



BENTON COUNTY PARK BOARD
MEETING MINUTES

February 8, 2022, 6:30 p.m.
Benton County Administration Building

Board Members Present

Dave McNeal, Vice Chair
Karla Brown, Secretary
Robin Emmingham, Member
Kit McBurney, Member
Sarah Funk, Member

Benton County Employees

Adam Fyall
Peggy Brown
Robert Blain

Board Members Absent

Laauli Faamausili, Chair
Yessica Rosas, Member

Call to Order/Pledge of Allegiance/Roll Call

Vice Chair, Dave McNeal, called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Review & Approval of Agenda

The February 8, 2022 agenda was approved as submitted.

Approval of Minutes

The Minutes of January 11, 2022 were **not** approved as submitted. Vice Chair, McNeal suggested a correction related to the dollar amount for the signage at Horn Rapids and Hover Parks. The corrected January minutes will be reviewed again at the March meeting.

Monthly Reports to the Board

Chair's Report

There was no report at this time.

Committee/Subcommittee Reports

There were no significant reports at this time. The Park Board Ordinance Committee is waiting to update the park ordinance with Benton County Code. The E-bike Committee is waiting on other jurisdictions before moving forward.

Staff Report Update

Adam stated that the March Park Board meeting will be held at its regularly scheduled date- March 8th. He also mentioned that he plans to go before the Commissioners at their scheduled board meeting on March 1, 2022, with an overview of the Parks future plans. Adam encouraged the Park Board members to be present at that meeting. Once he gets more details, he'll inform the board.

Business

▪ **Two Rivers Park Restroom:**

Robert Blain gave an update on the Two Rivers restroom project. He's working with CXT and the Corp on getting a replacement structure in place at Two Rivers. He recommends that the Board act quickly before the estimated price of the structure goes up. Members Robin Emmingham and Kit McBurney agreed to be on the subcommittee to oversee what color, style, and structure type is best suited for the new restroom. Mr. Blain would like to see a decision made by the next park board meeting.

▪ **Annual Reports to the Board:**

○ Purple Sage Riders:

Tawney Carrier led the presentation mentioning that there are 32 nonprofit chapters across WA state which provide volunteer services. She mentioned that Hover Park holds a special place in their hearts since it once was where the City of Hover was located. In 1910, a fire demolished the city, and later the city was

covered by flood waters. The goal of this chapter is to bring respect and honor to this historical city by keeping the park clean and the trails open for all users. The chapter was able to receive financing for clean-ups through REI Coop Gives Back Grant. It was mentioned to the chapter by the board to look at getting grants for historical preservation at Hover. The next planned clean-up is scheduled for March 12, 2022. They appreciate being an active partner with Benton County Parks.

- Tri-Cities Shooting Association:

George Hager led the presentation mentioning the shooting facility has seen a 15% increase in memberships from the previous year (2020). The purpose of the facility is to provide a safe shooting facility for public use. Some of the improvements over the year included: the new pistol bay access road; 2 range safety tables contributed by the Eagle Scouts; and re-establishing some larger state-wide events at the facility. In March 2022, the facility plans on starting the certification course to train young shooters in hunting classes. The Park Board has a field meeting planned to be held at TCSA in 2022.

- Native Plant Society:

Mickie Chamness led the presentation stating that all the county parks have native plants in them. She mentioned she was thankful for being able to attend meetings via zoom. The Heritage Garden Program has been well received throughout the state. Two workshops were provided by the program. The small chapter was able to host a few field trips to Badger Mtn., Candy Mtn., Horn Rapids, McBee, and Leslie Groves. More trips are being planned for 2022. Mickie mentioned the state program Youth Ecology Education Through Restoration Program has been well received by both teachers and students. Through the program, students learn to identify plants, buy plants, and then plant them. The chapter's annual plant sale was a success. Mickie mentioned that maybe the Park Board might want to consider putting in a native plant area at the entrance to Horn Rapids Park.

- Rattlesnake Ridge Riders:

Dan Chappel led the discussion with events the chapter participated in 2021. The events included: the Chicken Ride w potluck; a new registration station was built for Juniper Dunes; clean-up at Horn Rapids Park; Surprise Ride Event; improving the horse camp; Mother's Day Ride at Anderson Ranch in Prosser, and the Zillah Wine Ride. He also mentioned that Rattlesnake Slope is seeing more mountain

bikes and runners/hikers.

- Friends of Badger Mountain:

David Comstock led the discussion mentioning that in 2021 volunteers donated 1,000 hours of their time to work on the trails at Badger Mtn. and Candy Mtn. Some of the volunteer hours went to installing signage including flood age interpretive signage and Hanford history monuments on Candy Mtn., stabilizing existing trails with rock walls/barriers, removing noxious weeds from the trails, and working with West Richland on a new trailhead at Candy Mtn. David mentioned that you can take a self-guided tour of Candy Mtn. by going to the National Parks Service App. The goals for 2022 include: securing the land purchase for Little Badger Mtn., working with Richland in constructing new trails so that by 2023 the public will be able to enjoy them.

- Tapteal Greenway:

Dirk Peterson led the presentation with some of the recreational activities the Greenway hosted. At Horn Rapids, the Greenway led guided bird walks, guided hikes, and paddle boat tours. They also participated in several clean-up and trail clearing events at Bateman Island. They offer a Woodward Scholarship to those who qualify. The Greenway hopes to build a Columbia Trail Wildlife Crossing with JUB Engineers Design for around \$2.2 million. They hope to get additional funding for the project.

- Miniature Aircraft Association:

Dick McGrew stated that Higgins Field is becoming one of the best flying sites in Washington. The goal of the MAA is to get the community including the youth involved. Some of the 2021 activities included: spring clean-up, replacing the tabletops with concrete, the May Horse Club Event, replaced sprinklers, repaired runway 1, and held Huckfest in September. The goals for 2022 include more social events, installation of pilot stations on runway 2, and host IMAC and Huckfest.

Public Comments/Poll of the Board/Adjournment

Public Comment:

Linda Smith (RRR) expressed thanks and appreciation for all the educational and informative

presentations.

Poll of the Board:

Robin Emmingham wanted to welcome the new board members and thanked them for their willingness to participate. He expressed his thanks to the park partners for all their hard work. He's looking forward to getting the restroom project done at Two Rivers. He would like to see action being done on the parking lot at Hover.

Karla Brown wanted to thank all the partners for what they do for the parks. She enjoyed all their presentations.

Sarah Funk is honored to be able to serve on the Park Board. She thanks all those who care about our community.

Kit McBurney counts it a privilege to serve on the Park Board. She wanted to thank the park partners for their hard work and what they do for the community.

Dave McNeal wanted to thank everyone for their hard work, and he's privileged to serve on the board.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:03 pm.

The next regular meeting will be held on the second Tuesday in March at the Administration Building.