



Hood River Valley Parks and Recreation District Regular Board Meeting

Wednesday, October 20, 2021 6:00 pm

Via Zoom <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82662887864>

or call (253)215-8782 meeting # 826 6288 7864

Minutes

In Attendance:

Staff: Mark Hickok

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

Contract Account: Monica Morris

Legal Counsel: Ruben Cleavland

Public: Dan (CGCC) -Dan Spatz (Community Relations Director)

Regular District Board Meeting

Call Regular Meeting to Order

Cavaleri called the regular meeting to order at 6:04pm.

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

Review Minutes

1. September 15, 2021 – Regular Board Meeting Minutes

Action: Consider a motion to approve the September 15, 2021 meeting minutes.

Noteboom made a motion to approve the September 15, 2021 meeting minutes. Mahurin seconded. All approved.

2. August 17, 2021 – Special Board Meeting Minutes

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

Mahurin made a motion to approve the August 17, 2021 meeting minutes. Noteboom seconded. All approved.

New Business

3. IT Security and Acceptable Use Policy

Action: Consider a motion to approve IT Security and Acceptable Use Policy

Hickok gave some information on the IT Security and Acceptable Use Policy that was put out by Special District Insurance Services (SDIS). SDIS offers a discount to members when they implement policies or trainings within their loss prevention program. This policy outlines good internet and computer safety practices for the district to follow. The policies help prevent data breaches.

Cross made a motion to approve the IT Security and Acceptable Use Policy. Noteboom seconded. All approved.

4. Ag Tech Alliance MOU

Action: Review and Consider a motion to approve the MOU

Hickok gave some background on the Ag Tech Alliance and the work that has been done to get to the Memorandum of Understanding. Board members gave feedback on the project. Cavaleri asked if there could be a right of first refusal, so that the Barret parcel could be sold if the opportunity arise and not be bound by the agreement. Noteboom voiced wanting to keep the land in public hand and like the project. McCarthy voiced concern about the project, thought there were some errors in the document, and whether

there would land use implications with a potential sale of the land to the Alliance. Dan Spatz with the Columbia Gorge Community College mentioned that this isn't a binding document but an assurance that the Alliance is serious about the program. CGCC doesn't have an AG Tech program, which is a shortcoming for the college because of the proximity to the area. The land will not be used for research; it will be used for production. There will not be any zone change request and the Alliance will put that language in the document if that's desired. They want the students engaged in farming, current technology used in farming, what application can robotics be played in the process. Cavaleri suggested giving legal counsel the time to review the document and the board could send comments to Hickok. Cross made a motion to table the idea until had legal counsel had a chance to review. Mahurin seconded. All approved.

5. Order Initiating Formation of a Hood River County Park and Recreation District

Action: Review and Consider a motion to approve the Order

See motion in section 6.

Old Business

6. District Reforming Strategy and Timeline

Action: Review and provide feedback

Hickok gave information on the dissolution and reformation timeline. Hickok proposed to hold special work sessions to determine community desire and tax rate. This meeting would help the Board better understand the tax rate and where projects might be used. Hickok started with a brief overview of surveys previously conducted by the District from 2017 to present. The board asked a variety of questions, like what an additional ten dollars per month equates to and how much that might mean an average homeowner would pay in taxes. They asked for a breakdown for specific costs of items (like rebuilding the pool, parkland acquisition and development, operations) and how much each of those items would increase the tax rate.

Noteboom gave an overview of what might be needed for the Election Committee. Noteboom met with Liz Whitmore, who helped with the County election. Whitmore shared document and duties needed for the election.

Cleveland reviewed legal matters of forming a new District. The Parks District will have to go before the County Board of Commissioners to Initiate the Formation of the District by order of the Board of Directors. Two public hearings will be required. Cleveland asked the board to come up with a name for the campaign and for a new district. He also needs their feedback and approval on the draft so that the Parks District can go before the board of commissioners by their November 15 meeting.

The group brainstormed name ideas for the campaign and a new district. The group also liked keeping the Parks and Recreation District name as close to the original name as possible. They chose Hood River Community Parks & Rec for the name.

McCarthy moved to approve the Order with the changes discussed to present to the County Board of Commissioners. Mahurin seconded. All approved.

Reports (informational, no action needed)

7. Finance Report

Morris gave the finance report. There's no beginning balance yet because we don't have everything finalized from the last fiscal year. We see a lot of expenses as well this time of year with the tasks performed during annual maintenance. Nothing has been spent out of the Improvement Fund. For the SDC Fund, the projects from Westside Park and the South Side Connector are reflected in the fund.

8. Directors Report

Hickok gave the Director’s Report.

The South Side Connector trail work has begun. Staff met with neighbors who were worried about trail placement in relation to their house. Staff from the Parks District and the Land Trust met to find a route that is more appealing to users set back in the woods a little further, and they are working with the county on a request for a minor amendment.

Westside Park: The Parks District closed on the Skakel Property on September 30 and the Blackman property on October 20th. Hickok congratulated the board on the acquisition and said that staff is working on all the details: a maintenance plan, signage, etc.

Shower Passes for the Houseless: The Mid-Columbia Community Action Council has purchased a shower trailer to help with a much-needed service for the people who experience houselessness. The trailer won’t be available for a few months, so shower passes will available, as they have in year’s past, until 2:00PM on weekdays.

Contracting Landscaping and Trash Removal: We are exploring contracting out some services to help free up our maintenance staff so that they can complete a long list of maintenance projects that have been deferred.

Community Education: Staff is putting together job descriptions for the new community education positions. The Parks District will be working with the school district to support the program this winter.

9. Aquatics Report

Hickok and Morris gave the aquatics report, reporting that three lifeguard trainings passed the recently held course, and while hiring those individuals does help alleviate some pressure, it’s not enough to allow the pool to resume a more normal schedule. The pool will remain closed two days a week until more staff is hired and trained. Morris gave an overview of recruiting and retention ideas, ranging from wage increases to incentives. Board members voiced support for most of the incentives presented. They will look at wage and budget at the next board meeting.

Executive Session

10. Executive Session - Not needed

Adjourn

Cross made a motion to adjourn and Noteboom seconded.

DocuSigned by:
Anna Cavaleri
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Approved

12/6/2021
Date

DocuSigned by:
Nancy Noteboom 
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Attest

12/6/2021

