



**Hood River Valley Parks and Recreation District Regular Board Meeting
Wednesday, February 15, 2023 6:00 pm
Hood River Aquatic Center**

In Attendance:

Board: Suzanne Cross, Anna Cavaleri, Nan Noteboom

Staff: Mark Hickok, Marcie Wily, Marcos Gonzalez, Matt Jordan

City of Hood River: Abigail Elder (City Manager)

City of Hood River Consultant: Nick Popenuk

Protect our Parks: Tracy Tomashpol,

Public: Linda Maddox, Susan Crowley, Josh Sceva, Jim Klaas, Carolyn Smale

Regular District Board Meeting

Call Regular Meeting to Order

Cavaleri called the meeting to order at 6:09pm.

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

Linda Madix was excited to see that HRVPRD has an options agreement on the Campbell property and wanted to thank them for their efforts in buying the property to finish the connection of Indian Creek Trail.

Review Minutes

1. **January 18, 2023 – Regular Board Meeting Minutes**

Action: Consider a motion to approve the January 18, 2023 meeting minutes

Cross made a motion to approve the January 18, 2023. Noteboom seconded. All approved.

Presentations

1. **Potential Westside Hood River Urban Renewal District**

Action: Informational/Provide Feedback

Abigail Elder, City Manager, and Nick Popenuk, a consultant with the City of Hood River, gave an overview of the potential Westside Hood River Urban Renewal District. Before urban renewal starts your tax, growth can only increase 3% every year. When a new Urban Renewal District is formed, it freezes on the tax growth, and cities use that money to help invest in infrastructure. In theory, the infrastructure being built will promote growth in the area, bringing potential investors and commerce to the area. The current estimates on the Westside urban renewal district will be in effect for 25 years to reach the maximum indebtedness, and the area will encompass about 445 acres. With this extra money from the urban renewal, Elder presented some sample projects to the board which were: improve transportation systems, develop affordable housing, and establish more parks and trails. The city does not need HRVPRD's approval but is required to present at all government agencies that will be affected by the urban renewal. The plan will be finalized in September 2023, and the new district begins on January 1st, 2024.

Cavaleri asked once the urban renewal district sunsets who owns all the new infrastructure. Elder stated she does not know the answer to Cavaleri's question but will find out.

2. **Morrison Park Volunteer Project with Protect Our Parks**

Action: Informational/Provide Feedback

Tracy Tomashpol, board member of Protect our Parks (POP), gave a presentation on their efforts to

improve Morrison Park with the help of volunteers and Matt Jordan, the Maintenance Supervisor at HRVPRD. The collaboration of different organizations has allowed POP to build tee-pads for disc golf, clean up after unauthorized campers, and improve the overall beauty of Morrison Park. Moving forward POP's goals for Morrison Park are planning a trail, removing invasive plant species and flammable brush.

Regular Business

3. FY 2023/2024 Budget Committee & Calendar

Action: Consider Approving the FY 2023/2024 Budget Calendar

Hickok presented the budget committee and budget calendar to the board. There is a vacancy on the budget committee, which Hickok has advertised for. The budget committee meeting is planned for May 10th at 6:00PM.

Noteboom made a motion to approve the FY 2023/2024 Budget Calendar and appoint Hickok as the Budget Officer. Cross seconded. All approved.

4. HRVPRD Strategic Planning

Action: Review and provide feedback

Hickok gave an overview of his meeting with Bob Keefer, SDAO Consultant, and what the district's proposed first steps and what the timeline looks like. Keefer first step suggestions were: to determine what the parks district's goals are and how to sustain them; determine the realistic projection for the funding mechanisms (bond, levy or food and sales tax); and lastly to see at what capacity the parks district could take on other government parks.

Looking at the timeline, Keefer advised HRVPRD to determine the funding request for a new aquatic facility and finalize a budget and any additional funding request to keep growing the district to be confirmed by April 10th. The draft of the combined funding package should be presented to the board on April 19th, 2023 for review and the final proposal be presented to the board on May 17th, 2023. The board deliberated over this and discussed the different options they have with what to put on the ballot.

Hickok presented to the board some of the future needs of the district as it expands. Looking at the budget, Hickok asked the board to keep in mind that the district will need more staff, storage, supplies and general overhead expenses to run the new facilities in the future.

Reports (informational, no action needed)

5. Finance Report

Hickok gave an overview of the finance reports. The funds are tracking along well. SDCs will not be affected by the urban renewal district. The general fund has already hit HRVPRD's projections, and looking at the next budget cycle the district will be less conservative.

6. Directors Report

Hickok presented his director's report to the board. The residents on Arrowhead Drive reached out to HRVPRD to pave or gravel the turnaround at Arrowhead Dr. because hikers are parking there to access the Indian Creek Trail. Hickok discussed this topic with Ruben Cleveland, HRVPRD legal counsel, and he stated that the district should not be spending public funds to improve privately owned land. Hickok and the board agree that the district should not pave or gravel the Arrowhead Dr. turnaround.

Hickok has been accepted to the NRPA Director's School. This is an exclusive two-year professional development opportunity held in Chicago. The board is in full support in Hickok attending the school and improving as a director.

Hickok wanted to remind the board about HRVPRD's social media strategy with the recent post on forums and pages the district does not manage. The district wants to be made aware of any complaints, but cannot monitor all sites on a regular basis and will not comment on those threads.

Oregon Community paths program grant was submitted to help purchase the Campbell property and finish connecting the Indian Creek Trail.

7. Aquatics & Recreation Report

Hickok gave an overview of the aquatics and recreation report. ActiveRx program is active and will provide free swim lessons and pool passes for families that qualify to support healthy lifestyles. Lifeguard training class was scheduled for the end of January with 5 participants signed up. Dollar swims are quite busy now that they have been moved to Saturdays. Recreation has been busy with spring programs around the corner. We have had some issues with getting into the Hood River County School Districts facilities since the doors are opened automatically.

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.)*


Cavaleri moved the board into executive session per statute to discuss real-estate options.

Cavaleri moved the board from executive session back into regular session.

Noteboom made a motion to authorize the board president, Anna Cavaleri to sign the option agreement for the potential purchase and sale of the Parkdale Park.

Adjourn

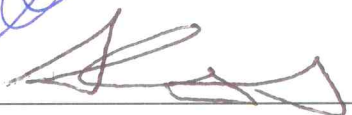
Cross moved to adjourn the meeting. Noteboom seconded. All approved



Approved

15 March 2023

Date



Attest

15 March 2023

Date