

**UPPER VALLEY PARKS AND RECREATION SERVICE AREA (PRSA)
Leavenworth City Hall Conference Room
April 26, 2017**

MINUTES

I. CALL TO ORDER

PRSA Chair Mia Bretz, called the April 26, 2017 special meeting of the PRSA to order at 9:00 AM.

Board Present: Mia Bretz, Carolyn Wilson, Aaron Simon, Keith Goehner and Doug Clarke.

City Staff Present: Joel Walinski, Herb Amick and Chantell Steiner.

II. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

A. Approval of Agenda

Boardmember Wilson moved to approve the consent agenda as presented. The motion was seconded by Boardmember Simon and passed unanimously.

III. INFORMATION ITEMS

A. Strategic Planning

- a. Current Levy / Debt Schedule / Options Review
 - i. Pool Resurfacing (\$1250,000 estimate)
 - ii. Sunshades
 - iii. Ice Rink Conversion Option and Storage Area
 - iv. Funding Options (Donations, City/Bank Bonds, Voter Approved Bonds)
- b. M&O Levy – Next Deadline – 2018 for 2019 Year
- c. Service Area Dissolution – Deadline December 2020

The Board began the discussion of the agenda items noted above with exception to Funding Options which was determined to be needed at a later date once the Board determines the direction needed for capital replacements and options for combining the capital with the 6-Year M&O (Maintenance & Operation) Levy that will need to occur in 2018.

Chair Bretz stated that she would like to see a public outreach process begin to find out more information from the Community on desired expectations of the current Service Area as well as other park and recreation related services that could be funded through the PRSA. She questioned the Board to consider the future dissolution deadline of the PRSA and whether the Board should look at other options such as a Park & Recreation District or a Metropolitan Park District. Finance Director Chantell Steiner will bring a side-by-side comparison document of the three types of entities to the next meeting in May for further discussion of this topic.

Chair Bretz asked the Board to share their ideas, or what they have heard from constituents, on what vision for services they might have as the Board moves forward and whether to consider a reduction or expansion of the service area. Boardmember Wilson stated that she could see a reduction in the current service area that was more focused on Leavenworth residents within the city limits and urban growth area. Boardmember Clarke concurred that the area may need to be smaller to achieve better voting results, and in the case of Peshastin, to consider removing some areas that are heavily populated by orchardists but not necessarily the residents that live in the core area of Peshastin. Director Steiner cautioned the Board noting that the Service Area does include a high value of taxable property within the Plain, Lake Wenatchee, Peshastin, Chumstick Highway and Icicle Road areas; therefore, a large reduction of this portion could significantly impact the remaining residents within the service area to support the annual property tax collections of approximately \$120,000. (Upon review of taxable area,

Leavenworth City limits comprise 33.6% of the taxable value of the current service area). Boardmember Clarke continued to identify some of the Peshastin residents' goals to include/expand on ball fields that could be dual purposed in the winter as skiable areas. Boardmember Goehner noted that the Service Area currently includes portions of Peshastin and does not extend into Dryden at this time; he stated that he is not sure if Dryden residents would be interested in a future ballot measure to include them. Chair Bretz added her concern at further expansion of the service area and services provided as the City of Leavenworth currently provides staffing support by public works and finance staff that the City pays for directly from its General Fund and does not back charge those costs to the Pool Fund; expansion of the services could require the addition of PRSA staff which in turn increases the cost of operations. Boardmember Simon stated that the current interlocal agreement with the County allows for financing, acquiring, constructing, improving, maintaining or operating any park, Senior Citizen Activity Center, zoo, aquarium and recreational facility; therefore, he is not sure if there is a need to change the type of entity. He added that there is a strong need for more ball fields, a Community or Activity Center and continuation of the Pool facility. Chair Bretz reiterated that she would like to have community meetings to ask the public for input on the services before the Board can decide what would be best for future initiatives; she suggested considering having scenarios for discussion that might identify funding options. Boardmember Goehner stated that unfortunately there are no major financial benefactors that would be interested in coming in and building expensive projects such as a community center or covering the pool and cautioned the Board on considering too much too fast, particularly during the recent years where housing, affordability and livability have been major concerns for all residents in the County. He encouraged the Board to have a focused approach before including the public on ideas to avoid building false hopes. Boardmember Clarke added that he believes most service area residents are comfortable with the current taxation and will continue to support the service area for the operations of the pool; however, he is not sure if expansion of services would be as supported, particularly for a community center that would be based in Leavenworth. City Administrator Joel Walinski reminded the Board of the current changes occurring with the School District to build new and improved facilities and that there could be some opportunity there to work together to share the resources for a potential community/activity center. Chair Bretz stated that that is a good idea to consider and added that she has heard of other desires from constituents to consider a facility that could also include other social services and after school care. Boardmember Wilson added that her previous community had fun activities that also included arts & crafts and coordinated field trips. Administrator Walinski noted that there is a current need for enhancements at the Leavenworth Enchantment Park.

The Board had a general discussion on bond levy options for maintenance and operations versus construction and how levy rates are affected by increased property values over time. Chair Bretz stated that the Board will continue this discussion at the May meeting after city staff can get more information on the differences in Park and Recreation entities and to put together an estimate of capital needs that are needed in the immediate future such as the pool resurfacing, sun shades and bath house improvements and how those costs would affect a levy rate increase. Director Steiner added that she will also look back at the previous data collected on daily visitor attendance that may provide some insight into where and who visits the pool.

Sharon Waters was in attendance as a visitor and shared some of the requests she has heard in the past to include covering the pool for year-round use and community type services that could be partnered with the School; however, she believes the main objective should be to continue with the support and maintenance needed to keep the pool open regardless of other ideas. She added that as a pool employee and current assistant manager she sees increased attendance from Wenatchee area residents near the end of the season due to the early closure of their pool.

IV. ADJOURNMENT

Seeing no other business, Boardmember Bretz adjourned the April 26th special meeting of the Upper Valley PRSA. The meeting adjourned at 10:30 AM.

Respectfully submitted by Chantell Steiner.