

SUMMARY MINUTES

BENTON COUNTY PARK BOARD

April 8, 2014, 6:30 p.m.
Benton County Justice Center
Kennewick, WA

Board Members Present

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

Benton County Employees

Adam Fyall
Cami McKenzie
Commissioner Beaver

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 of Agenda

The Board added the discussion item "meeting schedule". The agenda was approved as amended.

Approval of Minutes

The Minutes of March, 2014 were approved as submitted.

Staff Report

Adam updated his written report by stating he received an email from Craig Newcomb from The Corps of Engineers asking about Two Rivers and if the County was talking about this project at all. The Board indicated it was still not interested.

Adam also said the Board might want to consider giving a formal thank you to Jim Langdon for his work on Badger Mountain. The Board talked about a plaque or something of that nature or naming a trail.

Regarding the Yakima River floaters issue, Adam updated the Board about previous meetings and said they knew the issues would be the same and everyone recognized the safety and private property issues. He said they might be able to identify some areas to go for money from the Dept. of Ecology; they were still looking for a solution on Grosscup, maybe putting money into a pot to look at creating a public access.

Michael Crowder said he wanted to offer his help. He said the Barker Ranch was the largest landowner in that area and after the recent fire on his property he had real concerns about the issue.

Proposed Training Facility - Benton County Sheriff's Office

Adam provided a checklist of component parts to make the project happen. He said when they started working on this, they struggled with how to make it all fit and how to organize the different components and one of the problems early on was the slope and grading issue. However, they have since found the elevation data and topography was off and were getting that fixed, which made the project more reasonable. He said he reviewed the new proposal with Clay Vannoy in the Sheriff's office, who was pleased, and they would be meeting next week at the Flashcube Building with MacKay & Sposito. He mentioned the Park Development budget paid for the consultant but he didn't know what the cost of the project would be or what their budget would allow.

Two Rivers Parks Nature Trail

Bert said he felt the Park Board should take money accumulated (approximately \$1300) through donations at the disc golf course and have Donna Raines get something designed (rocks and/or plaque) keeping Adam out of it as much as possible. Donna agreed to take this on this project and would report back to the Board.

Robin said he spent many years using this area and was very interested in boardwalks and had starting exploring the idea of boardwalks and wetland trails. He said he wanted put a notice at the trail head asking the community to contact him and if there was interest, he would put together a group to explore the ideas. He said the boardwalk portion would be no more 150 feet (\$20 to \$50 a linear foot) and he might also contact potentially interested groups for input.

Adam said he also spoke to The Corps and brought up the idea to them. He said the best way to get through The Corps was not to put a spade into the ground (try to build on the ground, not in the ground). He said they also needed to look at the feasibility of driving equipment on the boardwalk (brush hogs, etc.) by the park caretaker. Otherwise, the area would not be maintained by equipment if they could not drive into that area.

MOTION: Michael said he supported the concept and moved to have Robin explore the feasibility of this project. It was seconded.

Discussion

Bert said it was important with wetlands to be sure he "got his ducks in a row" and Robin commented that he had already seen areas in Washington with these types of issues.

Upon vote, the motion carried unanimously.

Proposed Meetings

Adam provided a proposed meeting schedule as follows:

- May - Justice Center
- June - Horn Rapids Park (Higgins Field)
- July - Two Rivers Park
- August - Horn Rapids Park (Meacham Hall)
- September - Rattlesnake Mountain (tour, then meeting at Shotgun club house)
- Oct/Nov/Dec - Justice Center

Bert proposed they invite the Ridge Riders and Purple Sage Riders to the August meeting.

MOTION: Michael moved to accept the meeting schedule as written (with all the meetings in the parks to be held as potlucks). It was seconded and upon vote, the motion carried.

Comments from Guests/Poll of the Board

The Board stated it had interviewed and recommended someone for the open position on the Park Board and Adam said that one week from today the resolution appointing John Becker would be before the Board of Commissioners.

John Becker thanked everyone and said he looked forward to serving on the Board.

Linda Smith said that despite low attendance at the chili feed, she felt it turned out okay.

Dan Chappel said a member was approached by Chris Schaefer (local BLM) and they were interested in seeing trails developed in the Horse Heaven Hills. He said they were looking for a proposal by a citizens group to put in a trail.

Mickie Chamness discussed putting in metal signs along the new trail marking native plants on Badger Mountain and asked if there were any issues with that. Adam said he was hopeful they could do that and there were a lot of chances to showcase specimens and felt that would work well.

The Board agreed and Adam said it was mentioned in the plan.

Commissioner Beaver said Russ Treat and a few others came before the Board to discuss their safety concerns on Badger Mountain. He said there will always be issues and they would try to accommodate those issues as they came up.

Mark Verwest said the pistol bay improvement was almost done. Additionally, he talked about low attendance and said they figured it was due to the weather and assumed it would pick up.

Diana asked that the priority projects be put on the next agenda so the Board could review it again and was in favor of having Board members get more involved in the projects.

Michael agreed and said he wanted to coordinate with partners. Additionally, he stated the floaters issue was a huge deal and he was happy to help.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at approximately 8:00 p.m. The next regular meeting will be the second Tuesday in May at the Justice Center.