

SUMMARY MINUTES

BENTON COUNTY PARK BOARD & POTLUCK

December 13, 2011, 6:00 p.m.
Benton County Justice Center
Kennewick, WA

Board Members Present

Bert Lake, Chair
Michael Crowder, Member
Donna Raines, Secretary/Treasurer
Richard Nordness, Member
Diana Huff, Member
Skip Gest, Member

Benton County Employees Present

Adam Fyall
Cami McKenzie
Commissioner Jim Beaver
Commissioner Shon Small

Board Members Absent

Hank Sauer, Member

Call to Order/Pledge of Allegiance/Roll Call

Chair Bert Lake called the meeting to order at approximately 6:30 pm. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited and roll was taken.

Approval of Agenda

The agenda was approved as submitted.

Approval of Minutes

The Minutes of November 2011 were approved.

Chair Report Update

Chair Lake reported he had met with the new officers at the Shooting Range to discuss their goals and objectives and he was pleased with the new lineup.

Additionally, he met with the Rattlesnake Ridge Riders regarding the west parking lot at Badger Mountain and Linda would be making a proposal for changes at the January meeting.

Staff Report

Mr. Fyall updated his written report as follows:

- Horse Heaven Cemetery - Adam summarized the history of Benton County obtaining the cemetery, maintenance, and said he visited it recently with Mark Finkbeiner and it was in good shape, all things considered.
- Westgate Water Tanks - negotiations were ensuing again regarding access to the site by the City of Richland, through the park, and he was working with the attorney to try and work out a deal. Chair Lake commented that the City of Richland had been a good partner and Adam said he would be mindful of that.

Brochure Update

Donna Raines said that she and Adam finally met with Carol Darley and she had some good ideas to make a quality brochure. Adam said he was pleased with the cost controls and felt it was a good direction to go.

Badger Mountain Challenge

Event organizer Brandon Lott gave a Powerpoint presentation highlighting the success of the first annual Badger Mountain Challenge race. He said he already had the second annual race scheduled and they were currently trying to get sponsors lined up. He said in addition to benefiting The Friends of Badger, he was hopeful to provide two scholarships for local graduating seniors.

The Board discussed Mr. Lott's access to the properties on the race courses and Chair Lake stressed the need for him to get written permission from all landowners.

Parks Use/Activity Permit

Mr. Fyall reviewed the prior process for use of activities in the parks and that there was not really a permit process currently in place.

Mr. Crowder said it was good business to bring back the permit process and have it reviewed by the legal department.

Ms. Ruff said there were basic legal protections the County should have in place. She said the three basic items the users should have for organized events would be an agreement or permit, a hold harmless and indemnification agreement, and liability insurance. Additionally, she said it could be standard practice to have the Partners in Parks sign a once-yearly agreement with the County.

The Board agreed and Mr. Fyall said he would review the issue with Risk Management and the Prosecuting Attorney's office.

Parks Comprehensive Plan

Mr. Fyall said the Comprehensive Plan needed to be updated every six years and they were currently about halfway through that time period. The Board agreed to hold a special workshop in January (the week following the regular board meeting) to review the plan. Chair Lake requested Mr. Fyall make a list of items in the current plan that were complete.

Election of Officers - 2012

Chair Lake made the following recommendations for election of officers.

Chair - Bert Lake

Vice-Chair - Richard Nordness

Secretary/Treasurer - Michael Crowder

The Board discussed whether the bylaws should be suspended since nominations were supposed to be done in November and agreed it was not necessary.

MOTION: It was moved and seconded that the nominations for Chair be closed. Upon vote, the motion carried unanimously.

MOTION: It was moved and seconded that all nominations be closed and the Board accept all three positions for 2012 officers, as recommended by the Chair. Upon vote, the motion carried unanimously.

Committee Assignments

Chair Lake made the following appointments for committee assignments:

Planning Committee

Skip Gest (chair), Diana Ruff, and Michael Crowder. He said this committee should focus on the operations of the individual parks.

Publicity Committee

Donna Raines (chair), Hank Sauer, and Skip Gest.

Adjournment

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