

SUMMARY MINUTES

BENTON COUNTY PARK BOARD

August 21, 2012
Benton County Justice Center
Kennewick, WA

Board Members Present

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

Benton County Employees

Adam Fyall
Cami McKenzie

Board Members Absent - Excused

Skip Gest, Member
Donna Raines, Member

Call to Order/Pledge of Allegiance/Roll Call

Chair Bert Lake 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 submitted.

Approval of Minutes

The Minutes of July 2012 were approved.

Chair Report

Chair Lake said he was trying to meet regularly with the TCSA Board and had met with the Chief safety officer to discuss the master plan and talk about the new safety program. He said they agreed to meet every other month.

Staff Report Update

In addition to the written report, Adam updated the Board on the following issues:

- Horse information signs as prepared by Linda Smith were complete.
- Barker Ranch Easement - had a site visit with the civil attorney
- Two Rivers Park - pump failure (no final bill yet)
- Horn Rapids Park - a few repair items as well, but not a major pump failure; working to combat tack weed problem
- Horse Heaven Vista - Hank Sauer said he spent some time recently picking up trash at the site and asked if it would be possible to put a trash receptacle outside instead of only in the restroom. Adam indicated it was located in the restroom to prevent vandals from destroying it, but said it was possible to move one outside if it could be secured. Hank also asked about the possibility of PEDAs or the City of Prosser helping take care of the property as previously implied and Adam said he could revisit that issue.

Old Business

September Meeting

The Board discussed the September 11 meeting and whether to hold the dog agility demonstration at that meeting. The Board agreed to start the model airplane demonstration at 5:00 p.m., potluck at 5:30 p.m., regular meeting at 6:00 p.m., and dog agility demonstration at 7:00 p.m.

New Business

Management Objectives at Two Rivers Park

Adam provided the Board a discussion paper on the philosophy, goals, and management objectives at Two Rivers Park.

- Access - previously on-site caretaker who closed the gate each night. Currently do not close the gate at night but park hours are posted and the Sheriff's office monitors the park occasionally.

- Fishing/Hunting - State rules apply with a "no firearms discharge policy" in place.
- Boat Launch - there are things they want to do but will wait to see what happens with the Corps of Engineers project. If that doesn't work out, it will need to be reassessed.
- User conflicts - not many through the years. There was concern about the disc golf course but it has worked out. Occasionally, there are large groups and the disc golf is only nine holes for two weeks in the summer. Additionally, there is a large church group that gathers on Sunday every couple of months and they have now indicated they would help to address the parking issue.
- Vendors - vendors are not allowed at this point and there is no permission from the County.
- Trees - over half of the trees were originally planted by Dennis. There is not a replacement plan or program in place but at some point the Park Board will need to look at how to cycle the trees. Hank commented that he knew it was a point of contention at one point with neighbors because it affected their view.
- Corps of Engineers Dike - the County does not provide any maintenance to the dike. Hank said there was a trail plan to continue the extension from Kennewick but nothing was being done at the present time.
- Upland Parcel - nothing being done at this point; stopped mowing it some time ago.
- Natural Area/Trail- only 2-3 complaints received in the last six years about the natural area (mostly dead cottonwood trees cleaned up for view). He indicated it has been left in its natural state and unless it is presenting a safety problem, it is left alone. The Corps also thinks this is a good strategy. Michael commented that as long as a tree wouldn't fall on anyone, then it would not be a problem. Adam said that he had Richard check the area on a weekly basis for safety issues.

Adam indicated this management philosophy had been working, unless the Board wanted to change it. The Board agreed that unless a new issue arose and there was a reason to change the philosophy, it was agreeable to leaving it alone.

Adjournment

The guests and board members gave closing comments and the meeting adjourned at approximately 8:00 p.m.

The next regular meeting will be the second Tuesday in September at the Higgins Air Field, Horn Rapids Park in Benton City.