

BENTON COUNTY NATURAL AREAS & PARKS ADVISORY BOARD MEETING
April 13, 2011

Meeting Minutes

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

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 7:08 p.m.

II. COMMENTS FROM CITIZENS -- None

III. BUSINESS

A. Approval of February 9, 2011 Advisory Board Meeting Minutes – Approved as distributed
Review of March 17, 2011 draft minutes of Joint Advisory Boards' (City, County &

Greenbelt Land Trust) meeting – Edits to be made: page 1 – MLK Park (aka Walnut Park) is incorrect designation; should be Alan Berg or Orleans Natural Area; page 4 – spelling error: V. Trail Website Concept (“b” left out); in 3rd paragraph: ...interfacing with Willamette Basin (not Oregon) Explorer; She suggested that the collective group (not County) might want to put its investment....

➤ March 17, 2011 Minutes accepted unanimously with (above) corrections.

B. Comments/Discussion about March 17 Joint Meeting

- Janine indicated that it's great for the groups to meet and to form sub-committees for interest areas; however, she felt that this recent meeting did not involve real discussion of issues, so calling it a “work session” might be misleading.
- Phil noted that the joint meetings are meant to include sharing with each other and telling the other groups what each agency is doing. He emphasized that most “joint issues” center around natural areas, particularly since we don't have the extensive recreational component; City and Greenbelt have natural areas, which require management plans
- Jeff indicated that the joint meetings are an appropriate forum for comments and opinions from advisory boards' members
- Ellen indicated that subcommittees were formed because of members' passions, and suggested that the groups consider having two meetings each year, to allow for more opportunities; she hoped that there would be strength of collaboration to apply toward opportunities for grants
- Jeff noted that a recent OWEB grant includes input from all 3 groups; a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) will include the 3 groups. He also noted that we are working with City Parks on equipment sharing and marketing opportunities
- Janine emphasized that prioritizing restoration and conservation is a good shared area.
- Ellen suggested that it would be helpful to identify primary areas of collaboration, and continue to set goals
- Denise noted that the Trail Connections Committee gave high priority status to the proposed connection of (County) Beazell Memorial Forest with (OSU) McDonald Forest, with the Sierra Club being “quietly supportive” due to perceived impacts on area's timber companies.

- Phil indicated that routes are chosen, while noting effects on timber harvest/priorities; McDonald Forest has been an area where research projects have been viewed in contrast to recreationists.
- C. Natural Areas & Parks System Comprehensive Plan
- David Reed noted that preparation of the Comprehensive Plan is behind schedule, so we need to push for efficiencies. Don Ganer, who has parks' funding expertise, was injured, and not released for work by his doctor; a person in his company will begin work on the "Funding Plan." David also noted that everything is open to discussion with the preliminary/first draft sent to the advisory board for review. A number of items need to be integrated into the document, including photos, population/diversity, Statewide Outdoor Recreation Plan findings, etc. Staff had noted that the system analysis is weak; we need to explain the Benton County Natural Areas and Parks system, with comprehensive descriptions of our sites. David indicated need for vision diagram map and trails system plan map. The *Trail System Plan* will be integrated into the document, along with Benton County Public Works transportation projects. The appendices will include separate background reports, analyses, etc.
 - The group agreed that the Table of Contents is readable and has good flow; page numbers should eventually be added.
 - Janine indicated having quite a number of small detail comments, and suggested that a WORD document might allow everyone to make edits and return them to David. Janine inquired about analysis of trails near schools, with a map showing locations of school and trails. Jeff noted that the Health Department focus has been on South Corvallis and Monroe; he will check on a possible Benton County map that combines locations of schools, grocery stores and trails.
 - David indicated that the Trail System Plan section (page 23+) includes vision concepts and guidelines supported by public comments, along with trail plan priorities, or projects.
 - The question came up about how much Benton County should be involved with the Willamette River Water Trail. It was noted that it's a tremendous opportunity, close by; with the number of Benton County Willamette River properties, we need to support. State focus is primarily on greenway lands.
 - Ellen inquired about numbers of constituents who use water trails (i.e. Willamette River) compared to using land trails. She indicated that our focus seems more on access, rather than the Willamette River Water Trail. She noted that the Willamette River Water Trail is an interest and concern for many groups/agencies, above and beyond Benton County Natural Areas and Parks Department.
 - David indicated the all-inclusive aspect, both coming to the river and using the river. He noted that public perception is important, and that it may be challenging to accomplish river access priorities, especially in terms of concerns of private landowners. He suggested exploring ways to assure public projects address concerns for potential impacts on private lands.
 - Janine suggested having an explanation paragraph for all trail priorities/projects, noting that we will do whichever projects for which there is opportunity; need to have descriptions, length of each trail within Benton County, so readers will know the scope of projects. She also noted that projects could be ranked by feasibility and according to services for under-served citizens.
 - Phil commented that the Willamette River Water Trail (itself) is not so much our priority as is river access. He also indicated that the trails portion is incomplete, noting that the trail connections committee recommended 55 objectives; Public Works and GIS have

additional objectives, some of which are listed in the B.C. Transportation Plan. He suggested making a complete list of all projects, to be used as a separate document.

