



BENTON COUNTY PARK BOARD
SUMMARY MINUTES

October 8, 2019, 6:30 p.m.
Benton County Justice Center
Kennewick, WA

Board Members Present

Diana Ruff, Chair
Robin Emmingham, Member
Yessica Rosas, Member
Karla Brown, Member
Dave McNeal, Member

Benton County Employees

Adam Fyall

Board Members Absent

Laauli Faamausili, Vice-Chair
Richard Nordness, Member

Call to Order/Pledge of Allegiance/Roll Call

Diana Ruff 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

Approval of the Minutes of September were deferred to another date.

Staff Report

Mr. Fyall added some editorial comments about two County employees that have been out with illnesses.

Badger Mountain Preserve - Skyline Trail Extension Proposal

Mr. Fyall presented the proposal from Friends of Badger Mountain to build a small section of new trail across Preserve property, creating a new junction along the existing Sagebrush Trail. The new trail would only traverse about 30 linear feet of Preserve property but would be part of the larger extension of the Skyline Trail eastward onto adjacent property owned by the Friends. Trail nomenclature and delineation would be slightly modified. Friends would like to begin the work fall of 2019.

- Staff Recommendation: Approve

MOTION: It was moved and seconded to approve the Skyline Trail Extension Proposal as presented. Upon vote, the motion carried unanimously.

Candy Mountain Preserve - New Trail Spur Proposal

Mr. Fyall presented the proposal from Friends of Badger Mountain to build a small section of new trail across Preserve property, creating a new dead-end spur from the existing west branch of the trail as it traverses *Goose Gap*, the section known as the "interpretive loop". The spur would be about 100 feet long at most, ending at an impressive boulder that is a product of the Ice Age Floods events. An interpretive sign would be placed at the site. Friends would like to begin work during the fall of 2019. The Board made some points about trail-cutting and other behavior, and Chair Ruff talked about how these types of improvements fit into the larger goals and functions of the park system.

- Staff Recommendation: Approve

MOTION: It was moved and seconded to approve the new trail spur proposal as presented. Upon vote, the motion carried unanimously.

Badger Mountain Preserve - Random Bench

Mr. Fyall briefed the Board on a recent incident on Badger Mountain where a homemade sitting bench was installed on the private property inholding on the summit of the mountain. Mr. Fyall provided known details to date and actions both taken and contemplated. Chair Ruff noted the offensive nature of the choice of language used on the bench's inscriptions, and Mr. Emmingham suggested that Mr. Fyall work to facilitate removal of the bench as soon as possible. The Board unanimously agreed with the sentiment. The Board encouraged staff to do some outreach about the issue more generally and the inappropriateness of what someone probably thought was a good gesture. The Board also implored staff to keep pressure on the property owner, who does not have a local presence in the Tri-Cities, to remove the bench post-haste owing to the precedent it sets and the liability incurred.

By-Laws & Policy Manual

Mr. Fyall suggested it was a good time to look at updating the By-Laws and Policy Manual, which have not been revised since 2006 and 2003, respectively. The topic came to light again because of the question raised by Chair Ruff about taking an extended leave of absence from the Board but officially remaining on the Board during that time. Such a situation is not contemplated in the Board's governing documents. The Board deferred to a later date on that question, but the Chair did ask members to read through the documents and offer suggestions, sending any comments to Mr. Fyall and Vice Chair Faamausili.

Public Comment

The Chair sought additional comments from the audience, which included eight guests:

- George Hager, TCSA: Noted that use of the range has been slowing down.
- Linda Smith, RRR: Confirmed that there will be a "Chili Feed" event in March.
- Mrs. McNeal: Requested a Hover Park update.
- Dick McGrew, MAA: Thanked Mr. Fyall for his work in getting the Group B water system approved for Higgins Field.

Poll of the Board

Members each offered some parting thoughts, notably with Mr. Emmingham asking to join with the Hover Park parking area planning site visit if possible.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:22pm. The next regular meeting will be held on the second Tuesday in November at the Benton County Justice Center.