



BENTON COUNTY PARK BOARD
MEETING MINUTES

December 13, 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
Laauli Faamausili, Chair

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 6:31 p.m. and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Review & Approval of Agenda

The December 13, 2022 agenda was approved as amended. Discussion of the calendar was added.

Approval of Minutes

The amended Minutes of November 15, 2022 were approved as submitted.

Monthly Reports to the Board

Chair's Report

There were no reports at this time.

Committee/Subcommittee Reports

The AirSoft committee has not met with Michael Seelinger directly only with Adam and the legal team. They are hoping to meet with him soon. Dave McNeal would like the signage committee to be revived so that further progress can continue with that process.

Staff Reports

Adam Fyall: Mr. Fyall presented his prepared written report with an addendum from Robert Blain. Mr. Fyall feels that we are in a good place with the Two Rivers projects even though things continue to move arduously slow. The compliance process is complete and ready to be sent to the Corps of Engineers. Dave McNeal submitted a list that he would like added to the minutes of priority projects.

Business

▪ **Parks Projects Update:**

Dave McNeal submitted a project list that he believes the Park board should consider a priority, especially the memorial for Donna Raines at Hover Park. Some other projects included the Horse Camp dedication, the County Park Ordinance update, E-bike discussion, AirSoft partnership possibly others, and improving the public outreach.

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

Mr. Beckwith, the County's Parks Plan consultant, assisted by Jennifer Kiusalaas, presented a Plan update and survey data. They attended and presented remotely from their respective homes on the West side of the state. The main point of discussion was the cost estimates for Horn Rapids and Hover Parks. The westside of Hover estimated out at \$901,549 for demolition/site work, paving, landscaping, fencing, railroad work, signage, etc. The majority of the cost would go to a bridge and restroom. A chain link fence would be put in to prevent unwanted access to the park. The eastside of Hover estimated out at close to \$5.5 million for demolition/site work, paving, site improvements

such as boat launch, landing dock, viewpoint, restroom/picnic shelter, playground, etc. The park does not have utilities or water so the landscape would be native drought tolerant plants/foilage. Horn Rapids estimated out at close to \$3.3 million for demolition/site work, paving, renovating of the park office, viewpoint, Amphitheatre, etc. The RV park at Horn Rapids would see improvements to the clubhouse, office, laundry, campsites, picnic tables etc. to an estimated cost of around \$4.9 million.

The survey results showed that the main priority was to preserve the ridgelines on the different trails. Mr. Beckwith pointed out that the projects highlighted in yellow can be achievable within the first 6 years.

He mentioned that at the January meeting he'll look at how the projects highlighted in yellow will/can be financed. He mentioned three avenues of financing: 1) what volunteers can do; 2) what other groups are willing to do; and 3) what Benton County would be responsible for. The January meeting will focus on the financing aspect of the park plan.

Public Comments/Poll of the Board/Adjournment

Public Comment:

Cindy Faith (PSR) loved the presentation and to be able to see the scope of the cost involved. She said her chapter has set Mar. 11, 2023 as a clean-up day at Hover. She is excited to see where Hover Park goes. She's excited about the Donna Raines Memorial.

George Hager (TCSA) said there isn't much going on at the range with the inclement weather.

Dan Chappel (RRR) is looking forward to 2023. He let everyone know that he brought 2023 calendars for those who wanted one. He liked the presentation and would like to participate where he can.

David Beach (FOBM) mentioned that some of the irrigation districts are changing their attitude about using the canals for trails. He also noticed that FOBM was not mentioned as being a contributor on some of Mr. Beckwith's participants listings.

Michael Seelinger (AirSoft) was glad he could attend the meeting.

Poll of the Board:

Robin Emmingham missed meeting in person. He's intrigued with the planning process, the expansion of the trails, and the long-term projects at Hover and Horn Rapids. He liked Dave McNeal's priority list and is looking forward to 2023.

Karla Brown was glad Kit and Dave could be at the meeting in person. She wanted to thank Dave for bringing up Donna Raines. She would like to see that project move forward, talk more about it with the board.

Dave McNeal is interested in the ideas that were brought up at the meeting. He wanted to thank Dan for the calendars and for those who participated.

Kit McBurney wanted to thank the park partners, Dan for the calendar, and Dave for the project list.

Sarah Funk wanted to thank those who participated. She liked seeing the progress on the park plan. She is receptive to having a weekend workshop to have more time to discuss priority projects.

Laauli Faamausili wanted to thank the park partners. He echoed the sentiments of the board. He is looking forward to getting together with the board.

Adam Fyall ended the night by saying that he will look at the projects in the survey and re-prioritize according to what the board would like to see finished first.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:00 pm.

Next regular meeting will be held the 3rd Tuesday of January 2023 at the Administration Building.