



**Hood River Valley Parks and Recreation District Regular Board Meeting**  
**Wednesday, January 18, 2023 6:00 pm**  
**Hood River Aquatic Center**  
**Minutes**

**In Attendance:**

**Board:** Suzanne Cross, Anna Cavaleri, Nan Noteboom, Martha Ortega-Verduzco, Mike McCarthy

**Staff:** Mark Hickok, Marcie Wily, Marcos Gonzalez

**Auditor:** Ken Onstott

**Public:** Jennifer & Jeffery Killingsworth, Deb Dennis

**Regular District Board Meeting**

**Call Regular Meeting to Order**

Cavaleri called the meeting to order at 6:07pm.

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

The Killingsworth's wanted to know more about HRVPRD's plans on the Campbell property. Hickok replied that we are still in the early stages of funding the development of the Campbell property but will reach out to the community as the project progresses.

**Review Minutes**

1. **December 14, 2022 – Regular Board Meeting Minutes**

**Action:** Consider a motion to approve the December 14, meeting minutes

McCarthy made a motion to approve the December 14, 2022 meeting minutes. Cross seconded. All approved.

**Regular Business**

1. **FY 2021/FY2022 Audit**

**Action:** Informational

Mark introduced Ken Onstott, Parks District auditor, who has been auditing the district for 25 years. Onstott gave an overview of the audit and some of the changes that took place last fiscal year. The audit was performed with a modified cash basis of accounting as it is more reflective of the type of accounting that is done in the Parks District. The main difference is the cutoff date of the fiscal year is now in cash basis, which records the money coming in or going out in real time versus a journal entry applying transactions to the appropriate fiscal year. There were no issues reported in the letter to management, giving the Parks District a clean unmodified audit report.

2. **HRVPRD Strategic Planning**

**Action:** Review and provide feedback

Hickok gave an overview of HRVPRD strategic planning. Hickok will be meeting with Bob Keffer, SDAO Consultant, to tour the parks in Hood River and meet with Jeff Hecksel, County Administrator, to talk about consolidating the parks in Hood River. Keffer will assist with developing a survey for the public, to see what their interests are in having one parks district in Hood River and present to the board the different options HRVPRD has when it comes to consolidating parks. Hickok estimated that Keffer's work will be done by July of this year.

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

### 2. Finance Report

Hickok gave an overview of the finance reports. The three funds are tracking along well. The SDC fund was moving slowly last month, which was expected. A new line item was added into the SDC fund to reflect the Campbell Property options agreement purchase and there was some money being charged to the fund to build the Indian Creek Trail South Side Extension.

McCarthy asked Hickok how the SDC fund will do in the future since things are slowing down in the housing development area. Hickok stated that HRVPRD has not been spending a lot out of this fund and was not worried about a future slowdown in the housing development market.

The Recreation fund and General fund are tracking along nicely, with both fund's revenue outpacing their expenses.

Cross asked what the difference between contract programs and in-house programs are. Hickok stated that contract programs are any rec program that are run by an outside entity who is hiring their own coaches and officials, but we are taking in the registration fees and helping the program administratively. Contract programs have a certain percentage split of the registration fees, depending on how much insurance and administrative support the contractor will need. In-house programs are run completely by the district. The District hires the coaches and officials and collects 100% of the registration fees.

### 3. Directors Report

Hickok gave the directors report. There was a winter storm over Christmas weekend which lead to some equipment failures at the pool and ultimately leading to the pool shutting down for a few days. Hickok thanked the staff for coming to work on a holiday to help break up the ice and snow after the storm passed. The staff worked hard to break up the ice that formed around the building's entrances and parking lot.

The City of Hood River has asked to present at the next board meeting about Urban Renewal on the west side of Hood River. Hickok gave a quick overview on urban renewal to the board. Before urban renewal starts your tax growth can only increase 3% every year. When a new Urban Renewal District is forms 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. Before the City of Hood River comes to talk about this Hickok wanted the board to think about how long and big the urban renewal will be. The tax revenue from the west side of Hood River funds much of HRVPRD's operating costs. A long term Urban Renewal District would affect operational funding for the Parks District however, there could be a potential financial benefit in the long term.

Hickok gave an update on the Campbell property and where the trail will end on Broken Tree Drive. He had a good conversation with the neighbors on Broken Tree, who were supportive of the trail, but wanted to stay in the loop during the planning process. HRVPRD is applying for an ODOT grant to help fund the acquisition of the property and trail construction, completing the final, missing link on the Indian Creek Trail and implementing goals in the Multi-jurisdictional Master Plan. The grant is due at the end of January, and recipients will be notified in late spring to early summer. One stipulation of the ODOT grant is that the path must be accessible at all times. Our current signage states the trail is open dawn to dusk. This is not backed by ordinance or a rule and has never been enforced. For instance, dawn to dusk in December is roughly 7:40am -4:30pm and many people use the trail outside those boundaries. The board voted unanimously to remove the Dawn to Dusk language from all future signage.

4. Aquatics & Recreation Report

Hickok gave an overview of the Recreation Report. Rec staff have been busy this season running many programs like the ski bus, basketball, and indoor soccer. The board was wondering what other indoor facilities could be used for roller hockey and other indoor sports. Hickok and the board brainstormed some ideas from using commercial storage buildings to renting the Armory in town to host indoor programs.

Wily gave an overview of the Aquatics Report. The Parks District received a grant from the Columbia Gorge Health Council to support the ActiveRx program. ActiveRx will provide free swim lessons and pool passes for families that qualify to support healthy lifestyles. The pool also hosted swim lesson instructor training and a lifeguard certification course in January. Dollar swim has moved to Saturdays, and monthly aqua glide is back taking place at the end of every month.

**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. (h)To consult with counsel concerning the legal rights and duties of a public body with regard to current litigation or litigation likely to be filed. *(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.

There were no decisions made.

**Adjourn**

Noteboom moved to adjourn the meeting. Ortega-Verduzco seconded. All approved.

Approved   
Attest 

17 February 2023  
Date  
17 February 2023  
Date

