

SUMMARY MINUTES

BENTON COUNTY PARK BOARD

June 10, 2008, 6:30 p.m.

Two Rivers Park

Finley, Washington

Board Members Present

Bert Lake, Chair

Hank Sauer, Secretary/Treasurer

Rick Kilgore, Member

Kathye Kilgore, Member

Marilyn Hyde, Member

Donna Raines, Member

Benton County Employees

Adam Fyall (Absent)

Cami McKenzie

Dennis Rockwell

Board Members Absent

Skip Gest, Vice Chair

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 May 2008 Minutes were approved.

Review Agenda

Chair Bert Lake requested a Park Development Fund discussion be added to the agenda. 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.

Rattlesnake Ridge Riders Badger Mountain Trail Ride - Report

Linda Smith presented a written report of the Badger Mountain trail ride on May 3, 2008. She summarized with an oral presentation and made suggestions to improve the parking lot conditions. Bert Lake also made suggestions, including grading, gravel along the north fence, and signs for "Horse Trailers" only.

Badger Mountain Centennial Preserve - Discussion

Bert Lake discussed his concern about the literature and website sponsored by the "Friends of Badger" group and the lack of reference to Badger Mountain being a "Benton County" Park. Additionally, discussed his concern about the lack of information on bicycle and equestrian trails, but reference only to "multi-use" trails.

Kathye Kilgore briefly discussed the "Hike for Hunger" and the apparent lack of knowledge during that event that Badger Mountain Preserve was a Benton County Park.

Bert Lake said the "Friends of Badger" group were an important partner and he recommended the Board send a letter to the group requesting the literature and website be corrected.

MOTION: It was moved and seconded to send a letter to Friends of Badger requesting that all literature reference bicycle and equestrian trails and the fact that Badger Mountain Centennial Preserve was a Benton County Park.

Discussion

Donna Raines said it was important to promote a marketing piece for Badger Mountain to make the public aware of its existence and ownership. Rick Kilgore discussed the need to have a development plan for the Mountain in place first.

Hank Sauer agreed that it was important to market the mountain so people were aware of the Park and its ownership. Bert Lake said the Board could require the development plan to be completed before the Skyline Trail was developed.

Upon vote, the motion carried unanimously.

2008 Major Projects - Discussion

The Chairman asked if the Planning Committee had a report ready on the major projects list. Rick Kilgore indicated it was not ready. The Chairman suggested that Adam Fyall proceed with the proposed list pending any comments or amendments from the Planning Committee. There was no objection noted.

Park Development Fund Discussion

The Park Board discussed the County Commissioners' decision to delay funding the Park Development fund for one year with excess Current Expense money. The Board agreed it wanted to write a letter to the Board of Commissioners outlining their concerns and tentatively set a special workshop session with Adam Fyall for June 18, pending availability of Mr. Fyall.

Hover Subcommittee

Mr. Lake stated the Hover subcommittee had met to discuss options for the park, with development of a "Two Rivers" Park among them. He then requested Dennis Rockwell talk about the changes in use at Two Rivers Park.

Two Rivers Park Update

Dennis Rockwell said that over the last three years there had been a significant and steady decline in park attendance during the summertime, even during three-day weekends. He estimated the decline was at least 25%. He indicated he was very much in favor of the 18-hole frisbie golf course and hoped it would increase usage at the park. Mr. Rockwell also indicated the playground equipment was seriously out of date and not up to the newest safety standards.

Hank Sauer recommended the Board approve purchase of new playground equipment and suggested the Board purchase in bulk along with the City of Kennewick's next equipment purchase.

Vickie Clark asked if there was a way to make the park more equestrian friendly and discussed a possible path and hitching area. Chair Lake asked Ms. Clark to present a plan to the Board.

Adjournment

The members and guests gave closing comments and the meeting adjourned at approximately 8:15 p.m. The next regular meeting will be the second Tuesday in July at the Justice Center.