



**BENTON COUNTY PARK BOARD**  
**MEETING MINUTES**

August 10, 2022, 6:00 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  
Jeff Jones

**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 6:01 p.m. and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

**Review & Approval of Agenda**

The August 10, 2022 amended agenda was approved as submitted.

**Approval of Minutes**

The Minutes of July 12, 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 reports at this time.

### Staff Reports

Adam Fyall: Mr. Fyall had nothing to add to his written staff report.

## Business

- **Introduction of New Horn Rapids Park Campground Hosts:**

It's been a long time coming, but new camp hosts have been found to oversee Horn Rapids Park. Benton County would like to introduce Joe and Dusty Wirtzberger as the new camp hosts. They are schoolteachers from Benton City who are looking forward to this new adventure of being camp hosts out at Horn Rapids. Noting that it could be a "game-changer" for park operations, Mr. Fyall wanted to particularly recognize Robert Blain and Mark Finkbeiner for helping to get this put in place.

- **Airsoft Presentation:**

Michael Seelinger, Morgan & Nicholas Shipman, and Craig Boyle, members of Mid-Columbia Airsoft Club (MCAC), introduced the park board to airsoft. It's a competitive combat simulation in which air guns are used with soft biodegradable BBs. The group is highly invested in safety first. Safety gear such as safety glasses and full-face masks for minors are required before being allowed to play. When non-players are nearby, they cease fire until safe to resume play. The group has been using Hover Park as a play area since 2008. They do their part in keeping the park clean for all users, don't harm the wildlife or the vegetation, and keep the game fun for everyone. The goal of MCAC is to expand their playable area with more building potential and eventually host games. The board has concerns about insurance liability issues. They also would like signage available to let other park goers know when a game is in progress or not. Member Emmingham

motioned that a subcommittee be formed to work with MCAC on a proposed designated airsoft play area. Member McBurney seconded the motion and upon vote it carried unanimously. Member Emmingham and member McBurney volunteered to be on the MCAC subcommittee.

▪ **Washington State Trails Coalition Lifetime Service Award Nomination:**

Jim Langdon, FOBM, will be nominated by Benton County to receive the Washington State Trails Coalition's Lifetime Service Award. Adam prepared a resolution for the park board members to sign and attach to the resolution that would go before the Benton County Commissioners in support of Mr. Langdon's nomination. Member Funk motioned that the park board support the nomination of Jim Langdon for the Washington State Coalition Lifetime Service Award. Member Emmingham seconded the motion and upon vote it carried unanimously.

▪ **Parks Comprehensive Plan-continued discussion with consultant:**

Tom met with the board to discuss the upcoming schedule for implementing the Comprehensive Park Plan. He discussed upcoming workshops and open houses. He reviewed the inventory with the board and asked about strategies on fitting more campgrounds, parks, etc. into urban areas. He took the board through the outreach survey and asked their opinion on what should/should not be included. Two things a survey should accomplish is 1) see what people are doing now & how extensively, and 2) critique or show where there are shortcomings and gaps in the system. He gave an overview of each park and where improvements can be made.

## Public Comments/Poll of the Board/Adjournment

### **Public Comment:**

No comment was received.

### **Poll of the Board:**

No further comment was received from the Board.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:10 pm.

Next regular meeting will be held the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of September 2022 at the Administration Building.