

Board of Directors
Budget Meeting, Board of Directors Special
Meeting and Executive Session

Thursday, September 7, 2023 at 4:00pm

Madras Aquatic Center
1195 SE Kemper Way
Madras, Oregon 97741



Board members present:

Chair Deanna Seibold, Vice Chair Lindsay Foster-Drago, and Secretary/Treasurer Jean McCloskey were present in person. Board member Jillisa Suppah arrived at 4:13pm and Board member Jinnell Lewis arrived at 4:16pm in person.

Staff Members present:

Courtney Snead, Executive Director and Shawna Hicks, Recreation Director were present in person

Visitors:

Tony Anderson, Wayne Fording, Jeff Rassmussen, Kelly Simmelink, and Mark Wunsch, all representing Jefferson County, and Amanda Ferguson, University of Oregon, attended in person.

WORK SESSION, 4:00pm

1. Chair Seibold convened the special meeting at 4:12pm.
2. Review draft Master Plan findings *(to date)*

Amanda Ferguson, University of Oregon, reviewed a PowerPoint detailing the findings of the master plan survey and other means of collecting information, including individual interviews and focus group sessions facilitated by the Latino Community Association and Papalaxsimisha. She identified three areas of need based on the data collection processes, including the reduction of barriers, improving the quality of programming and facilities, and increasing transparency.

Board members asked clarifying questions about the survey and data collection processes.

3. Brainstorm goals and actions related to the Master Plan

Ferguson led the board and members of the public audience through a brainstorming discussion around the scope of the recreation district, including the options of reducing scope to a 'pool only' district, expanding the district, and becoming a full-fledged park and recreation district, including taking over management of local parks from local partners.

Board Chair Seibold stated that remaining the same was not an option when the district is one capital maintenance problem from shutting down due to financial constraints.

Board member Lewis said that all of the themes from the data collection process circle back to funding, and people do not understand that the pool will never recover enough funds to support the district and all of their needs and wants. She feels it is time to discuss a new permanent rate to subsidize district operations at a higher level and to meet the needs identified in the master plan survey process. She noted that most communities build a recreation district with programming before they build a pool, and that our community did it backwards, leading to its financial sustainability challenges. She also noted that members of the original board who formed the district in 2004 knew that \$0.25/1,000 was insufficient to support the MAC long term but did not think they could pass a higher levy, so they figured it would be figured out sometime in the future.

Chair Seibold said that the idea of reducing to a 'pool only' district should be taken off the table as an option. All board members nodded their agreement and consensus was met to remove this option from the scope discussion.

Vice Chair Foster-Drago said that she has a hard time starting the discussion with the scale of the district, without having the financial context. Fiscal responsibility is critical, and the current model is not sustainable.

Secretary/Treasurer McCloskey asked if 'expanding the district' meant expanding the boundaries to include Crooked River Ranch and/or Culver.

Ferguson said that it could perhaps include boundary expansion, as well as increasing programming offerings and other means of expansion.

Board Chair Seibold asked about expanding to include Juniper Hills Park. A discussion ensued with Jefferson County representatives in the audience regarding how the park is currently managed/scheduled and whether this was something the county was interested in exploring. The consensus of the discussion was to watch the County Juniper Hills Park Master Plan

process and identify ways in which the MACRD could partner with them on programming the park in the future.

Secretary/Treasurer McCloskey wondered if staff could work with County staff to identify if expansion of district boundaries would increase the tax base sufficient to assist with financial sustainability.

Board member Lewis felt that the tax base would be insufficient for the revenues required to sustainably manage the district.

Board member Suppah was curious about the trails at Juniper Hills park and whether or not that would be part of the discussion. She likes the idea of having options for expansion given the county's health rankings and how important it is to help people create healthy lifestyles through recreation.

Ferguson asked a clarifying question about the potential future partnership with the County regarding Juniper Hills Park, and whether a potential intergovernmental agreement would be for maintenance and/or for programming. Executive Director Snead said that it would depend on the outcome of their master planning process and we should remain open to any possibilities for future partnering with the County.

A discussion ensued regarding the benefits and disadvantages of dissolving the district and going out for a new permanent rate and/or maintaining 5-year local option levies.

Vice Chair Foster-Drago said that she was a fan of utilizing our current facility and location with a more incremental approach to expanding programs and services. She would like to see the district explore expansion on its own property before moving beyond the MAC site.

Board member Lewis reminded the board that indoor recreation was one of the top three needs identified by both adults and kids in the survey. She wondered if it was feasible to expand on the MAC site to include indoor recreation gym space. Executive Director Snead said that she was working with a project manager and architect to figure out if there are options for expanding onsite at the MAC.

Chair Seibold said that unless the board decides to make a bold decision regarding funding, the MACRD will remain financially unsustainable no matter what we do. She likes the one-and-done option of going out for a new permanent rate.

Board members had a consensus around exploring options that could include going out for a new permanent rate, going out for a new 5-year operating levy, and going out for a capital/maintenance bond. Executive Director Snead said she would bring an analysis back to the board at their September 27, 2023 board work session.

4. Discuss next steps in the master planning process

Ferguson shared a timeline with the board that included two more input opportunities for the steering committee in October before the final master plan will be presented to the board of directors for adoption at the November 2023 board meeting, which will include a concept plan and timeline based on the discussion and brainstorming that occurred tonight.

5. Board Chair Seibold called the board of directors into executive session at 6:05pm.

Executive session – the board will convene in executive session pursuant to ORS 192.660(2)(f) to consider information or records that are exempt by law from public inspection.

The executive session is not open to the public. However, representatives of the news media and designated individuals will be allowed to attend the executive session. All other members of the audience will be asked to leave the room.

Representatives of the news media are specifically directed not to report on any of the deliberations during the executive session, except to state the general subject of the executive session as previously announced. No decision may be made in the executive session.

The board of directors exited the executive session at 6:45pm.

6. Adjourn

Board Chair Seibold adjourned the special meeting at 6:45pm.

Respectfully submitted,  9/27/23
Courtney Snead, Executive Director Date

 9/27/23
Deanna Seibold, Board Chair Date