

SUMMARY MINUTES

BENTON COUNTY PARK BOARD

February 11, 2014, 6:30 p.m.
Benton County Justice Center
Kennewick, WA

Board Members Present

Richard Nordness, Chair
Bert Lake, Vice-Chair
Diana Ruff, Secretary/Treasurer
Donna Raines, Member
Robert Emmingham, Member
Michael Crowder, Member

Benton County Employees

Adam Fyall
Cami McKenzie
Commissioner Beaver

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 submitted.

Approval of Minutes

The Minutes of January, 2014 were approved as submitted.

Staff Report Update

Adam reviewed the plans for the shooting range and proposed area for the Sheriff's Department. He said the Board signed an agreement with MacKay & Sposito to complete the planning process for the proposed area (basically 500 x 500 yards). He met with the consultant and provided maps to the Board based upon proposed layout and discussed the configurations and placement on the property. He said it was clear there were going to be problems with the proposed specifications based upon the slopes on the property; they also talked about the amount of dirt that would have to be moved.

Adam said he would brief the Sheriff's office on Thursday and would discuss the need for a 200 yard range and would talk about the slope issues. He said the project was phased but the first phase the Sheriff's office needed was a shooting bay by May of this year. He said they currently did not have a place to shoot eight months out of the year and would like a place to start.

Adam also stated that the Board of Commissioners approved the Candy Mountain Process and that he would be working with Friends on the RCO grant process.

Additionally, he said that Carol Darley would finish the final markup on the brochure and it should be ready to go to print.

New Badger Mountain Trail

Adam stated the Board approved in concept going forward with the new trail and Jim Langdon, Friends of Badger Mountain, wanted to move forward with some of the general endorsements, as outlined in the report. Adam said it was a long trail along the southern base and was relatively flat; he indicated the "orchard wedge" (pieced owned by the orchard) had held up the construction. However, Friends worked on this and now had a simple agreement with the orchard to allow access across the trail so the southern trail could be completed.

Adam reviewed the report on the trail construction including trail specifications, avoidances, construction techniques, construction crew, and development schedule.

Jim Langdon said he hoped to use the track hoe to start the trail and that phase would take two weeks; then he would open it to hikers to get some volunteers for the trail making. He said it would take a couple of months to haul in gravel and he wanted to use the spring rains so they didn't have to haul in water.

Adam said they planned to start marking the trail and wanted to invite people to help and get feedback and weigh in on the new trail and wanted to allow four weeks for the review.

Bert suggested maybe input from the public be allowed for one week since waiting longer might cause problems with the warmer weather. Adam said he would compromise to more than a week but less than a month for review.

There was a discussion about getting gravel, pack bags and planning so the equestrian folks could assist; also using the vehicles that would haul rocks at a different time than the horses.

Crow Butte Park

Adam gave the background on the ownership of Crow Butte Park and said that currently the Port of Benton managed the park. Benton County assisted financially along with Klickitat County to upgrade the park (initially a three-year arrangement at \$50,000/year for upgrades); they asked for another three years at \$50,000/year and that ended in 2012. He said the Port had again asked Benton County to partner and the County Administrator suggested the Park Board weigh in on this relationship. Adam said that maybe there was something the Port could do to assist the County (possibly take over some responsibilities at Horse Heaven Vista).

There was a discussion about the Port of Benton coming to the Park Board. Bert said he was not in favor of the arrangement. Diana said it might be worth talking about, but cleaning toilets at Horse Heaven Vista was not worth \$50,000 and she didn't know what they could bring to a meeting (what the Port could do for Benton County that they couldn't do for themselves).

Michael said he was in favor of seeing campgrounds stay open. Donna said she would like to see what they might have to offer.

Commissioner Beaver said there was a system in place with the Park Board to address these issues. He said currently there was a relationship between the Port and the Commissioners and he was not in favor of giving that money to them. He said money that went to any park in Benton County should go through the Park Board so they could show the value.

Adam said he would get back to the Board so they could respond to the Port of Benton.

Guest Comments/Poll of the Board/Adjournment

The guests and Board members gave closing comments. Jim Langdon stated that all of the budget construction for the new trail was budgeted by Friends of Badger Mountain.

The next regular meeting will be the second Tuesday in March at the Kennewick Justice Center.

With no further business to report, the meeting adjourned at approximately 8:15 p.m.