

SUMMARY MINUTES

BENTON COUNTY PARK BOARD

July 13, 2010, 6:30 p.m.
Benton County Justice Center
Kennewick, WA

Board Members Present

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

Benton County Employees

Adam Fyall
Cami McKenzie
Commissioner Jim Beaver

Board Members Absent

Skip Gest, Member

Call to Order/Pledge of Allegiance/Roll Call

Chair Rick Kilgore called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m., led the Pledge of Allegiance, and roll call was taken.

Approval of Minutes

The Minutes of June 2010 were approved.

Staff Report - Update

- Amendment to State land use agreement - signed and approved by both parties and in the process of being recorded.
- BLM Patent – paid for and still waiting to receive documents
- Badger Mountain Update (as reported by Jim Langdon) – on target for 100,000 users for 2010, currently slated to receive seven loads of gravel, and several volunteers working on the trail upgrades

Commissioner Report

Commissioner Beaver reported that he had discussed the issue of additional funding with the County Administrator and it was being sent through the “pipeline” to be addressed during the regular budget cycle. Additionally, he briefly discussed the following: animal control facility groundbreaking; request for 2/5/10-year budget strategies from departments; freeze of elected officials salaries.

Kennewick/Richland Parks & Recreation Liaison Report

Hank and Adam reported that both the City of Kennewick and Richland Parks Departments endorsed the Columbia Park West plan and forwarded it to the respective Councils with recommendation to approve.

Two Rivers Park Boat Launch

Adam provided a map of the existing layout and briefly discussed the following issues related to Two Rivers Park Boat Launch:

- Signage (existing and possible new signs marked “no swimming”)
- Pier 1 –no longer operable and currently closed due to strong currents
- Boat launching is fine and is very popular, at all times of the year
- Surplus docks/material removed from launch area two years ago; Adam requested authority to put the items in surplus
- “1135” Project – jetty construction (project currently in hiatus status)
- Parking Area/Restroom

Hank Sauer said he wanted to put up new “no swimming” signs to address the safety issue.

MOTION: It was moved and seconded to design new signs regarding “no swimming” and emphasize the drowning risk in the area. Upon vote, the motion carried unanimously.

MOTION: It was moved and seconded to surplus the six docks/materials and any other decking (Pier 1) to be removed from the boat launch area. Upon vote, the motion carried unanimously.

The Board discussed and requested Mr. Fyall to prepare an outline for projects currently in progress, money spent, and proposed timelines to finish.

Two Rivers Park – Paddleboat Concession

Mr. Fyall said an individual approached him about providing paddleboats to rent at Two Rivers Park. He said he talked with the Risk Manager about it, and it might be difficult for him to get the required insurance.

Ms. Kilgore requested information on his previous operation and how successful he had been. Mr. Sauer suggested Adam look at Kennewick’s concessionaire program because it had been very successful.

The Board agreed that Adam could pursue the issue further.

Offer to Donate Land on Yakima River – Benton City

Adam said a gentleman contacted him about donating some property he owned along the Yakima River with the stipulation it be put to public recreational use (namely a boat launch). Adam said he discussed the offer with the Tapteal Greenway Board and they might be interested in the property.

Bert Lake suggested the Board might be interested if the property could be banked (without cost) for future use or another's use.

The Board agreed that Adam could respond to the offer with that suggestion or the possibility of donating to Tapteal Greenway Association.

Adjournment

The guests and board members gave closing comments and the meeting adjourned at approximately 8:15 p.m.

The next regular meeting will be the second Tuesday in August at the Justice Center.