

SUMMARY MINUTES

BENTON COUNTY PARK BOARD

May 12, 2015, 6:30 p.m.
Benton County Justice Center
Kennewick, WA

Board Members Present

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

Benton County Employees

Adam Fyall
Cami McKenzie

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.

Review & Approval of Agenda

The agenda was approved as presented.

Approval of Minutes

The Minutes of March 2015 were approved as submitted.

Chair Report

Chair Nordness encouraged board members to spread the word and invite individuals to apply for the vacant position on the Board.

Staff Report Update

Adam indicated he had nothing to add, however, he asked Donna to speak about the Valley Fever update. Donna indicated they would be having another conference call with the Health Department regarding the Valley Fever that

was found out at Hover Park. She said it was important to educate folks in the area, especially clinics so they knew this was a possibility if they had the symptoms or their animals were sick and not getting better.

Adam said that John Becker had agreed to fill the position of vice-chair.

MOTION: It was moved and seconded to appoint John Becker to the position of vice-chair. Upon vote, the motion carried.

Two Rivers Boat Launch - Update

- Long-Term: Corps was interested in a water feature that would deflect the current.
- Near-Term: large scale refurbishment; talked to Knight Construction and had a site visit. They provided a one-page concept for replacing stuff in the water with floating docks that had a better design and code railings for a cost of \$97,000. The cost for Knight Construction to demolish would be high so Adam would look into having someone else demolish.
- The Board discussed whether to keep existing gangways and leave pylons in the river.

Adam said with Board approval he would roll this concept into the application with the Corps.

Michael expressed concern it didn't address the debris issue and was still not fixing the problem; they would be back to the same problem in 10 years. He said there were launches all over without docks and that might be a possibility.

Adam agreed they would be facing the same issues and would still get beat up but would expect 25 years with the new improved design.

John suggesting looking at a grant or establishing a fee station for a future water break.

MOTION: It was moved and seconded to move forward with the replacement concept of the boat launch and pursuing this option. Upon vote, the motion carried unanimously.

Safety Presentation/Playground Equipment

Bryan Perry, Benton County Safety/Training Coordinator gave a safety presentation on playground equipment and included statistics for injuries, fatalities related to falls, and liabilities and risks.

He discussed the priorities at Vista Park and said the biggest concern was providing surface material under the equipment. It was noted that some of the equipment had already been removed.

Priorities included:

- Removal of tree roots
- Adding impact attenuation
- Regular maintenance
- Signage - age appropriate recommendations and who to contact if equipment was damaged or broken

Donna talked about the meeting with the neighbors and said it appeared they really wanted the original equipment to stay. Diana stated she didn't think they would oppose new equipment if they were to remove the old.

Bryan said if the Board chose to keep the original equipment, to keep the top three priorities in mind for the short-term.

There was a discussion about how much money to spend and the size of equipment (maybe new smaller equipment). They agreed it wanted to fast track the decision at Vista Park and not rely on a short term fix since it would be money wasted.

Bryan added that any alteration had to have ADA accessibility.

Donna said it was a good idea to contact the neighbors and let them know they were moving forward with safety concerns.

The Board agreed to a \$20,000 ball park figure for demolition and new equipment. Diana and Adam said they would present options at the next meeting. Also, it was agreed to invite the Vista Park neighbors to attend and weigh-in on the equipment.

Bryan said the main concerns at Two Rivers Park were the metal structures (heat) and the border.

Guest Comments/Poll of the Board/Adjournment

The guests and Board members gave closing comments.

With no further business to report, the meeting adjourned at approximately 8:00 p.m.

The next regular meeting will be the first Tuesday in June at Two Rivers Park.