



BENTON COUNTY PARK BOARD
MEETING MINUTES

July 13, 2021, 6:30 p.m.
Justice Center
Kennewick, WA 99336

Board Members Present

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

Benton County Employees

Adam Fyall
Peggy Brown

Board Members Absent

Richard Nordness, Member

Call to Order/Pledge of Allegiance/Roll Call

Board Chair, Laauli Faamausili, called the meeting to order at 6:33 p.m., and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Review & Approval of Agenda

The July 13, 2021 agenda was approved as submitted.

Approval of Minutes

The Minutes of June 8, 2021 were approved as submitted. Chair, Laauli Faamausili, abstained from approval as he was not present at the June meeting.

Monthly Reports to the Board

Chair's Report

There was no report at this time.

Committee/Subcommittee Reports

The Horn Rapids Signage Subcommittee has not met as a committee in recent weeks. They're pleased with the new signs and are anxious to get the rest of the signage up. The committee plans to meet in the next two weeks to see about getting the remainder of the signage put up. The committee is pleased with the progress being made.

The E-bike Committee is hoping to have more updates by the next meeting. Adam is looking to what policies WA state and the City of Richland are implementing regarding E-bike use.

Staff Report Update

Adam mentioned the Yakima Basin Fish and Wildlife Recovery Board tour slated for Wednesday, August 4th will arrive at Horn Rapids Park around 9:45 am, and this will be the featured stop of the tour. He encouraged the Park Board members to attend to see a demonstration of the new stargrass harvester. It was mentioned that at the south end of the Horse Camp is where the stargrass cuttings will be stored.

Business

- **Badger Mt. Summit Viewshed Signage-show & tell:**

The design for the first sign was completed at the end of June. Energy Northwest was pleased with the work. A photo taken by Richard Zimmerman was used. He was pleased to be able to contribute. Energy Northwest was able to make their donation to Friends of Badger. The challenge now is to find interesting things to see to put on the remainder of the signage.

- **Two Rivers & Hover Annual Compliance Inspection-briefing:**

Member Emmingham attended the walk through of the compliance inspection. Before the Corps will grant a permit, they found three items that need attention in their inspection. First, a secondary containment system for chlorination is needed. Second, the old pesticide

cabinet needs to be replaced. And third, vehicles are going over the outflow of KID causing environmental damage. Obtaining the permit for Hover is getting close. We're waiting on the Corps of Engineers to give us the green light.

▪ **Horn Rapids Park Wanawish Dam Area-discussion:**

Detailed discussion entailed unauthorized use of the park i.e. overnight camping, unauthorized vehicles in restricted areas, and trash/garbage being dumped at the park. The Board wants to keep the river access points open, but keep unauthorized park use to a minimum. The Board would like to update the ordinance for the parks to include vehicle restrictions, no camping areas, and no dumping by use of signage, barriers, and designated areas for vehicle use. A few ideas were mentioned to keep visitors in the designated areas of the park: have the WDOT trench the sides of the highway to keep vehicles from entering restricted areas, put up a single strand of barb wire, put up signage in restrictive areas, and to gravel the roads vehicles are allowed to use. The Board would like Adam to get quotes for gravel and barb wire for next month's meeting.

Public Comments/Poll of the Board/Adjournment

Public Comment:

Linda Smith, Rattlesnake Ridge Riders, would like to see picnic tables put at the nine horse camps. She would also like a camp site in the horse camp to be named after Bill Williams who did a lot for the horse camps. She'd like a plaque or a sign to be made in his honor. Member, Diana Ruff, motioned to have a camp site in the horse camp named after Bill Williams, and member, Karla Brown, seconded and upon vote the motion carried unanimously.

George Hager, TCSA, mentioned the grant has been approved. The paving should move forward as scheduled. Activity at the range has slowed down in the last couple of months due to the ammo shortage. They're looking at possibly in the future putting in a bow/archery range. The metric & silhouette range will be finished at the end of the year.

Dan Chappel, Rattlesnake Ridge Riders, stated that riding trails in the Pomeroy District are being lost due to the fire danger in the last few years. They received grant money to help in reopening the trails. The Surprise Ride Event will return to Horn Rapids Park planned for next May.

Cindy Faith, Purple Sage Riders, mentioned a fall clean-up at the parks that maybe could be a discussion with the Park Board. She said the trash at Hover₃ is accumulating again. She mentioned a Wine Ride

event set for October in Zillah.

Jennifer McNeal mentioned she was disappointed to see so many tire tracks where there was supposed to be native plants on her hike with the Native Plant Society at Horn Rapids Park.

Poll of the Board:

Yessica Rosas was grateful for those in attendance. She enjoyed Linda being able to get back to the meeting. She is looking forward to the Oct. event. She views getting back to in-person meetings as a way toward normalcy.

Karla Brown was glad to be back in person. She enjoyed the public comment section of the meeting.

Robin Emmingham was glad to see everyone in person. He's pleased with the progress being made on the signage project. He's looking forward to progress at Hover.

Diana Ruff was glad to see everyone. She mentioned that Badger looks dry due to the weather, but it's getting a lot of use. She's hopeful the Board will take affirmative action regarding the parks.

Dave McNeal is looking forward to more progress on the signage, park ordinance, and putting up barriers to hinder unauthorized park use.

Adam gave the Board a tour of the new Benton County Administration Building which is set to open in October 2021.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:00 pm.

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