- The group agreed that page 25 title should be “Benton County Trail Plan Priority Projects” and combined with projects on page 26. The numbers on all projects on both pages should be removed, using bullets for items. It was also recommended that the 1st item on page 26 should be rolled in with the 3rd item on page 25. It also need to be made clear that river access between Corvallis and Irish Bend Park refers to connections located between the two Benton County sites, and not along the river.
- David indicated that the Implementation Plan/Implementation Strategies are logical ways to respond to policy goals.
- It was recommended that numbers for items on pages 27-31 might be deleted, so items can be bulleted. The 4th item under “Exemplary System” should be placed towards the top of that (bulleted) list.
- The 1st item of “Education and Community Awareness” is “Staffing” which should incorporate grants and education/public outreach components, including Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP)
- It was recommended that the “Staffing” section might work better as less of a ‘job description’ format
- Ellen suggested adding coordination of volunteers to “Staffing”
- Janine suggested adding collaborating with OSU on oral histories to “Education and Community Awareness” section
- The group noted shifting demographics, and recommended need for cultural programs with ethnic emphasis, with particular concentration on Hispanics
- “Demonstration Projects” might include Jackson-Frazier Wetland
- David distributed previously proposed edits for the “Classification System” – listing the purpose and function of sites provides management direction, etc.
- It was suggested that the first Classification Type be “Natural Areas and Habitats” (delete the word “Resource”)
- It was suggested that Historic and Cultural ~~Parks~~/Sites (delete the word “Parks”) not be limited to those on a Historic Register (or potential for listing)
- Remove examples for each classification category and tie to the Vision Diagram site narratives
- Sites located on the Willamette River generally provide river access, such as Hyak Park
- Janine noted that some sites have multiple classifications; e.g. Bellfountain Park has significant historic and cultural components; change the category for Bellfountain Park from “Special” “Historic and Cultural.”
- Phil suggested listing all sites, with sub-lists of all appropriate classifications (categories that apply to each site), which tie back to descriptions; he noted that need to have policy for changing uses of sites
- Janine inquired about using icons that correspond to all classifications (similar to legends on maps)
- Dick suggested adding the ‘Swiss Wanderweg’ concept under ‘System Wayfinding and Sign Plan’ (page 28).
- Additional review/recommendations:
 - Page 2 --
 - Page 6 – eliminate Reed Noss quote (and don’t replace quote)
 - Page 6 – make roles of HCP clear – ensuring full compliance with endangered species
 - Page 15 – Mission Statement OK as is

Page 16 – 3rd paragraph of “Policy Goals”- *Education & Community Awareness*: change to learning opportunities for everyone (not just children and youth); *Leadership* – remove last sentence “Maintain an active facilitator role.” *Sustainability* – add statement about supporting Benton County in adapting to climate change and energy.....using green standards and management

Phil re-emphasized the need for putting page numbers into Table of Contents

Page 26 – Add an explanation paragraph for all TRAIL projects

- It was suggested that the next draft plan, with edits/changes be forwarded in WORD format for ease of review and further edits; when next version sent, give specific date due for comments.

D. Grants/Projects/Budget Updates

- Jeff and Phil reported on plans to move the historic ‘Sheridan House’ (currently located at Pedee, and previously located at Fort Hoskins Historic Park) back to Fort Hoskins. The house is 153 years old, and a recently acquired painting (from the family of Captain Augur, who garrisoned Fort Hoskins from 1856 to 1861) shows few outward differences between the house then and now.
- Phil and Jeff shared CAD drawings of the house that Phil created, with dimensions that will help determine weight of the house. Helicopters can lift 25,000 pounds; engineers’ estimate of the house is 10 – 12,000 pounds. Helicopter costs are estimated at \$30,000 - \$35,000. (It was suggested that we try to get a portion of the costs donated.)
- When asked if the house will fall apart when moved, Phil responded that a steel frame is placed under the structure, which is on a hillside, so frame placement is easier; the chimney will be entirely removed; the frame will go up high enough on the house so cables don’t rub or do damage. Something will be needed on top, or the downdraft could blow the roof off.
- Moving the house would be a total of between 5.3 and 7 miles by air, so the helicopter will need to land and refuel (it begins from a Portland area site); there is flat land near the house that could be used for landing and refueling. The helicopter with house can not fly over occupied houses; there are also rules/laws regarding flying over certain roads/highways.
- Phil indicated that the flagpole at Fort Hoskins won’t be done, which leaves space for landing and placing the structure.
- Phil noted that he would like to create 3-D sketches of all the buildings --- pre-fort, during the fort, and after.
- Janine mentioned that the Oregon Heritage Program (*corrected 5/11/11, as Biodiversity Information Center*) has digitized records of the historical vegetation at Fort Hoskins (and other sites).

E. Other Business

- Jeff distributed agendas for the Benton County Budget Committee review of 2011-13 proposed budget(s) for the 3 Avery departments and Fairgrounds: Tuesday, April 26, 2011, 6:30 – 8:30 p.m. at Benton Plaza Meeting Room (Basement). A department budget synopsis, prepared by Budget Office, will be forwarded to advisory board members.

IV. ADJOURNMENT – The meeting adjourned at 9:07 p.m.