

## SUMMARY MINUTES

### BENTON COUNTY PARK BOARD

August 11, 2015, 6:00 p.m.  
Horn Rapids Park  
Benton City, WA

#### Board Members Present

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

#### Benton County Employees

Adam Fyall  
Mark Finkbeiner

#### Social/Potluck

The members and guests met for a social/pot luck at 6:00 p.m.

#### Call to Order/Pledge of Allegiance/Roll Call

Chair Richard Nordness called the meeting to order at 6:31 p.m. The Board recited the Pledge of Allegiance and roll call was taken. All members were present except Ms. Ruff, who called in noting she would be delayed.

#### Review & Approval of Agenda

The agenda was approved as presented.

#### Approval of Minutes

One correction was offered by Ms. Raines, noting that John Becker was not listed as the Vice-Chair. The Minutes of June 2015 were approved as corrected.

#### Chair Report

None.

## **Staff Report Update**

Adam elaborated on his recent meeting with the Wanapum Band, on this year's uptick in camping, and on the Candy Mountain progress.

## **Creation Festival Update**

Adam debriefed the Creation Festival event, working mostly from Richard Hillmer's notes. Adam focused on communication as being the overriding reason why things broke down more this year at Two Rivers. Adam noted that in year two, you would expect to go forward, not backward. Adam conveyed his and Rich's mutual frustration. Board members asked some questions about damage deposits, contract stipulations, and recovery at the park. Adam noted he would be meeting with management over the next few weeks to map out a game plan of how they would proceed with Creation Festival since there were two years remaining on the current contract.

Ms. Ruff arrived at approximately 7:00 p.m.

## **Playground Proposals**

After the Board reviewed a memo prepared by Adam, he went over the topical points and provided comments on the two submittals. Board members deliberated the subtopics of whether to include swings and which impact attenuation surface to use (wood chips or poured rubber). Questions were raised over one of the submittals, which was incomplete and it was the consensus that it needed to be disqualified. The remaining proposal was complete and organized.

The qualified proposal was substantially more than the \$50,000 the Board had budgeted for this project in the spring. Consensus of the Board was that sufficient funds were available, the time was now to do both parks the right way, and the County should do quality work on the project. It was decided to recommend that Commissioners offer a contract to Buell Recreation for renovation of both playgrounds (Two Rivers and Vista) per the proposal submitted by Buell; and that both playgrounds would have swing sets and wood chip surfacing. Adam said his high estimate for full completion - demolition, site preparation, and construction - was \$125,000, total. The Board unanimously agreed.

## **Budget & Projects**

Adam reviewed two memos on the subjects of budgets (focusing on Park Development Fund) and projects. The Board had some discussion of projects, but with no firm decisions. Ms. Raines asked about projects such as a parking area at Hover that have been put on back burners over the years. Ms. Ruff suggested Adam reach out to the Partners to get their "wish list" items in the queue along with some of these other previously considered projects. Adam said he would compile a working list for further evaluation at the September meeting, with prioritization either being done at that time or before the end of the year. Adam noted that the budget was good and should allow the Board to continue to pursue major projects through the end of the biennium. The Board noted that Commissioners appropriated that money to be spent, not to be sat on. Adam also introduced a proposal from the City of Richland asking Benton County to assist with pavement of a new parking lot at Trailhead Park. The Board seemed relatively supportive of the idea and would make a final decision in September.

## **Public Comment**

Mickie Chamness (NPS), Linda Smith (RRR), and Dick McGrew (MAA) offered updates on their respective organizations, with Mr. McGrew talking about the MAA's busy upcoming schedule. Adam noted in response to Ms. Chamness' comments that he had two people who expressed volunteer interest, and offered to meet with McGrew after the meeting to discuss expansion and surfacing of the parking area at Higgins Field.

## **Poll of the Board**

Board members gave closing comments and offered compliments to Mark Finkbeiner and to the Partners. Mr. Becker asked about dumping of the RV station at Horn Rapids. Both Adam and Mark indicated it had never been done and then added it would be done soon.

## **Adjournment**

With no further business to report, the meeting adjourned at approximately 8:10 p.m.

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