



**Hood River Valley Parks and Recreation District
Board of Directors Special Meeting,
Wednesday, March 4, 2020 - 6:00pm
Hood River Aquatic Center**

Minutes

In Attendance:

Staff: Mark Hickok, Marcie Wily

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

Contract Accountant: Monica Morris

Public: Susan Crowley

Special District Board Meeting – Goal Setting and Strategy

Call Special Meeting to Order

Mahurin called the meeting to order at 6:02pm

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

No Comments were made.

1. FY 2020-21 Goal Setting and Strategy Discussion

Hickok began the goal setting discussion, saying that he hoped the board would be able to give staff feedback on a plan for the next 25 years and answer the five questions:

- What level of aquatic facility (identified in 2017 pool enclosure report do we desire)?
- What kind of ask are we considering? (Levy, Bond, or Redistricting)?
- What is the maximum (combined) rate we feel comfortable asking for?
- What other capital needs might be needed?
- What is the priority for level of operation needs?

Hickok gave an overview of what we do now: what the money gets spent on. He gave a broad overview of the Parks Districts revenue, the general list of what the Parks District maintains in terms of total park acres, developed acres, and the pool. He also reviewed employees – four full time staff, and 42 part time employees.

Hickok reviewed options from the Pool Enclosure Study and gave an overview of the Piper Jafrey summary of the estimated bond amount for each option and the applicable rates. Hickok gave an overview of what items might be included with Parks District expansion: replacing the aquatic center, building parks and trails, increased operations and level of service.

In addition, there was a review of the various funding options:

1. Local Operation Levy – A Levy would increase significant funding for parks and acquisition, as well as development and maintenance purposes.
2. General Obligation Bond – Bonds raise substantial amounts of money, enabling the District to make important capital investments. Bonds may not be used for maintenance and operations.
3. Reforming the District – A new permanent levy could create significant funding for parks and recreation. Revenues may be used for acquisition as well as development and maintenance purposes. This option would require addition additional steps to dissolve existing district and coordination with the County to form. There would be some risk associated with this scenario.

After reviewing the option, Hickok gave an overview of the tax rate scenarios, as well as a history of tax measures in Hood River County. He followed up with survey data from the Pool Enclosure Study and the Multi-jurisdictional Master Plan. Feedback from both the study and the plan showed high support for

replacing the aquatic center and the willingness to pay an additional \$10/month in taxes for a better level of service. He also reviewed the timeline for what is needed for the forming the district.

Discussion ensued about which funding strategy the group wanted. Some thought redistricting was risky, that people might not understand the measure. Noteboom and Cavalieri spoke in favor of redistricting. Mahurin also spoke in favor of redistricting. McCarthy spoke in favor of redistricting, but felt trepidation, particularly with Upper Valley residents. Cross also spoke in favor of redistricting and expressed the desire of establishing a capital campaign.

The group discussed what type of aquatic facility they would like to include in the ask to the voters, and what type of financial impact that might have on people. They reviewed the feedback from the community from the master plan and the pool enclosure study, which was to go for the option that allowed for the most expansion, a three story with space for community and recreation.

Noteboom made a motion to request the county to put an order of formation for a new parks district on the November Ballot for and to move forward with the dissolution of the Parks District and its current tax rate. Cavalieri seconded the motion. All approved.

The group discussed a list of capital needs that might get support from voters. Some of the capital needs that were discussed were trail and connectivity expansion, turf fields in Odell, and the possibility of refurbishment program of sports fields in the area.

Executive Session


- 2. 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 call the group into Executive Session.

McCarthy made the motion to exit Executive Session. Cavalieri seconded. All approved.

Adjourn

Cross made the motion to adjourn the board meeting. McCarthy seconded. All approved.

 Approved By _____ Date June 2, 2020
Approved By _____ Date _____