



DISTRICT ADVISORY BOARD

MEETING MINUTES

Date: July 10, 2019

Time: 5:00 p.m.

Location: North Clackamas Aquatic Park, 7300 SE Harmony Road, Milwaukie, OR 97222

I. Call to Order

Chair Wilda Parks called the meeting to order at 5:05 p.m. A quorum was present.

- a. **BCC Members Present:** Jim Bernard, Ken Humberston, Paul Savas
- b. **DAB Members Present:** Wilda Parks, Lynn Fisher, Sandra Grzeskowiak, Brett Sherman, Suzanne Costell, Joel Bergman
- c. **Members Absent:** None (three vacancies)
- d. **NCPRD Staff Members Present:** Laura Zentner, BCS Director; Scott Archer, NCPRD Director; Kevin Cayson, Parks & Facilities Manager; Kathryn Krygier, Planning & Development Manager; Melina DeFrancesco, Marketing & Communications Manager; Joe Loomis, Sports Supervisor; Caroline Patton, Administrative Specialist
- e. **Guests Present:** Grover Bornefeld, Kelly Brooks, Pam Hodge, Ben Johnson, Tori Simons, Baldwin van der Bijl

II. Discussion Agenda – No Action Required

Meeting Start Time and Length of Meetings

Chair Parks asked the group whether the 5:00 p.m. start time still worked for everyone. She stated that they'd like to limit the length of most the meetings to 90 minutes.

Paul Savas responded that previously the Advisory Board had discussed starting the meeting later due to work schedules. Parks explained that they are trying not to interfere with people's dinner time, which is why the 5:00 p.m. time slot was desirable.

Parks suggested the Advisory Board meet at 5:00 p.m. for the next couple of meetings and they can poll the group once the Board of County Commissioners (BCC) has appointed new members.

Lynn Fisher raised concerns about requiring staff to stay late into the night after working all day. Parks acknowledged this consideration. She also noted that when the stand-alone Board of Directors meetings were being held, they started later in the evening and public attendance and participation at the meetings did not increase.

Vice Chair Election

Chair Parks stated that the group also needs to elect a member to serve as Vice Chair. She encouraged members interested in the position to email District staff to self-nominate or nominate others before the next scheduled meeting of the Advisory Board.

District Advisory Board Restructuring

Chair Parks invited Director Archer to review the staff report. Parks clarified that when referring to the Board, they mean the governing Board, or Board of County Commissioners (BCC). When referring to the Advisory Board, staff will typically say the District Advisory Board (DAB).

The current configuration of the DAB was established around 2007, in response to the annexation of the City of Happy Valley. At this time, the District executed a new Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) with the City of Milwaukie that represented the new makeup of the DAB.

The purpose of the DAB is to advise the governing Board, or BCC, on District (1) programs and facilities, concentrating on the needs of District residents; (2) capital improvements and project recommendations; and (3) budget review. The current composition has 9 positions

Sandy Grzeskowiak asked whether DAB member terms continued through the hiatus or whether members could “add” the 2.5 years back to their existing term. This would more accurately reflect time spent on the active Advisory Board and not time the DAB was on hiatus. Parks pointed out that two members have already had one-time term extensions of six months. Lynn Fisher acknowledged that there is some flexibility in how the BCC appoints members to the DAB, as evidenced by the one-time term extensions. Fisher stated he thought the group should consider starting everyone’s terms over as of a certain date in a new term. There was some further discussion regarding terms and how to accommodate for the break.

In regards to representation, Suzanne Costell stated she was okay with accurately representing residents in incorporated/unincorporated areas within the District but that she’d like to make sure that members added or dropped are proportionate to the residents of the District as a whole. Chair Parks agreed that that was their task to accomplish and every option is currently on the table. Commissioner Humberston confirmed that the DAB bylaws are written to be flexible and state that the composition will be revisited upon significant changes in boundaries or population.

