



Hood River Valley Parks and Recreation District Regular Board Meeting
Wednesday February 16, 2022 6:00 pm
Via Zoom
Minutes

In Attendance:

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

Staff: Mark Hickok, Marcie Wily

Contract Accountant: Monica Morris

Auditor: Ken Onstott

HR County BOC: Karen Joplin, Arthur Babitz

Public: Tracey Tomashpol

Regular District Board Meeting

Call Regular Meeting to Order

Cavaleri called the meeting to order at 6:03pm.

Comments from the General Public (3 minutes per person, per subject, Maximum 30 minutes public comment taken)
No comments were made.

Review Minutes

1. January 19, 2022 – Regular Board Meeting Minutes

Action: Consider a motion to approve the January 19, 2022 meeting minutes

Cross made a motion to approve the Regular Board Meeting Minutes from January 19, 2022. Noteboom seconded the motion. All approved.

2. February 2, 2022 – Special Board Meeting Minutes

Action: Consider a motion to approve the February 2, 2022 meeting minutes

Cavaleri wanted to make sure that minutes from the special meeting reflected the language in the IGA specifically: "In particular, the District shall exempt, and the City shall not collect District SDCs in percentage equal to the amount of exempted City SDCs for building permits issued for development of regulated affordable housing unit on the Rand Road Property so long as the Rand Road Property is developed with an on-site recreational area with broadly accessible amenities."

Cross made a motion to approve the Special Board Meeting Minutes from Feb 2, 2022 with the proposed amendment from Cavaleri. Noteboom seconded. All approved.

Regular Business

3. FY 20/21 Audit Report

Action: Informational

Ken Onstott, Parks District Auditor, gave an overview of the Audit. Onstott gave an overview of the some of the changes that took place this year. The audit was performed with a modified cash basis of accounting as it is more reflective of the type of accounting that is done at the Parks District. The main difference is the cut off date of the fiscal year is now in cash basis, which records the money coming in or going out in real time versus a journal entry applying transactions to the appropriate fiscal year. There were no issues reported in the letter to management, giving the Parks District a clean audit report.

4. Long Range Strategy Discussion with Karen Joplin & Arthur Babitz, County BOC (30 Minutes)

Action: Provide Feedback

Hickok introduced Arthur Babitz and Karen Joplin, Hood River County Commissioners, who met with the board to discuss future funding strategies and to offer feedback for the board's consideration. Babitz shared more of the technical concerns and Joplin shared things from a community perspective. Babitz gave perspective on the Oregon Tax System, its complexities, and how minor adjustments can have consequences. He used the recent change in Urban Renewal Collection and its unintended impact on the school district as an example. Cavaleri asked if Babitz thought there was a danger of getting into compression general government category. Babitz believes there is a danger in the long term because local option levies are the first to become vulnerable to compression, a useful tool for addressing operational needs in local government. Babitz asserted that his role as a commissioner, in part, is to oversee the taxation system for the entire county.

Joplin and Babitz thought it was not appropriate practice to build capital into a permanent rate. Joplin expressed that in her experience there would be many who would question and object to that practice. They suggested to separate the ask into an operation levy (with dissolution and reformation of just operational dollars) and a going out for a separate capital bond. In addition, Commissioner Babitz suggest that another way to increase funding might be to ask for sales tax, like food and beverage or general sales tax. They have no impact on other taxing districts. Babitz and Joplin expressed that the Parks District has more a chance to succeed than the County did in their previous efforts with the pool as the selling point.

Joplin talked about her experience going through the failed levy attempt with the County. She understands that dire need and immediate need for a new pool and enhancing facilities, but she believes that many taxpayers will speak out if their taxes are raised.

The group wrapped up the conversation about the long-range strategy talking about what is needed for the future: all board members' involvement and passionate and knowledgeable volunteers.

5. FY 21/22 Budget Committee and Calendar

Hickok have said that all five budget committee members are willing to come back and serve their term. There are a couple of items that need to be adjusted with the budget adjustment and the budget calendar, so that these items will be brought to you in the March Meeting. Hickok proposed moving the budget meeting be in May so that the cost recovery project can be completed beforehand, as that project will guide some of the budgeting for the pool and recreation programming. The group talked about when to try to hold an in-person meeting and proposed trying for April board meeting.

6. FY 20/21 Budget Adjustment

Action: Approve FY 20/21 Budget Adjustment

This item was removed from the agenda.

Reports (*informational, no action needed*)

7. Finance Report

Morris gave an overview of the General Fund. General fund now includes recreation. Recreation was not included when we did this budget so that will change things. Questions were asked about some of the expenses we might see. Expense items include office equipment, recreation equipment, and the possible need for a vehicle. SDC are tracking along nicely, and there is no action in the improvement fund.

8. Directors Report

Hickok (20 mins)

Staffing Update: Mike Howard, Aquatics Supervisor resigned as the Aquatics Supervisor after four years and will be taking a job with The Next Door, Inc. Ally Kriskewic, the Assistant Aquatics Supervisor, has been

promoted to take the position. Gio Magaña-Rivera was hired as the Recreation Assistant, and Jaime Rivera, the Recreation Supervisor, is getting comfortable in his position and working on plans for summer programming.

Homeless Camp at Morrison Park: The homeless camp in Morrison Park is growing and becoming more problematic. Cavaleri has written a draft letter to send to the city and would like feedback. The group discussed the issue and the proposed letter. McCarthy made a motion to send the letter to the City Manager, with the City Council copied with prior review from legal counsel. Cross seconded. All approved.

Safe Routes to school: Hickok has been on the Safe Routes to School committee and meeting monthly. The committee is creating a plan for high priority safe routes to school. The committee has been invited to apply for a grant to fund a limited duration full time employee to do outreach, planning, and advocacy for safe routes. They need an agency to take the lead with applying for the grant, managing the financing, and managing the employee. The board discussed the project, siting that it was a valuable one, but it is a little outside the districts scope and might be more appropriate with the city, county, or school district.

Water Slide Removal: One of the supports for the waterslide rusted through and became unstable. After researching repair options, the slide was deemed to be past repair and was removed by staff. The deck is slated to be repaired, and the slide will not be replaced.

9. Aquatics Report

High school swim team wrapped up their season. Club water polo has been practicing, and the pool is now open on Sundays. A lifeguard training course is slated for the end of February, and we are hoping to hire a few more guards. We are still in need of regular swim instructors to get the swim lesson program up and running for the future, but are planning to start with some swim lesson clinics on Saturdays to help reorient the community to structured lessons and to help participants identify the appropriate levels for future classes.

Executive Session

10. 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.)

Cavaleri entered the group to enter Executive Session per statute.

Cross made the motion to exit. Noteboom seconded. All approved.

No formal action was taken in Executive Session.

Adjourn

Cross made a motion to adjourn. McCarthy seconded.

DocuSigned by:
Anna Cavaleri
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Approved

3/28/2022
Date

DocuSigned by:
Nancy Noteboom
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Attest

3/30/2022
Date