

SUMMARY MINUTES

BENTON COUNTY PARK BOARD

July 8, 2008, 6:30 p.m.
Benton County Justice Center
Kennewick, WA

Board Members Present

Bert Lake, Chair
Skip Gest, Vice Chair
Hank Sauer, Secretary/Treasurer
Rick Kilgore, Member
Kathye Kilgore, Member
Marilyn Hyde, Member
Donna Raines, Member

Benton County Employees

Adam Fyall
Cami McKenzie
Commissioner Claude Oliver

Call to Order/Roll Call

Chair Bert Lake called the meeting to order at approximately 6:30 p.m. and roll call was taken.

Approval of Minutes

The June 2008 Minutes were approved.

Review Agenda

The following items were added to the agenda: Friends of Badger Letter; Badger Mountain Master Plan; Update on Hover Park; and Letter from Purple Sage Riders. The agenda was approved as amended.

Committee Reports

Bert Lake stated that no oral reports would be given since written reports were submitted prior to the meeting.

City of Kennewick - Liaison Report Update

Hank Sauer reported the City of Kennewick would be celebrating the opening of the new building at Grange Park on Union Street on Thursday, July 17. He said the celebration would include a BBQ (the first 200 attendees to receive free hamburgers and hot dogs) and everyone was invited.

Letter to Friends of Badger Mountain

Adam Fyall presented a letter to the Friends of Badger Mountain requesting the group acknowledge that Badger Mountain was a Benton County Park. Chair Lake requested the letter to be amended to include reference to equestrian and bicycle trails on all literature.

The Board agreed to have Mr. Fyall and Mr. Lake amend the letter and send it out with the Chair's signature.

Tri-City Model Airplane Association (TCMAA) Lease Amendment

The Board discussed amending the lease with the TCMAA to extend the lease term. It was stated that it was harder for entities to receive grant approvals when leases got to the end of their term. Mr. Fyall said that TCMAA was requesting to extend the lease term to 2024.

MOTION: Donna Raines moved to extend the TCMAA lease to 25 years, if the Association agreed, to include an "out-clause" in the lease. Hank Sauer seconded and upon vote, the motion carried.

Benton City/Kiona Irrigation District Bike-Walking Path

Mr. Fyall said the Kiona Irrigation District had agreed to work with Benton City to make the right of way a dual-use trail. He indicated they were in the process of awarding the bid for the asphalt portion of the trail and had asked the County for money from the Paths and Trails Reserve Fund. Mr. Fyall stated the Commissioners wanted to give them \$77,000 for this project, however, in order to use money from that fund, it had to be officially adopted in a County plan. Adam stated he had tweaked the Parks Plan to include this path so the money could be

used from that fund. Additionally, he stated the Parks Plan still had to be approved by the Planning Commission and Board of Commissioners.

Mr. Fyall asked the Board if it wanted to send a letter to Benton City reminding them of the development of the soft-surface trail that would follow the asphalt trail.

MOTION: Rick Kilgore moved to approve sending a letter to Kiona Irrigation District and Benton City stating the Park Board was in support of the Bike-Walking Path project and to remind them a soft-surface trail was to be developed in conjunction with Tapteal Greenway. It was seconded and upon vote, the motion carried.

Badger Mountain Master Plan

Rick Kilgore said he was in favor of creating a master plan for Badger Mountain. Mr. Lake said the new trail being requested was in an area that would be covered in the master plan. Additionally, the Badger Mountain subcommittee had discussed a policy for naming things and donating benches that would be addressed in the master plan.

Mr. Fyall discussed the appropriate avenue to get Board approval to pay for a Master Plan since the Commissioners were opposed to any more funds being spent for Badger Mountain. Commissioner Oliver requested approval of payment for a Master Plan be put on the Commissioner agenda.

Mr. Lake suggested the Board write a letter to the Commissioners stating that due to requests for development on Badger Mountain and pressure from the public, the Park Board wanted to proceed with a master plan. Additionally, he said to explain to the Friends of Badger that nothing would be approved until the master plan was resolved.

MOTION: It was moved and seconded to send a letter to the Commissioners requesting approval to use existing Park Development Fund monies for master planning at Badger Mountain Centennial Preserve and requesting a response to the letter before the August Park Board meeting. Upon vote, the motion carried with Hank Sauer and Kathye Kilgore opposing. The vote passed 4 to 2 with the Chairman abstaining.

Commissioner Report

Commissioner Oliver said he appreciated the update from the Park Board at the Commissioner meeting and recommended a Powerpoint for future updates that included pictures of park development. Commissioner Oliver also discussed the status of the Park Development Fund, the budget, and his recent Chicago trip regarding FFTF.

Hover Park Update

Marilyn Hyde said she recently spoke to the Corps of Engineers and their policy now was to try and develop partnerships. She said she received some maps and had a very positive conversation. Additionally, she had a discussion with a volunteer from the fire department and they were also interested in getting something done with the park, i.e. pruning trees due to fire hazard.

Letter from Purple Sage Riders

The Board discussed Purple Sage Riders' request for acquisition of land located south of Red Mountain to stage large events such as Purple Sage Riders, BCHW Winery Ride or Balloon Stampedes, and/or possible special event permits.

The Board agreed to write a letter to the Red Mountain Estates Association expressing the Park Board's interest in their presence on Red Mountain, with a possible staging and/or parking area.

Capital Facilities Plan

Adam Fyall presented preliminary project identification and prioritization for the 2008 Capital Facilities Plan. Adam briefly discussed the projects and requested the Park Board get back to him ASAP so the projects could be prioritized at the August meeting.

Brochure

Donna Raines indicated she would like to move along with the brochure project and the Chair agreed.

Adjournment

The members and guests gave closing comments and the meeting adjourned at approximately 9:00 p.m. The next regular meeting will be the second Tuesday in August at Higgins Field.