



Hood River Valley Parks and Recreation District Regular Board Meeting
Wednesday, April 17th, 2024, at 6:00 pm
Hood River Aquatic Center

In Attendance:

Board: Anna Cavaleri, Mike Howard, Christy Christopher, Nan Noteboom, Martha Ortega-Verdusco

Staff: Mark Hickok, Marcie Wily, Kelsey Barnes, Anthony Johnston

Public: Kier Bryerton

President Noteboom called the meeting to order at 6:07 pm.

Comments from General Public

None.

1. Review Minutes from March 20th, 2024

Cavaleri made a motion to approve the March 20th, 2024 minutes. Christopher seconded. All approved.

2. Appoint Budget Committee Member

Christopher made a motion to appoint Meg Rummel to the budget committee. Cavaleri seconded. All approved.

3. Strategic Planning

Hickok updated the board on the district's strategic planning efforts. With just one more board meeting before the election, Hickok highlighted the importance of informing the community about the proposed bond and levy measures. The district's Assistant Director, Wily, and the Aquatic Supervisor, Kriskewic have hosted three informational sessions and tours of the Aquatic Center. The sessions covered topics such as the district's history, services, challenges, and the proposed bond and levy measures. Two additional informational sessions are to be added before the May election to ensure everyone has a chance to learn more.

Hickok addressed a concept that has led to some confusion in the public. There is a lack of understanding on how property taxes are based on assessed value, and how that figure is determined. He explained the difference between assessed value, real market value, and what a home will actually sell for, using a real-life example. He showed a current home listing for \$850,000 in Hood River, with a "real market value" set by the county of \$674,380 and an assessed value of \$259,310. This is caused by Measure 50, passed in 1996, which capped the annual increase in assessed value at 3%. If the bond and levy measures are passed, taxpayers would be paying taxes on their assessed value, not the market value of their home. Hickok stated that he is working on an explanation of this and will be putting out information in a newsletter to try and educate the public about this issue.

Hickok addressed concerns raised by some of the baseball community regarding Collins Field. The district acknowledged the pushback and is working to mitigate the impact. With volunteer help, the district plans to refurbish one of the old ball fields near the Hood River Fairgrounds, creating a space for both our new women's softball and adult baseball programs and other

community use. Although this wouldn't replace Collins Field entirely, it could provide an alternative solution.

Noteboom provided an update on the Political Action Committee's outreach efforts. The PAC team has developed a mailer campaign to inform the public about the ballot measures and has been actively engaging with the community at public meetings. Additionally, radio and newspaper ads will be launched in the coming weeks. Noteboom also reported on the successful dinner fundraising event held at Celilo, which was sold out and served as the primary source of funding for the campaign.

Reports

4. Finance Report

Hickok presented the financial report for the district. At the end of the third quarter, the general fund revenue is currently at 89% and expenditures at 65%. Revenue is expected to exceed 100% by the end of the year. Hickok noted that minor adjustments had been made to the expense categories to provide a more accurate understanding of the associated costs. The recreation fund is also performing well, with a revised calculation to include the beginning balance in revenue totals. Revenue is at 84% and expenditures are at 71%. SDC revenue is not coming in that strong, but there is also not a lot of expenses happening out of the fund. The improvement fund isn't typically shown due to its stability from month to month, but it will be included in future financial reports. The purpose of this fund is to set aside revenue for infrastructure improvements, it has a current balance of \$833,937. This year three tent panels have been purchased costing approximately \$30,000.

5. Directors Report

Hickok gave the director's report. The district's budget will be posted publicly by May 1st, with the budget meeting scheduled for May 8th. The budget is based on the district's historical performance and inflation rates, providing a comprehensive financial plan for the upcoming year. Additionally, Hickok announced that the Urban Renewal Agency has decided to utilize the City Council instead of appointing additional board members. Hickok also shared a proposal from Paul Woolery, a citizen, and parks volunteer, to develop Poetry Signs along the Indian Creek Trail. Mr. Woolery has offered to financially support the initial program and lead the design efforts. The board members think it is a good idea to enhance the trail experience. However, it was emphasized that the district would maintain final authority over placement and design decisions and would like to see the program start off small and then evaluate it after some time.

6. Parks/Trails/Maintenance Quarterly Report

Johnston, the district's maintenance supervisor gave the maintenance quarterly report. One of the panels on the west wall of the Aquatic Center building is tearing and will need to be replaced soon. Additionally, he has been busy addressing various maintenance issues including the repair of the swimsuit dryer, UV system for the therapy pool, and clearing trails and parks for the upcoming summer season. The district's parks team is comprised of a small staff, with only two part-time employees in addition to Johnston. The team relies heavily on volunteer work to complete many of its tasks, including trail maintenance. Lastly, Johnston shared about the upcoming Indian Creek Earth Day work party, scheduled for April 20th, in partnership with The Hood River Water Shed group. The event will focus on planting trees and shrubs along the Indian Creek Trail.

Executive Session

Executive Session, per ORS 192.660 (e). To conduct deliberations with persons designated by the governing body to negotiate real property transactions and (i) To review and evaluate the employment-related performance of the chief executive officer of any public body, a public officer, employee or staff member who does not request an open hearing.

No decisions were made during the executive session.

Cavaleri motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:15 pm. Ortega-Verdusco seconded. All approved.



Approved

Attest

15 May 2024
Date

5/15/2024
Date

