



**Hood River Valley Parks and Recreation District Regular Board Meeting
Wednesday, September 28, 2022
5:00pm Indian Creek Trail South Side
Extension Trail Site Visit followed by
Regular Board Meeting at the Hood River
Aquatic Center at 6:00pm**

In Attendance:

Board: Anna Cavaleri, Nan Noteboom, Susanne Cross

Staff: Mark Hickok, Marcie Wily, Marcos Gonzalez

Regular District Board Meeting

Call Regular Meetings to Order

Cavaleri called meeting to order at 6:12 PM

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

Review Minutes

1. August 17th, 2022 – Regular Board Meeting Minutes

Action: Consider a motion to approve the July 20, 2022 meeting minutes

Noteboom move to approve the amended August 17, 2022 meeting minutes. Cross seconded. All approved.

Regular Business

2. District Long-Range Strategy and Discussion

Action: Review and provide feedback

Hickok went over the history of HRVPRD's efforts in trying to fund the construction of a new pool. This process started with the Pool Enclosure Study in 2017 when the board received an estimation of five year of useful life before annual cost of maintenance pass the amortized cost of replacement. Leading up to 2022, HRVPRD worked on a Multi-Jurisdictional Master Plan to identify needs as well as establish goals, which included a goal to fund construction of a new pool. In 2021 the board attempted to get on the ballot with a dissolution and reform proposal, but hit roadblocks with the City and County both wanting to be more involved and unhappy with the proposal. In 2022, the board has been faced with re-tooling the ask to the voters.

Hickok then presented the different options of reforming the district to the board members that was previously present at the multi-jurisdictional meeting on April 28th, 2022.

Option A: Dissolve this Parks District and Reform into a new district and Pass a Capital Bond in the same election

Option B: Local levy and Capital Bond in same election

Option C: Capital bond first followed by a levy or redistricting in separate election.

Option D: Levy or redistricting first then capital bond in separate election

Option E: Consolidation of all parks under the existing district with sales tax.

Option E was not previously present to the board and is a new scenario that was originally suggested by Arthur Babitz, County Commissioner, at the multi-jurisdictional meeting. The sales tax (Prepared Food Tax) would be the only item on the ballot and HRVPRD would not need to reform into a new district. Messaging and obtaining feedback from constituents would be crucial.

Hickok gave an overview of Bob Keefer's, a consultant with SDAO, presentation, and steps for consolidation from the previous board meeting. Keefer recommend first to identify what is the HRVPRD's core business and develop a backup plan if a consensus with the other agencies cannot be met. Next, he recommended meeting with the other agencies to get an idea of how they might contribute or help the district and develop a proposal for governance and funding of the parks district. He also suggested hiring a public opinion firm to test and refine the proposal. Lastly, implement the plan to successfully fund construction of a new pool.

Cross suggested for HRVPRD to start sharing with the public more consistent information about the ageing facility, but also other programs and parks that are run by the district. The board brainstormed ways to get information out including taking turns writing short articles on various district topics.

The board deliberated over their options for what to put on the ballot. Cavaleri mentioned that the people in office now will possible be changing with election coming up in November. The board agreed that it would be in their best interests to wait until the elections were finished. Hickok went over timing. Other agencies are likely going to put items on the ballot in 2023. To best prepare and work with other agencies, 2024 might be a more realistic year to be on the ballot.

Cross asked if there were any other options on how to raise funds for the pool or had, we already exhausted all our options. Hickok stated that they had already investigated other possibilities and the five options presented today are their best opportunities to fund construction for a pool.

Cavaleri favored hiring Keefer as a consultant to help guide the district in consolidation of the parks around Hood River. The board agreed with Cavaleri and asked Hickok to move forward with developing a proposal for Keefer.

Noteboom discussed her and Ortega-Verduzco's new radio show that will be happening the first and third Thursday of the month on Radio Tierra. The plan is to discuss a range of topics highlighting HRVPRD's programs, trails, and the Aquatic Center.

Reports (*informational, no action needed*)

3. Finance Report

Hickok gave an overview of the district's finance report. The system development fund is doing quite well and with the raised rates it will keep doing well. Recreation fund is progressing nicely with a sports registration in the summer being high and the HRC School District grant helping supplement the Rec programs.

4. Directors Report

Hickok gave his directors report highlighting the progress on the Indian Creek Trail Southside Extension. Hickok presented a concept for an interpretive sign to the board that could be placed overlooking Hood River and suggested naming it Shushula Point Lookout. Dr. T.L Eliot, a prominent figure in early Hood River, owned much of the land below the lookout and calling it his own Shushula. The house he built on the land ended being called the Shushula House and to this day no one knows exactly where the house is located, since it burned accidentally in 1905. The board agreed that this is a great name and plaque for the lookout.

The Tsuruta tennis courts next to the Aquatic Center are failing due to drainage issue, which has been an ongoing issue. The cost to fix the courts are an estimated one million dollars. The city decided to stop repairing them, stating that the tennis courts need to be moved. Knowing that the Hood River High

School tennis team has wanted to have more tennis courts near the high school, Hickok and Rich Polkinghorn (Hood River County School District Superintendent) reached out to the owner of a neighboring property to Golden Eagle Park and the High School to explore the possibility of building additional tennis courts on the land. The School District and HRVPRD do not have the funds right now to construct the tennis courts, but Hickok will get an estimate on construction and keep an open conversation with the landowner.

5. Aquatics & Recreation Report

Wily presented the Aquatic and Recreation report to the board. The pool was closed for annual maintenance for two weeks. Everything went smoothly, but a few things still need to be repaired so that the pool can remain functional. Staff will need to replace the far west roof panel, which tore due to age, and there are still repairs that need to be made to the boiler. Fall swim lessons, swim team, and high school water polo are in full swing. The district applied for a grant through Columbia Gorge Health Counsel for a little over \$46,000 and are confident they will receive funding. This grant will help improve equitable pool access for lessons and general use. Jon Vermaire was recently hired as our new assistant aquatic supervisor. He has been working as our swim lesson coordinator and has his lifeguard instructor training certification.

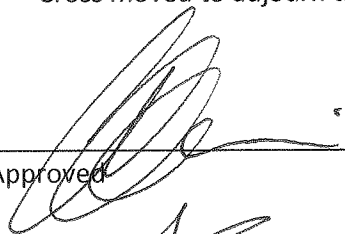
Executive Session


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.)*

Cavalieri made the motion enter executive session per statute to discuss a real estate negotiation. Cavalieri made the motion to exit the executive session. Cross seconded. All approved. No decisions were made.

Adjourn

Cross moved to adjourn the meeting. Noteboom seconded. All approved.



Approved


Attest

16 Nov. 2022

Date
11/16/22

Date

