

SUMMARY MINUTES

BENTON COUNTY PARK BOARD

September 8, 2015, 6:30 p.m.
Benton County Justice Center
Kennewick, WA

Board Members Present

Richard Nordness, Chair
Diana Ruff, Secretary/Treasurer
John Becker, Vice-Chair
Donna Raines, Member
Michael Crowder, Member

Benton County Employees

Adam Fyall
Cami McKenzie
Commissioner Jim Beaver

Board Members Absent

Robin Emmingham, 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. All members were present except Mr. Emmingham, who notified the Park Board by email that he would not be in attendance.

Review & Approval of Agenda

The agenda was approved as presented.

Approval of Minutes

The Minutes of August 2015 were approved.

Staff Report Update

Adam said he did not have anything to add to his written report, other than the projects noted were coming together.

Donna asked about setting a date for a dedication for Dennis at Two Rivers Park and inviting the media to see how much the park had changed through the years. Adam indicated that Dennis was appreciative of the commemorative monument

already placed in the park this past spring but did not know if he really wanted a formal event. Donna agreed to call Dennis to let him know the Board wanted to have a formal dedication and she would get back to them if he was interested.

Donna also commented that she was recently at Hover Park and noticed an area on Toothaker Road where the dirt had been moved and leveled. Adam indicated he would have Rich check it out.

Eagle Scout Project - Horn Rapids Park

Matthew VanGorkle presented his Eagle Scout Project, a bat house that was constructed at Horn Rapids Park near the river. He showed slides and a video on his laptop describing the process of construction and installation. He said the house would hold up to 400 bats and was beneficial because each bat could eat up to 1,000 mosquitoes and insects per night.

Parks Projects Review

Adam provided a list of projects for the Board to review and they discussed what he considered to be immediate needs projects. He said it had worked well in the past to prioritize a few projects for him to work on.

- TCSA well was failing and it was a critical need for them. He said it could be a good partnership opportunity. John Hauptmann said someone would be coming out in the next couple of weeks to give them an estimate; he indicated they barely had enough water to take care of the trees they had and it did not allow for any additional planting. Michael asked about the availability of fire protection water and Mr. Hauptmann said he would look into it.
- Boat Launch replacement of three docks - approximately \$93,000.
- New mower at Two Rivers Park and new quads for each of the parks. Adam indicated these items were normally paid for by the operating budget but he wanted to use Park Development Funds. He said he working on re-writing the resolution to use the Park Development Fund for preservation of capital investments. Michael commented that from his experience as a farmer, it was best to sell equipment once you had consistent breakdowns.
- Contract with work crew on a regular basis; hire summer temporary help.
- Diana discussed the restroom at Two Rivers Park and Adam said that updates to the restroom would trigger issues with the Corps. The Board

discussed the potential lengthy permitting process and Donna asked if they should start the process now.

- Wi-Fi at Horn Rapids Park - Adam indicated it would be nice to have better communication with the employee since there were so many dead spots. Additionally, it was often requested by campers and so he felt it was worth taking a look at. Linda Smith indicated that Verizon had provided a power booster to use at Horn Rapids Park for chili feed.

The Board agreed to review the projects list and hopefully be able to make recommendations at the next meeting.

Trailhead Park Proposal

Adam presented a proposal by the City of Richland to construct a third parking lot at Trailhead Park, adjacent to the Badger Mountain Preserve. He said the project was quoted at \$185,000 to create and pave the parking lot which would connect to Queensgate Drive. The Port of Kennewick provided \$150,000 for the project and the City was asking Benton County for \$35,000 for the shortfall. Without the County's participation, the new lot would not be paved.

MOTION: It was moved and seconded to approve the resolution for improvements at Trailhead Park and request the Commissioners authorize Benton County to pay up to \$35,000. Upon vote, the motion carried.

Public Comment/Poll of the Board/Adjournment.

The public and Board members gave closing comments.

With no further business to report, the meeting adjourned at approximately 8:05 p.m.

The next regular meeting will be the first Tuesday in October.