)

4. Finance Report

Everything is tracking along in the general fund. Tax revenue is coming in. Improvement fund has not changed. The SDC report is tracking as normal.

5. Directors Report

Indian Creek Trail Southside Connector Extension – The minor amendment has been submitted to the county to relocate a portion of the trail. Staff has been busy working on sections of the trail that has been approved and in its original position.

Community Education – Both positions for the recreation supervisor and assistant positions have been posted, and we have over 50 applications for each position.

Homeless Camp Update – The new warming shelter has opened on Cascade Ave. The Parks District requested that the city enforce the no camping ordinance in Morrison Park and allow us to remove the camp. The area will need some rehabilitation. The city responded that they are monitoring the situation but are not going to tell the people to relocate to the warming shelter. We don't have the ability or the authority to do the enforcement. The board expressed their desire to see the people who live in this encampment be moved to the shelter and discussed alternatives, including sending a letter to the city regarding the issue. McCarthy moved to send an official letter to the city from the board about their concerns over the homeless camp at Morrison Park. Cross seconded the motion. All approved.

Rand Road Affordable Housing – Anna and Mark were invited to attend a summit to help with affordable housing. One of the topics was property tax abatement. What it could mean is that agencies would be asked to waive taxes on deed restricted housing. Hickok asked for the board's perspective before going into the meeting. One idea was to state that if we received all of our funding with voter approval, then we might be able to revisit the concept. Others worried about the precedent it might set.

Westside Urban Renewal - The city has requested to come and discuss the possibility a new westside renewal district. They are retiring two renewal districts, one of the waterfront and one downtown. With the new urban renewal proposal, they are looking to fund three things: Parks and Trails, Affordable Housing, and Transportation. They are hoping that we will take on the

parks.

6. Aquatics Report

Wily gave the aquatics report, which included an update on staffing, inclement weather protocol, winter scheduling, and the facility.

Executive Session

7. Executive Session, *if necessary per ORS 192.660 (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.)*

Noteboom moved to adjourn regular meeting and enter executive session to review and evaluate the employment-related performance of the chief executive officer of any public body, a public officer, employee or staff member who does not request an open hearing. Mahurin seconded. All approved.

Mahurin made a motion to exit executive session. Cross seconded. All approved.
No Decisions were made in executive session.

Adjourn

Cross made a motion to adjourn and McCarthy seconded. All approved.

DocuSigned by:
Anna Cavaleri
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Approved

1/22/2022
Date

DocuSigned by:
Nancy Noteboom 
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Attest

1/21/2022
Date