**Meeting Minutes**

**Morrow County Unified Recreating District**

**May 23rd, 2024**

**Boardman City Hall**

**Boardman, Oregon**

**Present:** Barry Turner, Linda LaRue, Cyde Estes, Rick Stokoe, Bob Bird, Katie Siri, Joe Armato

**Guests:** Matt Combe, Ryan Gerry, John Christi, Marie Shimer, Jason Dunton, William Polland, Heath Baumgartner, Torrie Griggs, Charlene Cooley, Brenda Shockman, Raymond Seastone, Trista Seastone, Adrian Romero, Oscar Romero, Karen Pettigrew, Joe Taylor, George Shimer

**Call to Order:** Meeting was called to order by Cyde Estes at 7:00 P.M.

**Minutes:** Rec District Meeting Minutes from April 25th: Linda LaRue made a motion to approve the meeting minutes as presented, Barry seconds, all are in favor, unanimous approval.

Rec District Budget Committee Meeting from April 25th: Linda LaRue made a motion to approve the meeting minutes as presented, Bob seconds, all are in favor, unanimous approval.

**Paid Bills:** The board has no questions about bills since the last meeting.

**Public Hearing on the Budget:** Cyde Estesopened the public hearing on the budget at 7:02, no public comments on budget. Meeting will stay open until 7:32 in the event of comment. No citizen came forward to speak for or against the budget and the budget meeting is now closed at 7:56.

**Old Business:**

**Boardman Pickleball Court Update:** George Shimer stated that he is in communication with the Corp of Engineers on the Pickleball courts.

**New Business:**

**Extension Request from Ione Track Project:** Katie reported that the Ione Community School is requesting an extension on their track project as construction is still underway. Rick makes a motion to approve the extension request until June 30, 2025, Linda seconded the motion, all are in favor, motion carried.

**First Round of Funding Proposals:**

**Irrigon Watermelon Festival**: Charlene Cooley presented a funding request of $24,439 for the Irrigon Watermelon Festival and a Christmas Tree Lighting Event in Irrigon. Cyde requested that the Christmas Tree Lighting event be removed from the request and requested separately. The total request for the Irrigon Watermelon Festival is $23,340. Rick motioned to approve the request in the amount of $23,340, Bob seconded the motion, all are in favor, the motion carried. Charlene said she will return with the request for the Christmas Tree Lighting.

**Irrigon Chamber Trunk or Treat**: Charlene Cooley, with support from Chamber Director, Brenda Shockman, presented a proposal for the Trunk or Treat event in the amount of $5,000. The second part is the request for the Haunted House, hosted by the Irrigon Fire Department during the same event for $5000. Rick stated that there is no facilitation fee, and Charlene stated that they would like to add one, in the amount of $2,000. The total request for this proposal is $12,000.

**Boardman Chamber of Commerce Fourth of July:** Torrie Griggs presented the funding request for the annual Fourth of July celebration in Boardman, hosted by the chamber in the amount of $40,000.

**Boardman Chamber of Commerce End of Summer Celebration:** Torrie Griggs presented the funding request for the now annual End of Summer Celebration, hosted by the chamber in the amount of $30,000. Bob made a motion to approve this request in the amount of $30,000, Barry seconds, all in favor, motion carried.

**Inland NW Musician**: No one was present to present request. They are requesting $6,000 for three concerts across Morrow County.

**ICABO Fourth of July Celebration:** ICABO is requesting $23,000 for the annual Fourth of July Celebration in Ione. Stacy Ekstrom will be at the meeting in June in Heppner to present the proposal.

**Bilingual Basketball:** Adrian Romero presented a request for $14,220 to host a basketball camp this summer. The basketball camp will be free, the money will go towards the coaching staff, organization of the event, t-shirts, flying in some professional basketball coaches from the G-League. They will also be holding a 3 on 3 fundraiser tournament towards the camp as well. Bob asked about attendance numbers from last year. Adrian reported that approximately 100 kids attended last year, with a total of 400 across all the locations primarily Morrow and Umatilla County. Cyde asks if there is a facilitation fee included in this request. Adrian stated that there is a $500 charge for three organizers included in the requested amount. Cyde suggested updating the request to $15,220 to include a $1,000 facilitation fee. Cyde requested the approval of the project tonight for contract purposes, Bob made a motion to approve the request in the amount of $15,220, Rick seconded, all in favor, motion carried.

**Heppner Chamber St. Patrick’s Day:** The Heppner Chamber of Commerce plans to present their request at the second round of proposals in June.

**Town of Lexington May Day Celebration:** The Town of Lexington plans to present their request at the second round of proposals in June.

