



BENTON COUNTY PARK BOARD
MEETING MINUTES

September 14, 2021, 6:30 p.m.
Via Zoom

Board Members Present

Laauli Faamausili, Chair
Richard Nordness, Member
Karla Brown, Secretary
Yessica Rosas, Member
Robin Emmingham, Member

Benton County Employees

Adam Fyall
Peggy Brown
Robert Blain
Juan Manzo

Board Members Absent

Dave McNeal, Vice Chair (excused)

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 September 14, 2021 agenda was approved as submitted.

Approval of Minutes

The Minutes of July 13, 2021 were approved as submitted.

Monthly Reports to the Board

Chair's Report

Member Diana Ruff resigned her seat on the Park Board. There is a vacancy on the board so Chairman Faamausili encouraged the board to reach out to those who may be interested in filling the vacancy. He also wanted to express appreciation for Vice Chair McNeal's emailed comments.

Committee/Subcommittee Reports

No report at this time.

Staff Report Update

Adam stated that an ad for the Park Board vacancy is being put together by the County. Shyanne will post the ad on the county website. Adam encouraged the Park Board members to reach out to those who might be interested in filling the vacancy. Horn Rapids Park is bouncing back well regarding camp use. 2021 is the second highest revenue-generating year to date, still with several weeks to go until the September 30th closure. Hoping to have a camp host by next season. A couple of different people are interested in the opportunity. TCSA, the law enforcement range, is facing SEPA challenges. The tribes want the consultant to do a better cultural study which means more time before the project is complete. TCSA received a grant for the silhouette range, but a cultural resource study needs to be done which TCSA will be responsible for the expense. Hover received the permit to start the cultural resource process. If anyone has any documentation on the historic Hover Town site it would help with the write up on the report.

Business

▪ **Park Board Meetings:**

Discussion entailed on how the board will meet moving forward even beyond Covid-19. The majority would like to hold in-person meetings but are open to a hybrid way of holding meetings. Adam mentioned using WebEx as a virtual option for those not able to meet in person or for the general public.

▪ **Parks Comprehensive Plan:**

It's time to get a comprehensive plan in motion. The last comprehensive plan was done in 2008 with an update in 2014. Adam suggested hiring a professional consultant to get this accomplished which will mean a more stream-lined plan, but have the Board be fully involved with the configuration and lay out of the plan. He'd like to have each board member be individually interviewed by the consulting₂ team to get their ideas and input. Adam would like

to get the contract for the consultant of the Comprehensive Park Plan by January 2022. Chair Faamausili motioned to move ahead with the Comprehensive Park Plan. Members Nordness and Emmingham seconded the motion and upon vote it carried unanimously.

▪ **Two Rivers Park-general discussion of conditions & path forward:**

The park is seeing a more negative impact due to limited man-power and more work load which leads to getting behind on park projects. However, the park is getting more use than in previous years which leads to more trash, more wear and tear on the park itself, and of course, the problematic restroom situation. Benton County staff is working at keeping the trees trimmed for better mowing, using the wood chips on the nature trail to keep the weeds down, and getting the fencing repaired. Permits are needed before the restroom issue can be addressed. In the meantime, the other projects will continue to be finished. The park use has changed over the past year with more people on the water and using the lagoon., and more people wanting to reserve the park for events.

▪ **New Tools, Media, & Communications-presentation & discussion:**

Benton County is updating its website. Use your creativity in generating ideas for upgrading the parks webpage. Adam demonstrated by use of a video what a drone can do for visualizing the parks trails. The goal of using these new tools is to get the public excited about our parks and visiting them.

Public Comments/Poll of the Board/Adjournment

Public Comment:

Dan Chappel, Rattlesnake Ridge Riders, had some wording for the plaque/marker in memory of Bill Williams. It's a little "wordy" so he'd like some guidance on the final draft.

Cindy Faith, Purple Sage Riders, mentioned that Hover is getting more use which means more trash. A cleanup is planned at the park to keep up with the trash. She mentioned the Wine Ride event set for October in Zillah is still a go as far as she knows.

Poll of the Board:

Yessica Rosas is excited about the signage being put up. She's also excited about the stargrass harvester and what it will accomplish. She's thankful that we were able to meet in person.

Karla Brown wants to know when the clean-up at Hover will take place.

Robin Emmingham was impressed with the stargrass harvester demonstration. He wanted to thank Robert and Juan for all the work being done at Two Rivers. He was glad to see everyone in person.

Laauli Faamausili appreciated the park partners' input. He was able to hike Candy Mt. recently. He wanted to say that the Friends of Badger are doing a great job at keeping the trails clean even though they are getting a lot of use. He would like the board members to share the parks web links with those in their media groups so that the parks get more public exposure.

Dick Nordness invited the group to attend the Kiwanis Club meeting on Monday, September 20th at Clover Island Inn at 12 pm for a presentation from Rachel Little about the stargrass harvester.

Adam reminded the Board that there will not be a park board meeting in October. He's hoping November's meeting will be in the new Administration building.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:17 pm.

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