

SUMMARY MINUTES

BENTON COUNTY PARK BOARD

December 8, 2015, 6:00 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
Robin Emmingham, Member

Benton County Employees

Adam Fyall
Cami McKenzie
Commissioner Jim Beaver

Social/Potluck

The members and guests met for a social/pot luck at 6:00 p.m. and guest Hank Sauer read the "Polar Express".

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 of Agenda

The agenda was approved as presented.

Approval of Minutes

The Minutes of October, 2015 were approved as submitted.

Staff Report Update

Adam updated his written report as follows:

- The playgrounds were installed and complete.
- Candy Mountain - both properties were anticipated to close by the end of next month.

Hover Park Discussion

Adam provided information for the Board to review including:

- Options for Hover Park
 - Status Quo
 - Targeted modest improvements
 - Pursue ending the lease
 - Parking areas with closure of park to all motorized traffic
- Information on historical events/circumstances
- 2008 Interim Master Plan

Discussion included:

- Current permitted uses: hiking, picnicking, horseback riding, as well as non-permitted uses: hunting, camping, dumping, ATV use, and paintball activities.
- Twice a month reconnaissance of the park by Park Ranger Rich Hillmer, the current level of service.
- Parking lot options and access
- Liability - encouraging people to cross an uncontrolled railroad crossing without signals
- Financial requirement
- Lack of manpower to maintain the park

Donna Raines expressed frustration about the lack of attention to this park and that other user groups had come forward in the past and had been turned down.

Vicki Clark (from the audience) said she had participated in a subcommittee planning group and thought the parking lot was previously approved and going forward.

It was stated by several board members they would be willing to take a fresh look at ideas and were receptive to ideas or proposals by user groups and would need to look at forming partnerships in maintaining the park (such as the Friends of Badger Mountain).

Adam reminded the Board he was currently working on a priority list that was established by the Board for projects in the upcoming year, and that list did not include anything for Hover Park.

At the request of the Board, Adam would work on finding answers to the following questions:

1. What kind of investment or standards were required for upgrading to a signalled railroad crossing on Toothaker Road.
2. Would the Port of Kennewick be interested in investing money for a parking lot at Hover Park.
3. Would the Corps of Engineers be interested in participating financially and/or otherwise support improvements to the road.

Comments from Guests/Poll of the Board/Adjournment

The guests and Board members gave closing comments.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at approximately 8:20 p.m.

The next regular meeting will be held on the second Tuesday in January at the Justice Center.