

SUMMARY MINUTES

BENTON COUNTY PARK BOARD

April 9, 2013, 6:00 p.m.
Benton County Justice Center
Kennewick, WA

Board Members Present

Richard Nordness, Chair
Bert Lake, Vice-Chair
Michael Crowder - Secretary/Treasurer
Donna Raines, Member
Diana Ruff, Member

Benton County Employees

Adam Fyall
Cami McKenzie

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

A discussion regarding Horse Heaven Vista was added to the agenda. The agenda was approved as amended.

Approval of Minutes

The Minutes of March 2013 were approved.

Committee Reports

Donna Raines asked if anyone would be replacing Hank Sauer as the Kennewick liaison. Mr. Fyall said it was never a designated position, but a matter of convenience since he was on both boards. He mentioned there was a good relationship at the staff level with both boards (Kennewick and Richland) and he did not see a need unless someone volunteered. Richard Nordness said he would have a conversation with the Chairman of the Kennewick Board to see what his position was.

2013 Priority Projects - Continued

Adam provided an outline of the 2013 projects and his definition of "major" and "minor" projects. The Board discussed the following projects:

- Paving - Horn Rapids Park Driveway & RMSF Road to High Power - Adam said that Public Works could actually do quite a bit of this work, both project management and the actual paving.
- Hover Road Park - Adam said he already had a general plan from A & B Asphalt and if the Board wanted to go ahead, he would proceed with that plan and direction. He said that Hover had been an ongoing conversation and was the main project to show the Board was interested in taking care of the park and show there was some activity going on there. He said the plan would be to create an actual parking lot and would be preventative to keep folks from driving all over the place; there was also concern about dumping and shooting so they would need some good signage.

Bert Lake said it was his hope the Board could approve something tonight before dealing with the boat launch issue and bringing on two new members and make the priority projects something that could be completed. He said he was not sure about costs of RMSF and approval by the Board of Commissioners. He said the road was a maintenance nightmare for them and he also wanted to help them since they were being hit with the \$84,000 sales tax bill. Additionally, he had always wanted to try and have Benton County Public Works complete a project and thought it would be an ideal job for them to do and that by adding it to the Horn Rapids Park driveway project they would get a better deal.

MOTION: It was moved and seconded to approve the 2013 Priority Projects as submitted. Upon vote, the motion carried unanimously.

Horse Heaven Vista Update

Adam said that last year a light standard was repaired after it was clipped (presumably by a semi) and it happened again last week; the cost to repair last time was approximately \$5,000. He asked the Board if it wanted to repair it again or decide if that single light was really necessary in that area. Michael Crowder said he thought it should go away. There was a discussion on limiting semis and Diana Ruff expressed concern about taking it away if trucks regularly parked there at night and the County allowed it there might be an expectation of lighting. Donna Raines asked if the DOT had restrictions or if there was an allowed area for them to park and Adam stated there was an area for them to

pull off the highway. The Board discussed different options, including signs prohibiting overnight parking, barricades, and fencing the gravel area. Bert Lake said he was in favor of taking it out. Adam said before he left town would send a note to Prosser and PEDDA to let them know the light was broken.

MOTION: It was moved and seconded to remove the light pole and base and electrical components. Upon vote, the motion carried.

Two Rivers Boat Launch update

Adam said they would be meeting on Friday, April 19 with the Corps for up an update on the project and he believed the time had come to make a decision. He believed the Corps wanted to gauge Benton County's financial interest in the project.

Michael Crowder said this was a big expense for the Park Board and since he had not been involved since the beginning, he wanted to know if it was the highest priority for spending funds. He said he was on board if it was a true safety concern and he wanted to wrap his head around it as a priority.

Bert said he was not personally a boater but it had been a priority for the taxpayers for some time.

Adam said there were two main reasons it had been a priority since the boat launch was placed in that area of the park. He said it took a lot of abuse being in that area and at least three times had major repairs; one reason was for long-term to avoid rebuilding and the other was safety and convenience. He said there were nice amenities for this project and maintenance but the primary driver was the launch getting battered by the river.

Michael said he was not opposed to the project, he was just asking if this was something they were doing because of prior board interest or because it was truly needed.

Donna said it was the Corps in the past that had slowed this project but felt it would provide a safe way to access the water. Bert said the Board had alleviated most of the safety issues and unless the Board of Commissioners agreed to replenish the fund, it could only spend \$80,000 until the project required payment some time in 2015-2016. The Board discussed the funding issue and whether it should ask the Board of Commissioners for money to earmark this project.

Adam said it was clear they needed to see what the Corps was going to bring forth at the meeting and they could bring it back to the Park Board next month; he commented they needed to back it wholeheartedly if they were going to do it.

Park Board Appointments

Adam said the Personnel Department had streamlined the job application process with Neogov and he would be using them for recruiting, in addition to handing out flyers and word of mouth. He hoped to get new appointments by May or June.

Additionally, Adam provided an updated calendar of events and said there were many events scheduled during spring and early summer.

Clark Hymas provided a mockup of a two different sign options for Higgins Field and said that a member had agreed to pay for the sign.

MOTION: It was moved and seconded to approve the sign with the removal of the "visitors welcome" statement, subject to final approval by Adam. Upon vote, the motion carried.

Adjournment

The guests and board members gave closing comments.

With no further business to report, the meeting adjourned at approximately 8:15 p.m.

The next regular meeting will be the second Tuesday in May at the Benton County Justice Center.