



BENTON COUNTY PARK BOARD
MEETING MINUTES

October 15, 2020, 6:30 p.m.
Benton County Justice Center
Kennewick, WA 99336

Meeting provided by Video (via Zoom)

Board Members Present

Laauli Faamausili, Chair
Dave McNeal, Vice Chair
Karla Brown, Secretary
Robin Emmingham, Member
Yessica Rosas, Member

Benton County Employees

Adam Fyall
Robert Blain
Peggy Brown

Board Members Absent

Richard Nordness, Member (Absence - Excused)
Dianna Ruff, Member

Call to Order/Pledge of Allegiance/Roll Call

Board Chair, Laauli Faamausili, called the meeting to order at 6:31 p.m.

Review & Approval of Agenda

The October 15th agenda was approved as submitted.

Approval of Minutes

The Minutes of September 8, 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. Adam reported that there is still money in the budget for current projects through the remainder of 2020. There remains uncertainty regarding how much "new" money will be available for the Park Development Fund in the next couple of budget cycles, owing largely to the unknown but potentially dramatic impacts of COVID.

News:

- **Badger Mtn Centennial Preserve:** The earthwork and asphalt driveway have been completed. The building is being used. Projects left to finish placing bollards in November, putting up a new entrance sign, and restoration.
- **Horn Rapids Park:** Park closed October 1, 2020 as scheduled without issues. Camping revenue came in just short of \$20k. This will be our main topic for discussion at the October/November meetings.
- **Sunplash/Wanawish:** Seeking guidance from Board on this topic during the November board meeting.
- **Two Rivers Park:** The 2020 Compliance Inspection is closed. Installation of new and replacement "no hunting" signage and coordinated efforts with the Sheriff's Dept to keep hunters out of the park. A drafted pamphlet that addresses these issues will be sent to the Board for review in the near future.
- **Horse Heaven Vista:** Nothing new to report.
- **Hover Park:** A SEPA Checklist has been submitted to the Planning Dept for the parking lot project. Separate from the Real Estate Application submitted to the Corp of Engineers, a building permit and grading permit will be received.
- **Rattlesnake Mtn Shooting Facility:** A SEPA Checklist to the Planning Dept was submitted for the new law enforcement range project. We'll also receive a building permit and a grading permit.
- **Vista Park/Wallula Gap Preserve:** Nothing new to report.

Business

▪ **Horn Rapids Park Campground & camping:**

- Discussion entailed looking at setting up a campground host for the 2021 camping season to keep the grounds and campers in check.
- The planting of trees to plug the "hole", looking at updating the irrigation system, and updating the signage was discussed.
- Discussion of getting internet service was talked about, as well as, updating the kiosk so that credit card payments can be made.
- The Board also discussed raising the camping fees but keeping them affordable. Being able to make reservations at the campsite was mentioned, but Adam stated the grounds didn't have the infrastructure for it at this time.
- The Board was encouraged to go look at the park along with Mark to get more suggestions and direction on the issues mentioned above so that decisions can be put into place before the start of the next camping season.

At this point of the meeting (7:47 pm), Chair Faamausili excused himself and Vice Chair McNeal assumed control of the meeting for the duration. Member Robin Emmingham joined the meeting (7:47 pm).

Public Comments/Poll of the Board/Adjournment

The public comment.

George Hager mentioned the shooting range is busy with the hunting season around the corner.

The Board had closing comments.

Robin Emmingham is looking forward to the November meeting.

Yessica Rosas is looking forward to formalizing decisions on Horn Rapids Park.

Karla Brown would like the Board to consider changing the time of the Park Board meetings to an earlier time. She also mentioned doing some research on campground hosts.

Dave McNeal would like the Horn Rapids subcommittee to get together with Mark and discuss the issues of the campground. He also asked about the Park budget, if we were doing ok.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:08 pm.

The next regular meeting will be held on the second₃ Tuesday in November at the Justice Center/Zoom.