

**Northern Wasco County Parks and Recreation District**

**Board Meeting Minutes**

**March 15th 2023**

**NWCPRD, 602 W. 2nd Street, The Dalles, OR 97058**

Brewster Whitmire called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm.

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:** Brewster Whitmire, Annette Byers, Ellen Woods, Tracy Dugick, Rachel Carter (via Zoom).

**BOARD MEMBERS EXCUSED:** None.

**STAFF PRESENT:** Scott Baker, Kailynn Elliott, Todd Wheeler

**STAFF EXCUSED:** None.

**OTHERS PRESENT:** District Council, Andrew Myers.

**GUEST PRESENT:** None.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**

Brewster Whitmire would like to move the Executive Session up to follow approval of minutes. Annette Byers makes motion to approve agenda with change. Ellen Woods seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**ORAL COMMUNICATION FROM THE AUDIENCE:**

Stevie Elledge 600 W 11th Street, The Dalles, OR 97058

Katie Swafford 2114 East 12th Street, The Dalles, OR 97058

Ashley Quackenbush 2414 E 16th Street, The Dalles, OR 97058

Butch Hert 1724 E 9th Street, The Dalles, OR 97058

Katie Kelley 1221 Pomona Street, The Dalles, OR 97058

Travis Dray 3110 Old Dufur Road, The Dalles, OR 97058

Tyler Stone 511 Washington St, The Dalles, OR 97058

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Ellen Woods makes a motion to approve the minutes from February 2023 Board meeting. Annette Byers seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

Executive session in accordance with ORS 192.660(2)(e) - To conduct deliberations with persons designated by the governing body to negotiate real property transactions.

**FOLLOWING EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

Ellen Woods makes a motion to direct the Park District to sign the lease for Kramer field maintenance for one additional year following a discussion between county staff, a county commissioner, parks and recreation staff, and a board member pertaining to essential terms.

**CORRESPONDENCE:** None**.**

**FINANCIAL REPORT:**

The District is 67% of the way through the fiscal year. The general fund has 1.4 million dollars in the general fund. Some is already earmarked for other projects but it is $365,000 more than this time last year. Part of that is some funds that were dedicated to projects that did not come to fruition. In Revenue, Current year tax the District has collected 1.1 million dollars. That is $243,000 more than the District had collected by this time last year. The District has collected most of the anticipated funds for this fiscal year. Transient room tax continues to be strong at a 93% collection rate of what the District anticipated in the budget for only being 67% of the way through the year. Admin Expenses, everything is on track. Parks Expenses, also on track at only a $288 difference over this time last year. Despite all the increases of inflation. Recreation Expenses in February were none. Aquatics, the District has $55,000 to get the staff hired, trained, facility clean, get us open, and carry us through to June 30th. That compares to the $47,000 the District had to start up last year. The District budgeted more in anticipation of this year to accommodate the substantial increase in wages the District prepares to offer seasonal staff. The SDC collection rate is down this year by about $40,000 despite the rate increase. The Bond fund is still on track to make our payment in June as well as have at least 1 payment in reserve.

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS REPORT:**

Scott Baker met with Andrea Klaas from the Port of the Dalles about the desire to go in jointly on some technical support to expand the capacities of both entities in being able to seek out grant funding, potentially through MCEED.

Scott also spoke with Shawn Whalen about dedicating a bench to Catherines years of service. The bench will be placed on the south side of Sorosis.

**COMMITTEE REPORT:** None.

**URBAN RENEWAL REPORT:**

Election of officers was postponed to March’s meeting. There was discussion of the Urban Renewal Incentive programs as well as some promising proposals. Next meeting March 22nd.

**OLD BUSINESS:** None.

**PUBLIC HEARINGS:** None.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

1. Local Government Grant Resolution to apply
   1. The Board of Directors has identified improvements to Sorosis Park as the highest priority project, the Treetop Playground is at the end of its useful life and is in need of replacement and would like to apply for the ORPD- local grant program as a means of providing needed park improvements. Annette Byers makes a motion to allow the Parks District to apply for the ORPD-local government grant program. Ellen Woods seconds the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
2. 2023 Pool Fees
   1. The Pool fees have not increased since 2018. Due to current inflation, it has become necessary to raise rates for cost recovery. Annette Byers makes a motion to approve the Aquatic Center Daily Fees and Passes Proposal for 2023 Season. Ellen Woods seconds the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
3. 2023 Rec Programming ideas
   1. With recreational programming largely being put on hold the past few years due to the pandemic and its effects, the District staff are making plans to gradually start offering recreation programs again. The District already has some program planning in the works such as Cherry Festival Softball Tournament or Home Run Derby, Monsters in the Park, Celilo Bowman Archery Camp, Library Storytime, Free Swim event at the pool, and Friday Hikes. Todd Wheeler has presented 6 more options to the Board to rank based on their preferences including Movies in the Park, Saturday Wellness in the Park in conjunction with the Farmers Market, Cornhole Recreation League, Skate Park Competition, Community Yard Sale, and Fun Recreational Disc Golf Event.
4. FY2023-24 Budget Priorities
   1. Bike Park – Located at Thompson Park
   2. Kramer Field – Continuing to support local sports organizations.
   3. Rec Programming – bring back some recreational programming opportunities.
   4. Dog Park – Designing a dog park.
5. FY2022-23 Supplemental Budget
   1. Ellen Woods makes a motion to adopt Resolution No 2023-02 adopting a supplemental budget for Fiscal year 2022/2023 , making appropriations and authorizing expenditures within Various Funds of NWPRD’s adopted budget.

**NEXT MEETING DATE:**

April 19th, 2023

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS REMARKS:**

**FOLLOW UP ITEMS:**

Budget Priorities (Bike Park, Kramer Field, Rec Programming, Dog Park)

Meet with County Commissioners and Staff to talk about terms of lease

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Brewster Whitmire adjourned the meeting at 8:08pm.

Attested to:

Board Chair Board Secretary