



**Hood River Valley Parks and Recreation District Special Board Meeting  
Thursday, May 26, 2022 5:30 pm  
In Person at the Hood River Aquatic Center –  
1601 May St. Hood River, OR 97031  
And Via Zoom**

**Meeting Minutes**

**In Attendance:**

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

**Staff:** Mark Hickok

**Public:** Deb Dennis, Tina Lassen, Martha Ortega-Verduzco

**Call Special Meeting to Order**

**1. Interview Candidates for HRVPRD Board Vacancy** Cavaleri (90 mins)

The board interviewed three candidates for the vacant board position. They asked all three candidates the same questions. 1. In the application, we asked you what cross section of the community you represent. Can you remind us of your answer, and explain how you can help us involve and represent folks who have not been well represented by the Parks District in the past? 2. Explain what you think HRPRD's priorities should be for the future. 3. What makes you excited about being on the HRPD Board? 4. We know you already wrote this in your application, but would you share with us again why you want to be on the HRPRD board? 5. Do you have any questions for us?

**Interview 1 – Deb Dennis** – Ms. Dennis explained to the board that she has wanted to get involved with Parks and Rec for some time now. She was very excited to see a board position open and is excited about the opportunity. She has school age kids at May Street Elementary that are very involved in many activities, and she keeps a spreadsheet of all of the opportunities for children that she shares with other parents. Ms. Dennis described her work experience in marketing for NASCAR and Nike. She talked about opportunities for recreation program sponsorship and other creative ways to supplement program costs with private money. Ms. Dennis has been attending some of our recent meetings and had a good understanding of our issues and opportunities. She stated that rebuilding the pool and obtaining a right sized and sustainable funding source for operations would be the district's top priority.

**Interview 2 – Martha Ortega-Verduzco** – Ms. Ortega-Verduzco described how she grew up in Hood River and has been a part of this community her whole life, she is impressed with our parks and would like to get more involved, she has school age kids and lives in Parkdale. Ms. Ortega-Verduzco talked about her experience with the Rural Organizing Project, Hood River County Democrats, St. Mary Finance Committee, and League of Women's Voters. Ms. Ortega-Verduzco explained that she is bi-lingual and very involved in the Latinx community where she created the Hood River Latino Network. She would like to make local Latinos more aware of what Parks and Rec's does and ways they can become more involved with the issues and/or new projects.

**Interview 3 – Tina Lassen** – Ms. Lassen described how she has lived in Hood River for 22 years and talked about her experience in various roles with community service (Hood River Planning Commission, Livable Hood River, Urban Renewal Advisory Committee, etc.) Ms. Lassen lives in downtown Hood River and is a

professional writer. She talked about her desire to represent locals and help create a more walkable community.

**Deliberation:** The board talked about the three interviews and stressed what a hard decision this was. All three candidates were well qualified and brought their own unique skills to the table. The board discussed how it would be great if we could find a way to engage all the candidates in some sort of volunteer work or service even if they are not selected and to encourage them to run for the board next year during the election. After careful consideration the board decided to select Martha Ortega-Verduzco.

**Action:** The Board voted unanimously to appoint Martha Ortega-Verduzco

**Adjourn**

Approved

Attest

Date

Date

15 June 2022

06/15/2022