



**Hood River Valley Parks and Recreation District Regular Board Meeting**  
**Wednesday, September 20<sup>th</sup>, 2023, at 6:00 pm**  
**Hood River Aquatic Center**

**In Attendance:**

**Board:** Anna Cavaleri, Mike Howard, Christy Christopher, Nancy Noteboom, Martha Oretaga-Verdusco

**Staff:** Mark Hickok, Marcie Wily, Kelsey Barnes

**Consultants:** Bob Keefer (SDAO), Miranda Everitt (FM3 Research)

**Public:** Kip Jackson, Dan C Smith, David Himiel, Oliver Reiss, Daniel Ross, Bernie Von Borstel, Gina Clark, Lauren Huffman, Zed Ruhlen, Colby Herring, Kevin Greenwood, and Keir Bryerton

**Regular District Board Meeting**

**Call Regular Meeting to Order**

President Noteboom attended via zoom, in her physical absence to the meeting Vice President Oretaga-Verdusco called the meeting to order at 6:01pm.

**1. Comments from general public:**

- a. Colby Herring (Flyer from Barrett Park): Herring spoke in support of Barrett RC Flying Field and wanting to promote good will in the community, as it relates to RC Flying and helping children learn to fly model airplanes.
- b. Oliver Reiss (Flyer from Barrett Park): Reiss spoke in support of the Barrett Park RC Flying Field. He stated that Barrett Park is a certified AMA flying field and remains one of only two such locations in the gorge area to fly model airplanes without a transponder.
- c. Zed Ruhlen (Flyer from Barrett Park): In addition to being a Barrett Park Flyer, Ruhlen owns Hood River Hobbies. Ruhlen stated that Barrett Park has been an essential part of his business and a great asset to the community in general.
- d. Daniel Ross (Flyer from Barrett Park): He spoke in support of Barrett Park, saying that Being an AMA certified flying field, Barrett Park allows people to fly without investing hundreds of dollars into transponders.
- e. Kip Jackson (Flyer from Barrett Park): He spoke in support of Barrett Park, saying that it is a great place to teach children about flying and STEM education.
- f. David Himiel: Expressed his appreciation to Hood River Valley Parks and Recreation District and for Barrett Park.
- g. Bernie Von Borstel: Borstel expressed dissatisfaction with the organization and communication of the soccer program. She stated she wants more accountability and transparency.
- h. Lauren Huffman: Lauren, a volunteer coach for the girls' soccer program in Parkdale, expressed her frustrations with not knowing the schedules for the soccer programming and poor communication.
- i. Gina Clark: Clark expressed concern for the soccer program and wants all programs to be diverse, equitable, and inclusive for all children in the community.

- j. Anonymous: Cavaleri read an anonymous comment from the public. The anonymous letter gives the opinion on how the teams should be more diverse teams with boys and girls and that teams should not be allowed to stay the same year after year, so children learn to play with other teammates.
- k. Kevin Greenwood: Greenwood, Executive Director of the Port of Hood River, stated that the Port of Hood River is supportive of the efforts HRVPRD is making to investigate funding and partnerships with the other agencies in Hood River County. The Port of Hood River is looking forward to working together with HRVPRD to see if we can add more value to the entire Parks and Recs District.
- l. Kier Bryerton: Bryerton, a resident next door to Barrett Park, expressed concerned about the noise coming from people flying model airplanes near Bryerton's residence.

## 2. Review Minutes August 22, 2023<sup>th</sup>, 2023

Christopher asked that the minutes be amended to reflect that she had made the first two motions in the August 22<sup>nd</sup> meeting. Staff agreed to make the correction and Christopher motioned to accept August 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2023 minutes as corrected. Cavaleri seconded the motion, all approved.

## Regular Business

### 3. District Long Range Planning and Strategic Update: FM3 Research Public Survey Report

Everitt from FM3 Research spoke on the survey results of 294 Hood River Valley residents. The results are positive and show there is broad approval for the work being done by the Parks District and most people see a need for more funding and they are willing to invest in it.

Highlights of the Survey:

- HRVPRD is the most favored government agency within the county.
- Voters feel positive about the direction of things locally, but the most concerning issue within the county is the cost of housing.
- 3 in 5 voters support increasing funding for parks and recreation in Hood River County.
- Broad shares are willing to pay as much as \$20/per month per household to support parks and recreation.
- Voters value investments in maintaining parks, water quality, fire prevention, and connecting kids to nature and safe routes to school.
- Voters highly value swimming lessons for all children as well as making tourists pay their fair share.

The survey was done in English; another survey will be conducted in both Spanish and English and posted to the HRVPRD website so the district can value and hear the voices of more people in the community.

Hickok stated that the parks and recreation district is trying to get a measure on the ballot in May 2024. Cavaleri asked if the board could have a work session to discuss survey results further in depth and to prepare for the work session meeting on October 3, 2023 that will involve the other park service providing agencies in the county. Hickok suggested having an special work session on September 28, 2023.

**Reports** (*informational, no action needed*)

#### 4. Finance Report

Hickok presented the board with the financial reports. SDC's are still very low and so far, we have only received one. He reminded the board that is not the time of year that those funds are received. The recreation fund is showing a good trend right now and revenue is exceeding expenditures by a slim margin. The general fund is currently over on expenditures vs revenue, which is common this time of the year because the district won't receive funding until taxes are due in November.

#### 5. Directors Report

Hickok gave the Directors report. The Rotary installed the Peace Pole at the Skate Park. He stated that there was an unofficial feature added with cement that was removed on September 20, 2023. Hickok said no legal measures were taken, but the individuals who added the feature were educated on the safety of the issue and the process that needs to be taken in order to do this legally. Finishing touches are being done on the Sherman house trial project, there was a bit of a setback to this due weather and finding a fence contractor. The district is currently down a maintenance supervisor until Anthony Johnson takes over the position on October 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2023. Hickok invites the board to come to the ORPA (Oregon Recreation & Park Association) conference that will be attended by some HRVPRD employees in early November. The conference will be a great networking and continuing education opportunity for employees at HRVPRD.

#### Recreation & Aquatics

Wily reported on Aquatics and Recreation. Fall sports programs have started and include soccer, youth football, adult basketball, adult kickball, adult cornhole, and a co-ed basketball camp for High Schooler's. We are currently gearing up for our winter programs. Cavaleri asked to discuss the public comment regarding recreation. Hickok addressed the complexity of contracting out programming versus running them in house. Hickok addressed how the district can do better with communication issues. Wily moves onto the aquatics report, annual maintenance is complete, and the pool is ready for the winter season. Wily shared that the shower valve project was not installed as planned, with a timed valved. The issue is being addressed and the shower valves will be replaced in a timely fashion. Wily also discussed the challenges with staffing the pool. Staff continue to recruit, and the District is offering a daytime differential to those employees who can work daytime hours.

Cavaleri made the motion to adjourn at 9:22pm. Howard seconded. All approved.

Nan Howbe  
Approved  
M. P. [Signature]  
Attest

11-15-23  
Date  
11-15-2023  
Date