

SUMMARY MINUTES

BENTON COUNTY PARK BOARD

May 14, 2013, 6:30 p.m.
Benton County Justice Center
Kennewick, WA

Board Members Present

Richard Nordness, Chair
Bert Lake, Vice-Chair

Benton County Employees

Adam Fyall
Cami McKenzie

Board Members Absent

Michael Crowder - Secretary/Treasurer
Donna Raines, Member
Diana Ruff, 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. Because only two of the five Park Board members were in attendance, a quorum was not present. As such, only informal discussions were held among the two members present, staff, and guests; and no actions were taken during the meeting.

Approval of Minutes

Approval of the Minutes was postponed until the next meeting.

Chair Report

Chair Nordness said that he and Adam had received letters from Russ Treat and Stan Art regarding construction of trails on Badger Mountain requesting to remove boulder curbing for safety reasons. He said he met with Friends of Badger and brought up these concerns and believed the individuals that put in the curbing were skilled and there was no reason for safety concern. It appeared to be more an issue about debate on how to build trails. Adam wrote a letter stating they would suspend the use of boulder curbing for at least the remainder of the spring maintenance season and would continue to review the matter. Chair Nordness said he would try to follow up with another phone call to see if their concerns were addressed.

Staff Report Update

Adam updated his written report as follows:

- Dumping Clean-up in South Kennewick area - Adam said that clean-up efforts had started approximately three months ago by a small group of individuals and they were now forming a network. He said he was concerned that dumping would start to migrate to the parks, specifically Hover, and had asked Richard Hillmer to double his reconnaissance at Hover. Additionally, he had ordered "no dumping" and "no shooting" signs to be placed at the entrance.
- June 18, 2013 - Report to the Board of Commissioners in Prosser
- Candy Mountain - pre-appraisal work done by Trust for Public Lands and the value came in substantially lower than owners were expecting. One owner has stated it still wanted to move forward with selling and the other has stated it wanted to wait for the market to improve. The Trust for Public Lands was backing off for now because the scope of the project had diminished below their minimum participation threshold and Friends of Badger would work directly with the landowner. He said it was time for the Park Board to partner up if wanted to endorse as a donation for a Preserve. Bert said he agreed, but commented that adding more land would continue to put pressure on the park caretakers and they couldn't keep adding to the inventory without a way to care for it.

Two Rivers Boat Launch Update

The Board agreed to continue the discussion to the next meeting and Chair Nordness said he would arrange to meet with Donna Raines and Diana Ruff to update them. Adam commented that the meeting with the Corps had a few surprises, including the price tag had increased to \$468,000 (a roughly 50% increase over previous estimates) and that the sponsoring county would be required to have long-term maintenance of Shot Rock Island (that was actually located in Walla Walla County). He said he felt these two things potentially put the project in jeopardy.

Park Board Vacancies Update

Adam said the two positions had been posted for three weeks and they had only received one application. He said he extended the period to receive applications.

June Meeting

The meeting in June was moved to Monday, June 10 at 6:00 p.m. to be held at Two Rivers Park (with a potluck). Adam said he would contact the other park board members to let them know.

Comments from Guests/Board Members

Vicky Clark commented on the progress of the trail connections to Badger. She said there was some DNR land that might be available for parking.

Adam said that Friends were also working on a recreation easement for some of the connectivity of trails between the ridges.

Linda Smith brought a copy of her "trail etiquette" signs since there was renewed interest about safety rules from the bicycle club. Adam said there were conversations going on about this issue so he would include this information.

Mickie Chamness said she had been working in the demonstration garden at Horn Rapids Park and thought it might be a good idea to include some "stay on path" signs to direct those walking through the garden.

Clark Hymas talked about the upcoming "Wings for Wishes" event on May 24-27. Additionally, he said they would be sealing Runway 1 and paint-striping both runways. Also, in June the cub scouts would be coming over from Horn Rapids Park and they would give a flight demonstration for them.

Bert Lake commented on some awards posted in the state newsletter for Backcountry Horsemen and said that Vicky Clark (Purple Sage Riders) earned an award for putting together the calendar.

Adjournment

With no further business to report, the meeting adjourned at approximately 7:25 p.m.

The next regular meeting will be June 10, 2013 at Two Rivers Park.