

## SUMMARY MINUTES

### BENTON COUNTY PARK BOARD

February 12, 2013, 6:30 p.m.  
Benton County Justice Center  
Kennewick, WA

#### Board Members Present

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

#### Benton County Employees

Adam Fyall  
Cami McKenzie  
Commissioner Jim Beaver

#### Board Members Absent

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.

#### Review & Approval of Agenda

The agenda was approved as presented.

#### Approval of Minutes

The Minutes of January 2013 were approved.

#### Chair Report

#### Officer Appointment - Election of New Officers

Bert Lake clarified that at the January meeting he was only ratifying what was previously approved by the Board regarding election of new officers. He said the officers were appointed for two year terms and he had assumed the role of Chair when Richard Kilgore resigned from the Park Board, with the understanding that

Richard Nordness would take over as Chair at the beginning of the new calendar year.

**MOTION:** It was moved and seconded to confirm what was previously agreed to by the Park Board to appoint Richard Nordness as Chair, Bert Lake as Vice-Chair and Michael Crowder as Secretary/Treasurer. Upon vote, the motion carried unanimously.

### **Staff Report Update**

In addition to his written report, Adam provided the following update:

- Trailer removal update from Badger Mountain; he said the trailer had been sitting unsecured at the summit for years, but unfortunately it was pushed down and was lodged in a ravine during the fall. He said that he, Mark Finkbeiner and Richard Hillmer, along with Facilities employees Jim Newton and Oren Stovall, and Friends of Badger removed the trailer with a wench and manpower. He said there was little impact to the land and it was now locked at the summit. He said they had a private entity interested in purchasing the trailer and he would proceed to surplus the trailer so it could be sold.

### **Native Plant Society - Annual Report**

Micki Chamness gave the annual report to the Board via Powerpoint, which included some historical pictures of the area.

### **2013 Department Overview & Strategic Planning**

Adam briefly discussed the following issues (also provided in written format to the Board):

- Staff & Operations
- Staff - Park Board - Commissioners Relationships
- Vision - Mission - Goals
- Current Expense Budget & Funding
- Park Development Fund - 2013-2014 Budget

- Project Development - smaller items were handled administratively; larger items brought before the Board for approval; some items were brought up by user groups and/or the public and others brought up by the Park Board. Adam commented that master plans were a great way to go so everyone knew the priority projects of the Park Board.
- 2013 Agenda - Adam indicated that setting five priority projects for 2012 was a good practice and assisted him in focusing his time and energy to get some projects completed. (Two were completely done; Barker Ranch still in progress; Hover Park - nothing done; runway at Higgins Field became another priority project; brochure - still in progress).

### 2013 Priority Projects Discussed

- Shop at Horn Rapids
- Two Rivers Boat Launch Project (Donna asked if there were any grants available) for match for the County's portion; Michael also asked if any of that money could be "in-kind" match. Adam said some could be used as "in-kind" and the project was likely enough that the Park Board should keep it in its radar. Hank commented that the Corps was making huge strides in maneuvering to make sure the project would get done; Bert added that it needed to be funded by the feds and signed off by a few other entities. Adam said the concept had been talked about for at least 15 years and the Corps was paying for the feasibility right now and putting out money; the Corps had to sell it as a habitat project but the end result was good for the County.

The Board discussed the Park Development Fund and availability of money. Commissioner Beaver said he was in favor of quality of life as far as having parks however, 79% of the County's budget was for the Sheriff/Jail budget. He commented that Adam had a lot of pressure to make things happen and there was remarkable progress due to the partners. He said the Board would do what it could with the resources available to make it happen however, he hoped the Corps didn't show up and ask for \$300,000 when they didn't have the money.

Bert commented he was afraid that if they didn't spend the money, they might lose that fund (he wanted to use it and show it was appreciated). Commissioner Beaver said the current Board of Commissioners did not have that opinion, even if that was the opinion of prior boards.

Donna asked about including some of the smaller projects in the 2013 priority list so it could finish the smaller projects.

Bert said he liked the idea of finishing up some small projects. Additionally, he proposed paving Canyon Road (to the Shooting Range) and had a rough estimate of \$45,000.

Adam said he would assemble a list of projects as they came in and would discuss them at the next officers' meeting and again at the March meeting. Adam encouraged members to send their priority projects to him by email and copy Richard Nordness as well.

### **Adjournment**

The guests and board members gave closing comments.

Specifically, the Board discussed the recent passing of Park Board member Skip Gest. It was mentioned there were cards to sign, as well as the Park Board sending flowers and taking a collection as a gift to Skip's wife.

Hank Sauer said he was reminded that his Kennewick Parks and Recreation board membership was up and asked if he wanted to renew. He said after much thought, he decided not to renew his term and likewise, would be tendering his resignation on the Park Board. The Board discussed having a potluck at the March meeting and all agreed. Hank said his resignation for the Park Board would be effective the end of March and he would attend the March meeting.

With no further business to report, the meeting adjourned at approximately 8:30 p.m.

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