**Hopeful Saints Ministry Halloween & Music in the Park:** Hopeful Saints Ministry plans to present their request at the second round of proposals in June.

**Boardman Farmer’s Market:** Joe Taylor presented a proposal to support the Boardman Farmer’s Market in the amount of $6, 850.00. Cyde stated MCURD is ultimately a parks and recreation district, and a farmer’s market does not fall into that category. Cyde does not believe it fits into the MCURD purview. Bob agrees with Cyde’s statements. Bob made a motion to deny the Farmer’s Market request due to it being outside the purview of MCURD, Linda seconds, all in favor, motion carried.

***Grant Requests:***

**Riverside High School Basketball Court:**John Christi presented a grant request of $183,100 for the RHS Basketball Court refinishing. John reported that the basketball court is from 1968 and is at the end of life for the court. The floor is a floating floor and needs to be entirely replaced and cannot be overlayed. This project plans be scheduled for completion next spring, as a cost saving and time saving measure. Part of the process is to check the beams underneath the floor, and they fix the structural issues, this is a part of the bidding process.

**Irrigon Tennis Court Resurfacing:** Matt Combe presented a request for the complete renovation of the Irrigon Tennis Courts in the amount of $300,000. Matt remarked that tennis is now the largest and fastest growing sport at Irrigon High School with 34 students joining the team this year. The only current courts available for practice is at AC Houghton. Matt says the current plan is to do a four-court facility and MCSD is requesting seed startup money for the courts.

**Heppner Baseball Field Fencing Project**: Ryan Gerry; HHS is in the process of upgrading the Baseball field. This fall, they leveled the area and made it ADA compliant. The current concern is a fence that has been there for over 20 years. They are wanting to expand the dugout past the dugouts for safety reasons, as well as change the fence. The total request is for $46,000.

**Willow Creek Country Club Youth Golf Program:** Joe Armato presented a request for $7,000 for the second annual youth golf program. Joe reported that 22 kids attended the camp last year and about 35 kids utilized the free golf memberships. They are requesting the money for both the camp, free golf memberships and the youth golf play days which will have a clubhouse attendant.

**Authorization for Investment of Funds:** Cyde reads aloud the resolution that the “Morrow County Unified Recreation District on this 23rd of May 2024, at a properly organized meeting, a quorum having been present, and all notice and procedural requirements having been met, the MCURD board does hereby make the following findings and issue the following ORDER:

That the Morrow County Treasurer is a “custodial officer” as defined by ORS 294.004 (2), that the Morrow County Treasurer is authorized to invest funds of this body by virtue of ORS 294.035, 294.125, and other general authorization:

Therefore, it is hereby ordered that the Treasurer of Morrow County is authorized to invest funds of this body, in Morrow County’s Local Government Investment Pool, subject to all statutory guidelines and provision, for the fiscal year 2024-2025.

It is further ORDERED that this ORDER be spread upon the minutes of this body SO ORDERED this 23rd day of May 2024.”

Rick made a motion to approve authorization for the Morrow County Treasurer to invest funds, Linda seconded, unanimously approved.

**City of Heppner Playground Request Discussion:** Cyde requested the board discuss working with municipalities on city park or other similar recreation projects. Cyde is concerned that they are a taxing district with their own budgets, and that cities are not parks and recreation districts. Cyde requested the Board consider creating a policy that would limit projects from municipalities and keep funding for parks and recreation districts. Linda agreed with Cyde’s sentiments and remarked that there are other grants for cities for these kinds of projects and that she has personally dissuaded Ione from similar but smaller requests in the past. Linda anticipates a similar request from Ione this year as well. Cyde states they have never entered into an agreement like this, but it does not mean they could not enter into an IGA with a city. Rick stated the goal needs to be towards recreation and is apprehensive about funding requests like this, but it is a park, and it is recreation. Cyde and Rick both continued to express concern about opening the door for more and more requests that may not properly fall into MCURD’s purview. The board agreed that these types of requests may need to be tabled or denied but will continue this discussion at the next board meeting when presented with City of Heppner proposal.

**Director’s Report:**

**Contacts Updates:** Katie stated she will prepping approved contracts for Irrigon Watermelon Festival, End of Summer Event and Bilingual Basketball to get payment out as soon as possible.

**Treasurer’s Report**: $1,934,077.60 as of 5/7/2024

**Next Meeting:** Next meeting will be June 27th, 2024, at Bartholomew Building in Heppner at 7 P.M.

**Meeting Adjourned:** By Cyde Estes at 8:30 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Joe Armato

Secretary of the Board