



BENTON COUNTY PARK BOARD
MEETING MINUTES

September 8, 2020, 6:30 p.m.
Benton County Justice Center
Kennewick, WA 99336

Meeting provided by Video (via Zoom)

Board Members Present

Laauli Faamausili, Chair (via Zoom)
Dave McNeal, Vice Chair (via Zoom)
Robin Emmingham, Member (via Zoom)
Richard Nordness, Member (via Zoom)
Diana Ruff, Member (via Zoom)
Yessica Rosas, Member (via Zoom)

Benton County Employees

Adam Fyall (via Zoom)
Kirk Engle (via Zoom)
Robert Blain (via Zoom)
Peggy Brown (via Zoom)

Board Members Absent

Karla Brown, Secretary (Absence - Excused)

Call to Order/Pledge of Allegiance/Roll Call

Board Chair, Laauli Faamausili, called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m.

Review & Approval of Agenda

The September 8th agenda was approved as submitted.

Approval of Minutes

The Minutes of August 11, 2020 were approved.

Monthly Reports to the Board

Chair's Report

Board Chair, Laauli Faamausili, stated that there was no report at this time.

Committee/Subcommittee Reports

There were no committee or subcommittee reports at this time.

Staff Report Update

Adam reported that the Park Board will tele-meet at least until public meetings are allowed. Benton County is looking at using Cisco Web-ex for virtual meetings in the future.

News:

- **Badger Mtn Centennial Preserve:** The maintenance building is done. The ancillary pieces around the outside include: asphaltting the short driveway which the contract should be signed by September 15th; uphill side retaining wall and downhill side dirt/gravel should be completed by September 14/15; bollard placement should be completed later in the fall; entrance sign should be completed later in the fall; and site restoration should be completed mid-November
- **Horn Rapids Park:** We'll proceed with normal fall shutdown September/October. The subcommittee met onsite on August 26th discussing 3 areas: camping, office building, and Sunsplash/Wanawish. Despite all but one group cancelling, campground revenues were good only down 14% from 2019. Turning the office building into a regular meeting place/public building has too much cost involved to bring it up to code for ADA compliance.
- **Sunsplash/Wanawish:** The subcommittee is meeting with Taptal Greenway to discuss issues impacting this area. Seeking guidance from Board on this topic during the Board meeting.
- **Two Rivers Park:** Proceed with normal fall shutdown in September/October. The compliance inspection with the Corps of Engineers was an overall clean inspection. Corps of Engineers will be planting some willow and tule on the downstream side of Great Lagoon in mid-September to stabilize and protect the resources.
- **Horse Heaven Vista:** Nothing new to report.
- **Hover Park:** The Corps of Engineers agree the parking area is a good idea. They plan to assist by expediting the permitting as best they can. The KID wasteway is a non-issue as vegetation has overgrown the impacted area.
- **Rattlesnake Mtn Shooting Facility:** The new "law enforcement range" is moving along which will require substantial excavation. The target construction for this project is late winter/early spring.
- **Vista Park/Wallula Gap Preserve:** Nothing new to report.

Business

- **Horn Rapids Park Wanawish area:**
 - Board discussed how to control vehicle access to the sand dunes in order to protect the natural landscape/resources
 - Proposed use of social media and signage to let public know of closures
 - Put up gate/vehicle barriers to restrict vehicle access
 - Proposed to have a subcommittee research this issue further
- **Horn Rapids Park-camping:**
 - Staff initiated a discussion about the strategic future of the campground. At its October meeting, the Board will take this topic up in depth, including topics such as rates, amenities, length of stay, camp host, and other campground related issues
 - Discussion entailed tightening up on the rules of the park in the future
 - Letters will be sent out to those in park about the upcoming season closure and to those not paying with a payment plan

At this point of the meeting (7:48 pm), Chair Faamausili excused himself and Vice Chair McNeal assumed control of the meeting for the duration.

- **Hover Park Parking Lot:**
 - Motion to form a subcommittee on this project with Robin Emmingham and Richard Nordness volunteering to be on the subcommittee
 - Discussion of design/configuration of parking area which could be ready in Spring
 - Discussion of SEPA check list turned into Benton County Planning Dept
- **Horn Rapids Park Horse Camp:**
 - A final topic was added for discussion. Staff and the Board talked about the contributions of Linda Smith to the Park Board over the past two-plus decades and specifically her contributions at the Horse Camp at Horn Rapids
 - Dave McNeal expressed a desire to thank and recognize Linda with a commemorative plaque outlining her contributions
 - The Board and staff proposed and built a consensus around naming the Horse Camp in honor of Linda Smith and placing appropriate signage at the entrance, with a target date of Chili Feed 2021 (March) for a formal dedication

Public Comments/Poll of the Board/Adjournment

The public comment.

George Hager mentioned the shooting range is doing good. There was nothing to report.

Mickie Chamness mentioned the Native Plant Society's annual plant sale will be online this year. The annual calendar will be available also. The plant pick-up date is Oct. 31st.

The Board had closing comments.

Robin Emmingham expressed looking forward to the Hover Project.

Richard Nordness also expressed his excitement in working on the Hover Project.

Diana Ruff mentioned the hiking trails at Badger are popular and are getting a lot of use.

Yessica Rosas appreciated being able to be a part of the subcommittee for Horn Rapids.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:22 pm.

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