



BENTON COUNTY PARK BOARD
MEETING MINUTES

September 13, 2022, 6:30 p.m.
Benton County Administration Building

Board Members Present

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

Benton County Employees

Adam Fyall
Peggy Brown

Board Members Absent

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 September 13, 2022 agenda was approved as submitted.

Approval of Minutes

The amended Minutes of August 10, 2022 were approved as submitted.

Monthly Reports to the Board

Chair's Report

There was no report at this time.

Committee/Subcommittee Reports

The AirSoft committee reported that there is not a designated area in the parks for airsoft activities. It was suggested to meet with the Corps of Engineers and the county legal department to get their input about the issues and concerns regarding airsoft.

Staff Reports

Adam Fyall: Mr. Fyall informed the board that Yessica Rosas has resigned from her position on the park board. The remaining park board members suggested sending Yessica a thank you letter for her service on the board. Adam is excited that the camp host this season has worked out and has benefitted Horn Rapids. Joe and Dusty Wurtzberger have expressed an interest to return next season as camp host. Adam would like a count of those who'd like to attend the All-Area Park Boards Dinner. He also mentioned getting the dedication of the horse camp done soon.

Business

- **Washington State Parks Boating Program-Rob Sendak:**

The concept of this program is to educate young people in the use of human powered watercraft (i.e. canoes, kayaks, paddleboards) and to be safety conscious when engaging in water activities. The goal is to work with non-profits and the local community in getting the word out about the program and finding a place within the parks system to integrate it. There is no cost for kids to participate in the program, it educates kids in safety techniques, and looks for instructors that are American Canoe Association certified. The program received a \$25k No Child Left Inside Grant to help with costs.

- **Badger/Candy Mountains Volunteer Weed Corps-David Beach:**

David Beach (FOBM) wanted to update the park board on the weed situation at Badger and Candy Mountains. He said volunteers (FOBM) keep up the trails and manage the weeds. He said that noxious weeds are invasive and cause environmental damage which

meant a spray program had to be implemented to keep the weeds controlled. He mentioned the spray program has held up pretty good. He informed the board that the spray used targeted 3 invasive weeds - Yellow Starthistle, Rush Skeletonweed, and Russian Knapweed. The weeds this year have been less manageable due to the mild winter and wet spring, less volunteers being available, and where fires have burned the area. David also let the board know that there are scheduled times for weed pulling if anyone is interested or to get the word out on the Parks website for those wanting to volunteer.

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

Tom's main discussion point was the outreach survey results to date. He was quite pleased with the results. He mentioned that there were 852 completed surveys with the majority providing positive feedback. He was impressed with the averages that Benton County received. He also spoke to the park board about having a virtual open house vs in-person. He believes a virtual open house would be received by the community better than in-person. The virtual would be more engaging with an interactive map and a comments section with the option of being able to record the event. The second open house would take the comments from the first session and incorporate them into a more concept focused interactive map to narrow down the needs of the community. He plans to draft a program of the open house for the board to review. October 4th the park board will meet and give their thoughts about the open house draft program, and October 5th will be the open house event.

Public Comments/Poll of the Board/Adjournment

Public Comment:

Cindy Faith (PSR) said she took the survey and found the verbiage hard to understand.

George Hager (TCSA) said things are going well at the range. The range is going to start getting busy soon with hunting season around the corner.

Michael Silger (AirSoft) acknowledged that his group appreciates the efforts of the subcommittee.

Poll of the Board:

Sarah Funk enjoyed hearing the update on the outreach survey. She wanted to thank FOBM for the hard work at cleaning up the weeds.

Robin Emmingham enjoyed the great meeting. He appreciates the hard work FOBM is doing on the cleanup. He's looking forward to the October open house and survey update.

Karla Brown asked about the time frame of the survey and if an onsite meeting is still planned out at the shooting range.

Dave McNeal said he learned a lot from hearing about the efforts of FOBM regarding the weed removal. He feels that water safety makes sense but isn't sure how much the park board can do to help.

Kit McBurney felt the meeting was productive. She wanted to thank those in attendance and show appreciation for their hard work. She enjoyed the boating program presentation.

Laauli Faamausili wanted to thank the park partners and the consultant in getting the survey out to the public. He would like to explore the boating program in more detail.

Adam Fyall bookended the conversation on water safety by suggesting that the County, Tapteal Greenway, and perhaps others work to sponsor an event and ongoing efforts in partnership with the State Parks Boating Program, beginning with a local event next June.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:44 pm.

Next regular meeting will be held the 1st Tuesday of October 2022 at the Administration Building.