



BENTON COUNTY PARK BOARD
MEETING MINUTES

March 10, 2020, 6:30 p.m.
Benton County Justice Center
Kennewick, WA 99336

Board Members Present

Richard Nordness, Member
Robin Emmingham, Member
Karla Brown, Secretary
Dave McNeal, Vice Chair
Yessica Rosas, Member

Benton County Employees

Adam Fyall
Kirk Engle

Board Members Absent

Diana Ruff, Member (Leave of Absence - Approved)
Laauli Faamausili, Chair (Absence - Approved)

Call to Order/Pledge of Allegiance/Roll Call

Board Vice Chair Dave McNeal called the meeting to order at 6:35 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

Motion was approved to amend the Minutes of February 11, 2020 to list Yessica Rosas' absence as an "approved" absence.

Monthly Reports to the Board

Chair's Report Update

Dave McNeal gave a brief summary of last Sunday's Chili Feed at Horn Rapids.

Committee/Subcommittee Reports

A report was given by the Horn Rapids Park Subcommittee on the 28' x 48' manufactured home situated at the Park. The Park caretaker currently uses the building as an office. It was discussed that the home is being under-utilized. The need for an office space is evident but the existing shop can be converted into an office for the park caretaker. Discussion took place on the ideas and options on how the home could be utilized. It was decided that a third party will be contacted to assess how much it would cost to use it for any purpose. A memo of the findings will be written up in the near future by Adam and Kirk.

Staff Report Update

Adam had nothing to add to his written Staff Report.

Business

Higgins Field - Dick McGrew presented the Miniature Aircraft Association 2020 Higgins Field Master Plan. The 2020 Plan includes:

- Renovating or replacing the existing "Doghouse". The current house doesn't meet all they want to accomplish. They want the younger members to be able to have a place to leave their projects and an updated kitchen would increase income for the club. It will allow them to increase club dues, which they are now average when they don't have the ability to serve food.
- Electrical power to the worktables, replacing the wood tops with concrete and erect a 20' x 60' sloped roof shade structure in the pit area to provide shade so that members can prepare their aircraft for flying.
- Handicap accessible pilot station.
- RV hookups with power.
- Internet connection. If the FAA proposal becomes a law, members may not be able to fly unless their aircraft and transmitters can connect to the

internet. Internet would also allow the ability to take credit cards for purchases and could support a weather station.

Discussion was had on whether a motion by the Board is necessary to approve the MMA's Plan into adoption. MMA Board of Directors have approved this Plan and would receive any input from the Park Board and send a final approval. They had a club meeting last Sunday and half of the members that were had no issues with the Plan. Comments from the Board on the Plan can be sent to Adam within the next month. Final adoption will come in April or May.

Public Comments/Poll of the Board/Adjournment

The public and board members gave closing comments.

A conversation took place led by Danny Chappel regarding last Sunday's Chili Feed at Horn Rapid's Park. The Rattlesnake Ridge Riders had their typical reoccurring issues, but a poor turnout compared to past years. They had 69 riders on the long ride and 48 riders on the short ride and 178 paid meals, they usually have 500-600 participants. Reasons for the poor turnout noted that people are precautious of the ongoing corona virus outbreak and also due to the newly enacted equine passport change in Oregon that increased restrictions on permits and requirements for crossing the state line.

The Hover Park project with Wave Design was mentioned, as well as the nighttime closure idea, noting that unwanted nighttime traffic has increased. Adam mentioned that it's on the roster and will probably be next on the list. Adam is meeting with Robert tomorrow.

The Native Plant Society has an upcoming wildflower hike at Two Sisters on March 21st. Anyone interested will meet at the Pasco Yoke's parking lot at 10 am. Mickie also mentioned the upcoming native plant book signing on March 14th at 4 pm held at the Benton Conservation District on Clearwater. The rest of their hikes will be listed soon and they will try to do a hike about once a week until May when they head to the Blues.

George Hagar mentioned that the road paving for the Rattlesnake Mountain Shooting Range will be done in mid to late April and it isn't expected to interfere with activities or have any negative impact.

Cindy Faith of Purple Sage Riders' mentioned that the event on March 21st was cancelled due to the corona virus outbreak. Separately, Cindy noted that she will be contacting REI soon to move their grant application along.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:57 pm.

The next regular meeting will be held on the second Tuesday in April at the Justice Center.

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