

BENTON COUNTY NATURAL AREAS & PARKS ADVISORY BOARD MEETING
February 9, 2011

Meeting Minutes

Park Board Members: Dick Bryant, Tom Bucht, Phil Hays, Denise Nervik, Randy Rasmussen,
Janine Salwasser, and Jay Sexton
Guest: David Reed, Comprehensive Plan Consultant
Staff: Jeff Powers, Mary Simpson

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 7:04 p.m.

New member, Janine Salwasser, introduced herself, and the advisory board members introduced themselves.

II. COMMENTS FROM CITIZENS -- None

III. BUSINESS

A. Approval of January 12, 2011 Advisory Board Meeting Minutes – Approved as distributed

Randy inquired about policies for determining uses of sites, and whether these would be appendices to the Comprehensive Plan. It was noted that staff will generally decide on uses, priorities and determinations, especially if there are permanent changes to usage of sites. David indicated that the plan could expand on classification, strategies and management, including ½ - 1-page descriptions or guidelines at the end of the plan (not necessarily appendices) for making decisions on tough issues, such as the Benton County Resource Naming Policy.

B. March 17, 2011 Combined Advisory Boards' Meeting (City, County & Greenbelt Land Trust)

- Powers reported that the combined advisory boards' meeting will begin at 6:30 p.m.; location is being determined.

C. Natural Areas & Parks System Comprehensive Plan

- David Reed distributed an agenda, including Stakeholder Reviews of the Vision Diagram; advisory board continued review of the Vision Diagram, Mission Statement, Policy Goals, and Classification System. He noted need for a work session concerning draft implementation strategies and draft project list; he also emphasized reference to management plans for sites, including Beazell Memorial Forest, Fitton Green, Fort Hoskins Historic Park and Jackson-Frazier Wetland.
- David shared stakeholder reviews of the draft Vision Diagram – “Implementing the Vision” through interviews conducted by Jerry Davis, with Mike Totey (OR Dept. of Forestry), Michael Pope (Greenbelt Land Trust) and Mike Harvey (Siuslaw National Forest). Mike Totey indicated Yaquina Falls (transferred from Starker to ODF) as a collaborative opportunity to share Benton County’s expertise, as they move towards a site management plan. Michael Pope indicated collaborative support, and noted caution when talking about “continuous trails;” noted differences between Willamette Greenway and greenway zoning. Mike Harvey wants to open conversations about expanded camping opportunities at Marys Peak, a strategic location with only 6 primitive campsites and high rate of vandalism; open to collaborative ventures with Benton County. It was emphasized that the Vision Diagram is dynamic and changing.

- David noted that the Habitat Conservation Plan Implementation necessitates designating and managing Prairie Conservation Areas
- Areas are viewed as corridors, systems (Willamette River Water Trail; Natural Areas & Prairie Conservation Areas; Alsea River Recreation Corridor; Special Use Areas; and Collaborative Opportunities with Others); trails plan for connectivity; piece all together with communities and multi-modal trails; collaborative opportunities in different corridors
- Anderson Park – day use OK, no night use; sensitive to recreational management component and working with adjacent landowners
- Long Tom River – potential for creating a multi-use trail connection along river between Monroe community and Willamette River at Norwood Island
- East Thornton Lake – as a collaborative opportunity? [Jeff will discuss with Albany Parks]
- Fort Hoskins Historic Park – cultural, historical and natural resource values; eventually plan to have interpretive center
- Corvallis to Albany Trail – will be included on trail component
- Janine noted importance of biodiversity, with explicit themes for collaborating and well-rounded content; unique values that contribute to water basin as a whole
- Stewardship Management Plans (at 90% draft) for Beazell Memorial Forest, Fort Hoskins Historic Park and Fitton Green Natural Area will have roles in Vision Diagram
- Discussion items:
 - ❖ Marys Peak – all-season campground could be located at lower elevation; recognize difficulties for Siuslaw to control and deal with vandalism
 - ❖ Luckiamute State Natural Area – have excellent, well-documented Master Plan; site needs access, viewing, fishing, no wake zone, better areas for children
 - ❖ State Parks 2004 on site surveys indicate need for peace and quiet
 - ❖ Hyak Park – as potential campground; better to have additional land, other uses
 - ❖ Salmonberry Campground – potential for adding yurts or cabins
 - ❖ Adair – factor campground into Master Planning process
 - ❖ Potential river campgrounds – have impacts on riparian forest
 - ❖ Benton County (Comprehensive Plan) outreach meetings and online survey – positive responses for (additional) campgrounds/facilities
 - ❖ Willamette Water Trail – get people to connect to river; work with agencies and private landowners; try to understand what’s happening in/on river
 - ❖ Linn County and State – working to reconnect Bowers Rock site
 - ❖ Mid-Willamette Reach Partners - list: add University of Oregon and Oregon Department of Forestry
 - ❖ Meyer Memorial Trust (MMT) and Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB) – partners with funding potential for river restoration; MMT taking leadership role with shared river information and strategic planning
 - ❖ Draft Flood Plain Priorities Map – focus on specific areas along Willamette River
 - ❖ Willamette Special Investment Partnership (SIP) – grant/funding support (primarily MMT and OWEB) to restore Willamette River floodplain function and flood channel complexity, focus on key anchor habitats, including: Luckiamute Landing and Little Willamette
- The group determined to utilize the “approved draft” *Vision Statement* (10/25/10)

- Discussion: Biological, Cultural, and Historical components; broaden appeal to all – family- and culturally-oriented; important to get kids involved
 - **Mission Statement** – length of statement discussed; group consensus: if narrowed down, will lose essence
 2nd paragraph – need stronger statement regarding community understanding of the value of nature; connecting people with land; commitment to biodiversity; should be relevant to all people
 3rd paragraph – under “Accessibility” include cultural diversity; promote better understanding of how cultural differences should be recognized in meeting needs of all demographics (e.g. Hispanic families tend toward multi-family groups that require group facilities for picnicking & other recreational activities
 Fold in historical and cultural emphasis in mission statement in next to last sentence
 - **Policy Goals** give policy direction, but not too specific;
 “Sustainability” – broaden to include a commitment to “Green Standards” in facility management and development, recognizing county’s role in adapting to climate and energy change forecasts
 - **Classification System/Typology** – reviewed, including: Natural Resource Areas and Habitats (Beazell Memorial Forest, Fitton Green Natural Area and Jackson-Frazier Wetland); Historic and Cultural Sites (Fort Hoskins Historic Park, County Courthouse grounds and Crystal Lake Cemetery); River Recreation Corridors (Alsea: Clemens Park, Campbell, Mill Creek, & Salmonberry boat landings; Willamette: Hyak, Irish Bend, Anderson); Trails, Water Trails, Multi-Use Pathways (Midge Cramer Pathway, Benton County Bikeways, Willamette River Water Trail); Special Parks/Use Areas: Adair Park, Bellfountain Park, North Albany Park, Salmonberry Campground; Conservation and Trail Easements: Norwood Island Cons. Easement, Midge Cramer Path. May need special designations/classifications for Corvallis-to-the-Sea Trail and Willamette River Water Trail. The group indicated that historic and cultural sites should be limited to sites or structures of a historical register quality.
 - David indicated that the group will next consider implementation strategies and draft project list.
- D. Grants/Projects/Budget Updates
- Jeff reported that staff is working diligently on the proposed Biennium 2011-2013 budget, including Capital Improvement Projects.
- E. Other Business - None
- IV. ADJOURNMENT – The meeting adjourned at 9:20 p.m.