



BENTON COUNTY PARK BOARD
MEETING MINUTES

April 12, 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
Yessica Rosas, Member

Benton County Employees

Adam Fyall
Peggy Brown
Juan Manzo

Board Members Absent

Laauli Faamausili, Chair

Call to Order/Pledge of Allegiance/Roll Call

Vice Chair, Dave McNeal, called the meeting to order at 6:33 p.m. and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Review & Approval of Agenda

The April 12, 2022 agenda was approved as revised and resubmitted by staff.

Approval of Minutes

The Minutes of March 8, 2022 were approved as submitted.

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.

Staff Reports

Juan Manzo: Mr. Manzo informed the board that the parks are opening for the season. The irrigation is on as well as, the mowing has started. He also mentioned that a damaged tree had to be cut down at Horn Rapids Park. He said things are looking good.

Adam Fyall: Mr. Fyall mentioned that there was not much to add to his written report but gave some detail on the Palouse to Cascades Trail dedication ceremony he attended at the Beverly Bridge.

Business

▪ **Hover Park Parking Lot:**

Invited guest, Paul Knutzen from Knutzen Engineering, gave an update on the Hover Park parking lot project. The cultural study performed by GRAM Northwest and reviewed by the Tribes and the Corps of Engineers is now completed. Since Hover Park is considered a historical site, the Corps would like the Park Board to change the parameters of the design of the parking lot so as not to disturb any artifacts that may be present. With that being said, the cutting away of dirt/land will not be allowed. All materials (dirt/gravel) will need to be imported. Within two weeks, Knutzen Engineering would like a revised plan put together to present to the Corps of Engineers so permits can be obtained to start working on the project. The Park Board requested a copy of the cultural study for their review.

▪ **Hover Park Cleanups:**

Cindy Faith (PSR) wanted to thank the community for the March cleanup at Hover. There were 38 volunteers including Air Soft Club and other ATV groups that donated their time

and energy to help in the cleanup. There were 3.15 tons of trash collected. BDI donated a dumpster for the event. There are over 100 tires that still need to be collected. April 23rd is planned for another cleanup.

▪ **Parks Comprehensive Plan - "Pre-Scoping" continued:**

Beckwith Consulting received the Board's approval for consultant of the Parks Comprehensive Plan. The members were impressed with his knowledge of the park systems, his clarity, his organizational quality, and his goals of getting the community involved while using the available resources efficiently. All in all, the Board liked what Mr. Beckwith presented in his draft of the park plan. Some issues the Board would like Mr. Beckwith to address are schematics for motorized vehicles, dog parks, integrating more park partners for the potential for more hiking trails, and utilizing all available resources/funding.

Public Comments/Poll of the Board/Adjournment

Public Comment:

Dan Chappel (RRR) mentioned the Surprise Ride Event set for May 7th.

Mickie Chamness (NPS) mentioned that her chapter of the Native Plant Society has spring field trips planned. She encouraged all to go to their website and look on their calendar for the dates of the events.

Poll of the Board:

Robin Emmingham wanted to thank the park partners. He was impressed with the Hover cleanup. He wants to look at how the Park Board can get the community involved with what's happening in our parks. The community can be a big influence in our park system. He'd like to see the park plan focus on Hover Park. He mentioned that he will not be attending the meeting in May.

Karla Brown would like to see language added to the park plan that focused on E-bikes and other motorized vehicles. She asked about the board getting a copy of the cultural study done at Hover Park.

Sarah Funk would like the master plan to integrate more partners for the potential of obtaining more trails and to use available funding. She's looking forward to the progress. She wanted to thank Juan for his hard work.

Kit McBurney wanted to mention that we all have a responsibility to keep our parks clean and well maintained. She wanted to thank the park partners especially, Cindy Faith for the cleanup at Hover.

Yessica Rosas wanted to thank everyone for coming and the new park board members. She agrees with what was said about the comprehensive park plan.

Dave McNeal wants to know if there is a business plan in the works for Horn Rapids Campground, and if what Horn Rapids offers is in line with the market to similar parks. He'd like the board to consider looking at what activities are/aren't acceptable at parks now vs what was/wasn't acceptable in the past. He mentioned updating the Park Ordinance. He wanted to thank everyone for keeping up on the parks.

Adam mentioned having the kick-off meeting in May. During the progress sessions how can we get other interested groups involved. He mentioned that the tribes should be included in any community outreach.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:59 pm.

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