



**BENTON COUNTY PARK BOARD**  
**MEETING MINUTES**

November 10, 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  
Richard Nordness, Member  
Diana Ruff, Member

**Benton County Employees**

Adam Fyall  
Robert Blain  
Peggy Brown

**Board Members Absent**

**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 November 10<sup>th</sup> agenda was approved as submitted.

**Approval of Minutes**

The Minutes of October 15, 2020 were approved with a minor change stating the main topic for discussion at the October/November meetings was Horn Rapids Park.

**Monthly Reports to the Board**

## Chair's Report

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

## Committee/Subcommittee Reports

Dave McNeal noted that the Horn Rapids subcommittee did not meet as planned, but that he was able to meet with Mark on Oct. 22<sup>nd</sup>. He mentioned the park was well maintained, but has need for updates including adding professional signage to the entrance of the park.

## Staff Report Update

Adam had nothing to add to his written Staff 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, and Chair Faamausili made a motion to acquire a campground host for 2021 with Member Diana Ruff seconding. The motion carried unanimously.
- The length of stay at the campground was discussed whether or not to change from a 14 day stay to a 7 day stay. Staff and Board members will conduct a little more market research on this item, and it will be discussed further at a later date.
- Discussion of getting internet service was talked about, as well as, updating the kiosk so that credit card payments can be made. The Board feels that internet service would be more appealing to a campground host as well as to campers.
- The Board also discussed raising the camping fees but keeping them affordable. The Board concurred with staff's recommendation to raise the nightly rates from \$25 (RV)/\$15 (tent)/\$15 (horse camp), to \$30/\$20/\$20, respectively, beginning with the 2021 season. By raising the camping fees it would make it possible to upgrade the camp sites making them more attractive to campers. Discussion ensued about setting up one of the campsites for the campground host.
- The Board discussed options of keeping the existing picnic tables and BBQ grills by possibly making an asphalt apron or pea gravel for them to sit on so

they're easier to mow around. Also, possibly having a wood vendor for people to purchase firewood.

- The irrigation system was discussed by the Board. Adam mentioned money can be saved if the irrigation water was used instead of the domestic water since chlorine needs to be used when using domestic water.

## **Public Comments/Poll of the Board/Adjournment**

The public comment.

George Hager mentioned the shooting range is doing well. The Boy Scouts were going to be using the range the following Saturday, but being Covid 19 compliant.

The Board had closing comments.

Robin Emmingham felt that the meeting went well, and likes the direction Horn Rapids Park is going in.

Yessica Rosas is looking forward to getting Hover Park back on the agenda.

Karla Brown would like the Board to consider changing the time of the Park Board meetings to an earlier time, possibly 6 pm. Chair Faamausili motioned for a trial run of an earlier park board meeting time for the December meeting. The motion passed to have the December park board meeting at 6 pm. She, also, is in favor of keeping the picnic tables and fire pits at Horn Rapids Park, it's a kind of nostalgia for campers.

Dave McNeal would like to dedicate the Horse Camp to Linda Smith integrating her name into the Horse Camp somehow.

Richard Nordness felt that concrete decisions were made regarding Horn Rapids Park.

Diana Ruff mentioned that Badger is still getting a lot of use, however, there is more garbage than normal. The trails are in good shape despite more usage.

Adam encouraged the Park Board to look at the website and see where updates need to be used to make it easier to navigate the site.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:32 pm.

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