



BENTON COUNTY PARK BOARD
MEETING MINUTES

October 4, 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

Board Members Absent

Laauli Faamausili, Chair (excused)

Call to Order/Pledge of Allegiance/Roll Call

Vice Chair, Dave McNeal, called the meeting to order at 6:31 p.m. and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Review & Approval of Agenda

The October 4, 2022 agenda was approved as submitted.

Approval of Minutes

The amended Minutes of September 13, 2022 were approved as submitted.

Monthly Reports to the Board

Chair's Report

Vice Chair, Dave McNeal, spoke on behalf of the Chair in thanking Adam for the 110 page report and explanation in understanding the "red tape" with all of the park projects that are being done and needing to be addressed, such as, the restroom at Horse Heaven Vista, updating the Park Ordinances, Ebikes, AirSoft, updating the biographies of the park board members on the county website, and filling the vacant board position, etc.

Committee/Subcommittee Reports

The AirSoft committee will be meeting with Adam and the legal department Oct. 5th. A more in-depth report will be prepared after that meeting.

Staff Reports

Adam Fyall: Mr. Fyall informed the board that he is impressed with Ben Floyd and what he has done to help with the projects at Two Rivers. He also mentioned that the park board vacancy will be advertised.

Business

- **Yakima Greenway & Rail-to-Trail – Joel Freudenthal, Yakima County:**

Mr. Freudenthal presented to the board Yakima's Naches Cowiche Confluence Park Plan. In a nutshell, 163 acres were purchased with a RCOWWRP Grant and utility funds for a proposed park that would integrate the city of Yakima and the urban growth area. It would allow for a greater outdoor recreation opportunity and be an economic boom for Yakima, including a recovery plan for Steelhead that habitat the river.

- **Parks Comprehensive Plan-Tom Beckwith:**

The main point of discussion was the virtual open house that is to take place Oct. 5th. Tom informed the board on the concept of the virtual open house. He believes virtual vs in-person would have a more effective impact on the community. The virtual concept ties the visual maps to the survey questions that pertain to that specific area. He feels this way would be a more effective way in reaching the public and getting their ideas on how

the parks/trails are maintained. There is an option to record the presentation so that one can watch it later and the public has an opportunity for comment. With that being said, the comments can provide the board with the needs and concerns of the community.

Public Comments/Poll of the Board/Adjournment

Public Comment:

Cindy Faith (PSR) was impressed with the Yakima Greenway presentation. She is looking forward to the open house. She wanted to remind everyone of the Wine Ride scheduled for the last Saturday of October.

George Hager (TCSA) said things will be busy the next few weeks with hunting season and several scheduled matches.

Dan Chappel (RRR) wanted clarification on which gate was being moved. He also wanted all to know that Linda Smith was attending the meeting with him.

Poll of the Board:

Robin Emmingham is impressed with the outreach survey. He feels it's an "out of the box" survey. He's excited to see what the public has to say.

Karla Brown feels there would be more who attend the open house on-line rather than in-person.

Dave McNeal appreciates the opportunity to meet in person rather than on-line.

Kit McBurney appreciates the efforts of the park partners. She enjoyed the Yakima Greenway and the draft open house presentations.

Adam Fyall ended the night by mentioning that when a consultant is brought in, they sometimes will throw things in that you're not expecting, such as the music festivals at Horn Rapids.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:02 pm.

Next regular meeting will be held the 3rd Tuesday of November 2022 at the Administration Building.