

## SUMMARY MINUTES

### BENTON COUNTY PARK BOARD

September 11, 2012, 5:00 p.m.  
Horn Rapids Park - Higgins Field  
Benton City, WA

#### Board Members Present

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

#### Benton County Employees

Adam Fyall  
Cami McKenzie  
Commissioner Beaver

#### Board Members Absent - Excused

Diana Ruff, Member

#### Call to Order/Pledge of Allegiance/Roll Call

Chair Bert Lake called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. The Board recited the Pledge of Allegiance and roll call was taken.

#### Review & Approval of Agenda

The tracking dog demonstration was removed from the agenda and a discussion regarding a special tree planting was added. The agenda was approved as amended.

#### Approval of Minutes

The Minutes of August 2012 were approved.

#### Chair Report

Chair Lake reported that he and Adam Fyall met with the Sheriff's Department and Tri-City Shooting Association officers to discuss the possibility of the Sheriff's office constructing a new permanent training facility at the Range.

There was not a decision at this time but it was agreed the discussion would continue.

### **Staff Report Update**

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

- West gate parking lot at Badger Mountain - Adam reported on the progress of the parking lot and said the developer of Badger Mountain South had contributed for the parking lot, along with the new drinking fountain. Additionally, the City of Richland assisted with moving the guy wire as needed. The Board requested Mr. Fyall send a letter to the editor at the Tri-City Herald to inform them of the partners involved in the parking lot upgrade.
- Horse Heaven Vista - lights were replaced and repaired (they were hit by a truck and ruined beyond repair).
- Brochure - there were some billing issues, but those were worked out and the process was now moving along. The Visitors Bureau would be doing a small ad and article based on the submittal.

### **Higgins Field Master Plan**

**MOTION:** It was moved and seconded to approve the Higgins Field Master Plan. Upon vote, the motion carried unanimously.

Adam stated that he also prepared a resolution for the Board's signature indicating approval of the master plan. Hank Sauer recognized the Model Airplane Association for its hard work and improvements at the air field.

### **Tree Planting Dedication**

It was agreed to schedule the tree planting dedication for Marilyn Hyde at 3:00 p.m. on Monday, October 15, 2012.

## **Management Objectives at Wallula Gap Preserve**

Adam said the Wallula Gap Preserve was an obscure, remote, and lightly visited part of the Benton County Parks system. It was originally owned by the National Park system and then Benton County received three parcels not connected to each other. He said there has not been a management policy in place and he has no plans to manage it; it does not have any facilities and there is not a specified way to get there. There were some birders interested in the area and it was designated as a National Natural Landmark in the 80's. As a point of interest, a local photographer, John Clement, won 1<sup>st</sup> place in a national photo contest for the National Landmark Calendar and photos of the Wallula Gap Preserve area were featured on the cover.

## **2012 Joint Park Boards & October Benton County Park Board Meeting**

- Joint Park Boards meeting scheduled for September 24, 2012. Michael Crowder agreed to do the presentation for Benton County. There was not currently a time or place scheduled.
- October 9 Park Board meeting - Adam would be gone, but the Park Board would hold its regular meeting.

## **Adjournment**

The guests and board members gave closing comments and the meeting adjourned at approximately 7:30 p.m.

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