Director Archer reviewed the Board direction received at the most recent standalone meeting of the BCC, sitting as the NCPRD Board of Directors. The direction to staff was to reassemble the Advisory Board so that they may discuss and bring back recommendations to the Board for a new composition that more accurately reflects the proportion of District residents living in unincorporated areas. He noted that the Milwaukie City Council has formally requested that a member of their Parks and Recreation Board (PARB) be added to the District Advisory Board composition.

Brett Sherman stated that the current composition is reflective of the overall District make-up. A third of the District resides in the cities and there are three representatives, or one-third, of the members representing the cities, Sherman explained. He argued that adding two additional members would exacerbate the imbalance.

In concluding the staff report, Director Archer explained that the options available to the DAB are open. There have been discussions about employing the Community Planning Organizations (CPOs) as a way to ensure representation from unincorporated areas. Fisher asked whether appointments from the CPOs would be treated the same way as the City representatives. There was discussion.

Commissioner Savas stated there are 80,000 unincorporated residents in the District and only 40,000 within the two cities. He added that at previous meetings the Board had discussed balancing the elected representation on the DAB by adding a Commissioner to the Advisory Board. He argued that if the DAB makes all the accommodations discussed, the Advisory Board membership will necessarily grow into a larger body.

Chair Parks stated she had heard concerns come up in discussions of a BCC member being a voting member of the Advisory Board and that they have typically served as a liaison to the

DAB. Commissioner Savas said that the citizens of the unincorporated areas do not have an elected representative at the table and he believes they are disadvantaged by that. Chair Parks emphasized that every member should represent residents of the entire District.

Fisher agreed that members have historically approached issues from a districtwide perspective. He thinks members should be responsible for communicating information from the DAB to the local level, such as attending the CPO meetings to report on projects and opportunities. Chair Parks agreed and added that many parks discussed at the DAB are regional assets that will be used by residents across the District.

Grzeskowiak asked the Happy Valley residents at the table if the City would be moving forward or whether they will continue to pursue withdrawal. Sherman said both sides are actively negotiating involving various scenarios in which the primary goal is that the District remains whole. He clarified that he meant financially solvent and well funded and their goal is to have park funding for both inside and outside the city.

Costell suggested the District add a feature on the website that allowed people to submit concerns and suggestions about what they want and need in their area. She stated the DAB needs more exposure in the community so that residents can come to members regarding parks issues and have them advocate on their behalf.

Commissioner Savas asked staff to reprint the 2004 District Master Plan for members, as it still informs the varied levels of service across the District. Sherman asked whether the CPO representatives could fit into the positions already identified in the bylaws (for example, West of I-205 could become a CPO representative), since this would be an easy solution to the representation concern.

Commissioner Humberston summarized that there are two primary decision points the DAB needed to tackle: (1) the process to add or change member representative descriptions, and (2) how to address the term extension(s) of members to accommodate for the hiatus. Chair Parks agreed that next meeting the DAB will start to discuss the meat of this discussion.

Director Archer said staff would prepare information and graphics that describe the CPOs as well as District population by area.

III. Director Comments

Director Archer shared photos of the openings of both Wichita Park and Hidden Falls Nature Park. He reviewed progress on the Boardman Wetland Complex project, including construction of the nature play area, as well as an update on the planning process and final design for Milwaukie Bay Park.

IV. DAB Member Comments

None.

V. Citizen Participation*

- a. Baldwin van der Bijl, 3416 SE Naef Road, Oak Grove
Baldwin stated he was concerned that as the cities add additional representation that the unincorporated areas will lose proportional representation. He pointed out that the population of the Oak Grove Community Council (one of several CPOs in the District's unincorporated area) is actually larger than the population of the cities of Happy Valley and Milwaukie. He reasoned that if there are three members currently representing the cities,

that according to proportional representation Oak Grove Community Council would be due the same number of representatives.

- b. Grover Bornefeld, 4308 SE Boardman Avenue, Jennings Lodge
Grover stated the unincorporated residents have paid the majority of tax collections over the life of the District.

VI. Adjournment

6:31 p.m.