



**BENTON COUNTY**  
Park Board

**MEETING MINUTES**

**11 September 2018**  
**Benton County Justice Center**  
**7122 West Okanogan Place, Kennewick**

**Members Present**

Robin Emmingham, Chair  
Laauli Faamausili  
Donna Raines  
Diana Ruff, Secretary / Treasurer

**Employees Present**

Adam J. Fyall

**Members Absent**

John Becker, Vice Chair  
Richard Nordness  
Yessica Rosas

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

Chair Emmingham called the meeting to order at 6:29pm. The Pledge was recited, and roll was called.

**Review and Approval of Agenda**

The agenda was approved as published.

**Approval of Minutes**

The Minutes of August 2018 were approved as revised.

**Reports to the Board**

**Chair's Report**

Chair Emmingham noted some points from a recent trip to the High Desert Museum near Bend.

**Staff Report**

Adam had nothing to add to his written report. Ms. Raines had a follow-up question about the Columbia River shore lands "reconveyance" issue.

## **Business**

### **Briefing – Lichen Blitz at Badger Mountain**

Mickie Chamness (Native Plant Society) discussed the recent “Lichen Blitz” event held at Badger Mountain that spanned three days and included 12 participants surveying the mountain. A formal, publishable report will follow at a later time. So far, 74 species of lichen and 10 species of mosses have been identified.

### **Briefing – Fire at Rattlesnake Mountain Shooting Facility**

Mark Verwest (Tri-Cities Shooting Association) discussed the fire that occurred on the RMSF earlier in the summer. The fire started behind the “400-yard gong” and burned 209 acres in total. No structures or other critical infrastructure were lost. Mr. Verwest asked about the possibility of cutting more fire breaks, and Adam said they should discuss that.

### **Road to High Power**

Mark Verwest described use, needs, and conditions of the gravel road that leads from the highway up through a small canyon to the upper terrace where the High Power Range is located. About 5,000 trips per year are made up and down the road, and an average of \$3,000-4,000 is spent each year to maintain it. Snowy years or heavy rainstorms are particularly bad, as are the long, parched summers. Verwest described options for paving some of the road. He also noted that TCSA has applied for a grant from the Recreation and Conservation Office that would cover about half the cost of the work. TCSA will need to raise the rest. There has been discussion that perhaps the County could participate financially at some level. This was the first time that the Board has discussed the topic at any level and no decisions were needed nor made. Adam noted that he has put placeholders in the Capital Improvement Plan and the Park Development Fund budget at the amount of \$35,000 which do not represent commitments to do anything. Ms. Raines asked Mr. Verwest about other grant opportunities, and asked Adam if other paving in the area such as the driveway to the headquarters at Horn Rapids or the road to Higgins Field could be rolled into this project, and Adam noted that yes that would be possible.

### **Review of 2019-2020 Proposed Capital Projects**

Adam discussed entries for the draft update of the Capital Improvement Plan, and also his calculations for the 2019-2020 Park Development Fund budget. Most of the Boards “Priority Projects” for 2018 were not completed this year because of budget constraints. These are projects are carried-over to 2019. Discussion ensued.

### **Acknowledgement Letters**

Staff presented two letters of thanks, one addressed to the Friends of Badger Mountain, the other addressed to the Native Plant Society, in tribute to the hard work invested by those two groups over the past year at Candy Mountain Preserve in regard to weed abatement.

**MOTION:** It was moved and seconded that the Chair should sign each of the letters and staff will forward them accordingly. Vote: 4-0

## **Public Comment**

Linda Smith (RRR), reviewed a recent work party at Horn Rapids and mentioned that RRR will hold an event of some kind at the park on the normal Chili Feed date in March 2019. She noted for Adam that the plastic covers on the electrical outlets of Meacham Hall need to be replaced.

Dick McGrew (MAA), provided a briefing of the recent Huckfest event, noting that because of the fire across the highway they were unable to fly for a few hours one day, and also that there were issues with the restroom and food service.

Cindy Faith (PSR), discussed the club's upcoming Wine Ride, and also noted recent dumping at Hover Park.

Mickie Chamness (NPS), noted that NPS has had its officer elections and that she is no longer the chapter president (Steve Link). Also mentioned that the portable toilet at Westgate is in need of attention.

Mark Verwest (TCSA), described an upcoming safety event and fundraiser, mentioned that the construction work on the Rose-Iris clubhouse building is almost complete, and noted that TCSA has surpassed 2,000 paid memberships.

### **Poll of the Board**

Board members made closing comments, Ms. Raines noting that she enjoyed MAA's Huckfest and Ms. Ruff describing a recent hike across both Badger and Candy mountains.

### **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:53pm.

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