



BENTON COUNTY PARK BOARD
MEETING MINUTES

November 9, 2021, 6:30 p.m.
Benton County Administration Building

Board Members Present

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

Benton County Employees

Adam Fyall
Peggy Brown
Robert Blain

Board Members Absent

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 November 9, 2021 agenda was approved as submitted.

Approval of Minutes

The Minutes of September 14, 2021 were approved as submitted.

Monthly Reports to the Board

Chair's Report

There was no report at this time.

Committee/Subcommittee Reports

The Horn Rapids Signage Subcommittee is liking the signage designed by SeaReach and used at the main Wallowa Lake trailhead in Oregon. They'd like to work with SeaReach in getting a contact sign put up at the Horn Rapids Park campground by the beginning of next camping season, and also possibly a similar sign at Hover.

Staff Report Update

Adam stated that the new Administration Building is up and running but not 100% complete yet. He was proud to announce that the Park Board meeting was the first formal meeting at the new building. A Grand Opening of the building is scheduled for Monday, November 15, 2021 at 2 pm. How to proceed with the December 2021 meeting was discussed. All members of the Board would like to stick with the traditional meeting for December which is more of a social gathering than a meeting. It was discussed that meetings moving forward continue using the hybrid in-person/remote method. The new Badger Mountain view scape sign was installed last week by Friends of Badger Mountain volunteers. The recent restroom vandalism at Horn Rapids was fixed by Juan and Mark. The tree planting event at Horn Rapids in October went well. Discussion entailed getting a plan in motion regarding the retaining wall at Vista Park. A more in-depth discussion will follow in the coming months regarding Horse Heaven Vista and looking into if the City of Prosser would want to take on this property.

Business

- **Parks Comprehensive Plan:**

Discussion entailed adopting a new comprehensive plan for the parks. It's been over 6 years since one has been done or updated. Adam suggested hiring a professional consulting service to get this accomplished. He's looking at a six-month time frame so that the plan can be implemented in the '23/'24 county budget. The consulting service cost would be over \$100k which would come out of the Park Development Fund. It was discussed how the Board would be involved in the process-have the Board put their input in the scope of work, scoring the responses from consultants, and the interview process. At the December meeting, Adam would like the Board to be prepared to make decisions on the comprehensive plan as far as how the Board would like to participate in this process.

- **Tour of Administration Building:**

Adam and Robert took those at the meeting on a tour of the new administration building.

Public Comments/Poll of the Board/Adjournment

Public Comment:

Dan Chappel, Rattlesnake Ridge Riders, brought in 2022 calendars for the board. The equestrian sites at Horn Rapids need improvements such as more hitching rails, higher rings on the rails/poles, more picnic tables, more frost-free water hydrants, improved irrigation, and improved signage for equestrian users. He's hoping the improvements will make the site more appealing for equestrian users.

Linda Smith, Rattlesnake Ridge Riders, agreed with Dan Chappel's comments.

Cindy Faith, Purple Sage Riders, mentioned the 20th annual Winery Ride was a success. There were 675 entrants. She is looking forward to Hover parking lot being finished.

George Hager, TCSA, mentioned the cultural study is going on for the Sheriff's range. Hunting season is over so now everything is getting put up for winter. The paved road is holding up well.

Jennifer McNeal appreciated the tour of the new Admin building.

Poll of the Board:

Yessica Rosas expressed appreciation for all those who came to the meeting. She said the new Admin building is beautiful. She's excited about next month's meeting being a social and the comprehensive plan.

Karla Brown wanted to thank Dan Chappel for the calendar. She mentioned that the E-bike committee is at a standstill. Adam mentioned that he's still looking at what the City of Richland is implementing regarding E-bike policies.

Robin Emmingham asked if the new section of Little Badger would be part of the county park. Adam said no since it's in the city limits. He also asked about mask protocol at in-person meetings. Adam is looking into that for our next meeting. He also wanted to know how the Park Partners wanted to be involved in the comprehensive plan.

Laauli Faamausili missed being at the meeting in person. He's looking forward to the December meeting and seeing the new building.

Dick Nordness enjoyed the tour of the building. He thought it was outstanding. He wanted to thank the Park Partners for a job well done.

Dave McNeal expressed appreciation for the success of the new Admin building. He wanted to thank the county for the hard work that went into the project.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:56 pm.

The next regular meeting will be held on the second Tuesday in December at the Admin Building. (social)