

SUMMARY MINUTES

BENTON COUNTY PARK BOARD

October 13, 2015, 6:30 p.m.
Benton County Justice Center
Kennewick, WA

Board Members Present

Richard Nordness, Chair
Diana Ruff, Secretary/Treasurer
John Becker, Vice-Chair
Donna Raines, Member
Robin Emmingham, Member

Benton County Employees

Adam Fyall
Cami McKenzie
Commissioner Jim Beaver

Board Members Absent

Michael Crowder, Member

Call to Order/Pledge of Allegiance/Roll Call

Chair Richard Nordness called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. The Board recited the Pledge of Allegiance and roll call was taken.

Review & Approval of Agenda

The agenda was approved as presented.

Approval of Minutes

The Minutes of September 2015 were approved.

Chair Report

Richard reported that he travelled to Arizona and Utah and visited national parks while on his trip.

Staff Report Update

Adam updated his written report as follows:

- Attended the Taptal Annual meeting

- Saw Vicky Clark and she was doing well
- Scott Woodward was stepping down from Tapteal Board
- Groundbreaking event at Trailhead Park - thanked Commissioner Beaver and Donna for their attendance.
- Hwy Access at Horn Rapids Park - Public Works put out the bid and received only one in the amount of \$71,000 (more than Adam felt should be spent on that project). The County Engineer said it was not a good time for bidding and suggested trying again in the spring and to re-engineer the project and scale it down. He said if they were going to provide the access, they wanted to do it right.
- Higgins Road - Donna indicated she thought that project was complete; Adam said he was sending out a request for proposals on Thursday.
- Horse Heaven Cemetery - there was a discussion on whether there was a plat map and Adam indicated there was not, as well as nothing that regulated the site.
- Boardwalk and Dennis Rockwell commemorative dedication - the Board agreed to present at the same time, along with the new playground equipment.

Parks Priority Projects Review

Chair Nordness said that Michael Crowder sent an email that he was not in favor of the Hover Park south entrance and that the use agreement with Barker Ranch be removed from the list.

Hover Park Discussion

John asked if Adam could bring a map of the area so he could get a better idea of the Hover Park area. Donna said one of her missions on Park Board had always been to bring more presence and visibility to Hover Park.

Diana said her interests were in tangible projects that partners had expressed a need for like the well at the shooting range, expansion at Higgins Field, and the boat dock. She asked about the County's responsibility for the Candy Mountain acquisition and Adam said it was more managerial than financial.

Robin discussed the river floaters issue and said the Park Board might have a stake in that issue. Adam said there had been many discussions and there were still issues to be worked out but the Commissioners were working on that.

Robin said he hoped the nature trail and boardwalk would get priority, as well as the boat dock.

The Board agreed to discuss Hover Park at the next meeting in hopes of forming a vision and plan.

MOTION: It was moved and seconded to include the following as priority projects:

- Shooting Range - new well
- Two Rivers Park Boardwalk
- Two Rivers Park Boat Dock
- Higgins Field Park Expansion
- Candy Mountain Acquisition

Discussion

Donna requested that Hover Park be kept in the list of priorities. The Board discussed readdressing it after a plan was discussed.

Upon vote, the motion carried.

Playgrounds Remodel

Adam suggested the Board assign someone to a committee to handle the dedication and decide how to celebrate. Diana volunteered and with no other takers, became a committee of one. She indicated she would report on her recommendations next month.

Schedule

Adam presented a schedule of items for the upcoming year and mentioned that Benton County would be hosting the joint meeting next year.

Donna asked about the water trails and Adam said it was mostly a Tapteal project but he was getting involved. He said their goal was to get the Tapteal Trailway recognized on water trails and that Benton County had three access sites.

Public Comment/Poll of the Board/Adjournment

Linda Smith said she agreed something should be done at Hover, at least a plan so that when time and money were available something could be done. She said she was still interested in Wi-Fi at Horn Rapids Park. Adam said he did not hear that was a priority, but that didn't mean it was not of interest and he might make a few calls to see what was available. Additionally, Linda indicated there was some interest from the Rattlesnake Ridge Riders to put together a volunteer work group to clean up the horse camp.

Dick McGrew (MAA) said he lived near Hover Park and was not impressed because it was definitely unclear what was allowed and not allowed in the park. He discussed recent events and that they were looking at electrical needs, concrete flying stations and expanding their runway. Clark Hymas said at their officers meeting they went over the master plan and they had completed nearly everything on the list.

John Hauptmann said they did have Wi-Fi at the shooting range and he would check it out and get the information to Adam. He said they had an appreciation event for the range officers recently and had a good turnout; they were wrapping up most of the multi-day events. Additionally, they had someone looking at the wells and would be getting a recommendation as well as getting a second opinion from another contractor.

Cindy Faith commented that it would be a good idea for the Park Board to look at the vision and purpose of Hover Park and decide what activities it wanted to have there.

Commissioner Beaver commended the great efforts for the Candy Mountain acquisition and commented on his attendance at the groundbreaking ceremony for the new trailhead parking lot.

The Board members gave closing comments. Specifically, Diana said she appreciated the input from the partners, particularly on what projects were needed.

With no further business to report, the meeting adjourned at approximately 8:00 p.m.

The next regular meeting will be the first Tuesday in November.