

SUMMARY MINUTES

BENTON COUNTY PARK BOARD

December 10, 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
Robert Emmingham, Member
Diana Ruff, Member

Benton County Employees

Adam Fyall
Cami McKenzie
Commissioner Beaver

Social/Potluck

The members and guests met for a social/pot luck at 6:00 p.m. and guest Hank Sauer read the "Polar Express".

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 with the addition of an executive session.

Approval of Minutes

The Minutes of November, 2013 were approved as submitted.

Executive Session

The Park Board went into executive session at 6:35 p.m. for approximately 10 minutes to discuss the working conditions of a public employee. Also present were Adam Fyall, Jim Beaver, and Cami McKenzie. Cami McKenzie announced at 6:45 p.m. the Board needed an additional five minutes. The Board came out at

6:50 p.m. The Chairman confirmed for the record that no decisions were made in executive session.

Committee Reports

- Brochure - Adam said Carol Darley made a few additional markups, including at least two covers for the Board to choose from and it would soon be ready for final approval and going to print.

Badger Mountain Plan - December Update

Adam said they had a good first meeting with good public participation; all user groups were represented.

The next meeting was scheduled for December 12, again at Bethel Church. He said this meeting would be the trail workshop and would include input from specialist Kim Fredrickson (who was also in attendance and who was introduced) and two retired forest service employees.

He stated that after the meeting they would start putting together a draft document to present at the Open House in February. He added that the contract was up June 30 and he would be involved pretty heavily over the next several weeks.

Horse Heaven Vista

Adam said they completed the survey of the property. They still had two large debris piles (one on County property and one on the neighbor's property). He mentioned that Keith Burkhardt had expressed interest in the past about moving the piles for a fee and wanted to know if the Board was interested in that proposal.

Michael agreed the piles were an eye sore and maybe it was time to explore some options. Adam suggested they sample the pile so they knew what was buried in it. Diana stated they shouldn't have to pay to have someone remove it but agreed they should see what was buried and have Mark report back.

The Board agreed the item was a low priority.

Hover Park Access

Adam said his research determined the only legal access to the Park was through Hover Road; however, most people enter the park through Toothaker (which he did not think was a legal access).

Dennis Rockwell (from the audience) commented that he had not ever seen any evidence there was pavement that crossed the railroad tracks and that the road ended there. Adam said it would seem the only legal access was through Hover Road and that he would bring the matter to the Corps to get their official opinion.

Park Use Policy

Adam indicated he worked with Bryan Perry (the County's safety manager) on this issue and they liked the form used by the City of Richland and were using that as their template. He indicated they needed a tool they could use at the outset to determine what kind of events could be held at the park. He said they wanted to test the new application with the Chili Feed event.

The Board discussed the issue, including the requirement for a deposit (could be dependent upon the event) and certificates of insurance. Adam said he would continue to work on the issue.

MOTION: It was moved and seconded the Board (not Adam) draft a letter asking the Board of Commissioners for further consideration to allow Mark Finkbeiner residence at Horn Rapids Park. Upon vote, the motion carried.

Chair Richard Nordness said he would draft the letter for review and the Chairman's signature.

Guest Comments/Poll of the Board/Adjournment

The guests and Board members gave closing comments. With no further business to report, the meeting adjourned at approximately 8:00 p.m.

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