

SUMMARY MINUTES

BENTON COUNTY PARK BOARD

March 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
Michael Crowder, Member

Benton County Employees

Adam Fyall

Board Members Absent

Robin Emmingham (Vacation)

Call to Order/Pledge of Allegiance/Roll Call

Chair Richard Nordness called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m. The Board recited the Pledge of Allegiance and roll call was taken.

Review & Approval of Agenda

Two items were added to the agenda under Old Business: Well at Higgins Field and Road Overlay at Horn Rapids Park. The agenda was approved as amended.

Approval of Minutes

The Minutes of February, 2014 were approved as submitted.

Chair Report

Chair Nordness gave remarks about the Chili Feed, noting the good turnout and that the weather held up nicely this year.

Staff Report

Adam Fyall reviewed his written report, particularly noting the two volunteer events scheduled for the upcoming Saturday at Horn Rapids and Two Rivers, respectively.

Committee Reports (Publicity)

Donna Raines requested a brochure update. Mr. Fyall responded that the contractor wanted to try and get higher resolution versions (300dpi minimum) of a few of the photos. He said this would be a challenge for a few of them but they would work through it over the next week or so. All other parts of the draft brochure were completed and ready for printing.

OLD BUSINESS

Well at Higgins Field

Mr. Fyall recapped the brief history on the situation. He noted that a request for proposal was released in February, to which no proposals were submitted. He noted that one contractor, Nelson Drilling of Pasco, said they might offer a proposal, but never did. Mr. Fyall asked the PA's office about contacting Nelson Drilling directly for a follow-up given the circumstances and that an attempt had already been made to solicit proposals from at least three vendors. The PA said it would be fine and so he asked Nelson Drilling if they would consider submitting a proposal, which they did. Mr. Fyall explained that Nelson Drilling's proposal called for drilling a completely new well on site, and that they would not be interested in attempting to remediate a pre-existing well drilled by someone else two decades ago. The cost was a little under \$19,000. The Board discussed the situation, cogitating on the cost, the need, the timing, and the response (or lack thereof). Mr. Fyall then noted he would need to check a few more things with the Department of Ecology and the Health District to make sure that this approach would not trigger any other administrative problems. The Board surmised that this was the best approach given the need and the timing, and that the Department retained sufficient budget to make this capital improvement.

MOTION: Bert Lake moved to go ahead with contracting with Nelson Drilling for the new well, pending the answers to the administrative questions Mr. Fyall was seeking. Donna Raines seconded and upon vote, the Board voted unanimously.

Crow Butte Park

Mr. Fyall gave a brief update of the Crow Butte conversation. The Port of Benton had requested continued financial assistance from the County for improvements at the park and the Commissioners were still evaluating the situation.

Commercial Vending Proposal at Two Rivers Park

Citizen Matt Bentz handed-out a packet of information and introduced himself to the Board. He recounted that he first visited the Park Board back in August 2013, which everyone remembered.

Road Overlay at Horn Rapids Park:

Mr. Fyall summarized the situation with the main road at Horn Rapids Park, including the results of meetings he had with Marty Groom of the Public Works Department and a drive-thru he, Mr. Groom, and Board member Bert Lake had done. Staff and Board members were pleased that this project could be worked through Public Works the way it was. After discussion of the subject and budgetary matters, it was resolved that the Board wanted to proceed with the project, which was to re-blade, re-grade, and re-gravel the main road through the park (called "Horn Rapids 1"), as well as the connecting segments of the driveway to Higgins Field. The proposal from Public Works called for widening the road to 12 feet throughout, but the Board concurred that 8-10 feet would be better.

MOTION: Bert Lake moved to proceed with the contract, with a maximum expenditure of \$126,000. If bids came back that exceeded \$126,000, staff would bring the matter back to the Board for further consideration. Diana Ruff seconded and upon vote, the motion was passed unanimously.

Nature Trail at Two Rivers Park

Donna Raines brought-up the topic of the nature trail and the concept originally from 2011 to commemorate Dennis Rockwell's service and contributions to the park. Some discussion among Board members and Mr. Fyall ensued, recapping where that item was left previously. Mr. Fyall noted that he had done nothing more on the matter since the Board's last discussion in 2013, and had not intended to do anything more until receiving Board direction.

Park Board Vacancy

Chair Nordness brought-up the subject current Park Board vacancy, noting that it was time to bring the matter to resolution. Mr. Fyall recapped that the application window remained open, and that one new application had been received since the Board tabled the item in fall 2013 with no further action on the three applications that were pending at that time. The Board discussed dates, resolving to close the application window on Friday, March 21 and to hold interviews of candidates on Tuesday, April 1.

COMMENTS FROM GUESTS

John Hauptmann (TCSA) related a story about a visitor from Vancouver who was in disbelief that the Range was a county-owned park to illustrate how uncommon their situation was and how fortunate they were. He then reviewed TCSA's upcoming schedule and thanked the Board for their commitment to parks and recreation.

Linda Smith (RRR) thanked TCSA for use of the Range during the Chili Feed ride. Additionally, she thanked the Park Board for the ability to have Chili Feed and other such events at all. She then recapped the Chili Feed, noting the good weather, the unfortunate fatality of one horse, and other details.

Leo Bowman, former Benton County Commissioner made a couple of recommendations to Adam Fyall for items to follow-up on regarding the well at Higgins Field and Mr. Bentz's proposal.

John Becker said he was looking forward to seeing the Park Board vacancy filled.

Clark Hymas (TCMAA) thanked the Park Board for its continued support and discussed scheduling issues at the airfield.

POLL OF THE BOARD

Michael Crowder added that he attended and enjoyed Chili Feed.

Bert Lake remarked that it was nice to see Commissioner Bowman and congratulated Rattlesnake Ridge Riders on another great Chili Feed.

Donna Raines, acknowledging the comment of John Hauptmann, remarked her amazement and gratitude at how the partners worked together. She said she attended Chili Feed with her sister.

Diana Ruff said she enjoyed Chili Feed and how it all went very well. She noted the number of people that attended from out-of-town, and said that events like Chili Feed and others that Benton County hosted in the parks were tourism magnets. She expressed pleasure and excitement that the Board moved on two big items this evening, committing to spend up to \$146,000 and said it felt good to be moving ahead on some projects.

Chair Richard Nordness congratulated Adam Fyall on the completion of his master's degree program and thanked all the guests for their attendance and participation.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:52 p.m. The next regular meeting will be the second Tuesday in April at the Justice Center.