



Benton County

Public Health Planning Advisory Committee

(PHPAC) October 19, 2016 Minutes

Present: Lesli Uebel, Louise Marstall, Barbara Hanley, Paul Hochfeld, Karen Elliott, Sandi Bean (Chair) & Judy Sundquist (Vice-Chair)

Excused: Marisa Thierheimer & Roxanne Shaw

Guests: Molly Curry

Staff: Charlie Fautin, Sara Hartstein & Tatiana Dierwechter

I. Call to Order and Introductions

The meeting was called to order at 6:01 p.m. by Chair Bean.

II. Approval of September 2016 Minutes

The September 2016 minutes were presented for approval.

MOTION was made to approve the September 2016 minutes as written; motion seconded; all in favor, so approved.

III. North Albany Park - Sara Harstein & Tatiana Dierwechter, Healthy Communities, Benton County Health Services (BCHS)

Handout: North Albany Park Map

The North Albany Park is a county park located in the City of Albany that has multiple bordering residences. In May 2016, a developer donated a section of land to Benton County Natural Areas and Parks. The Natural Areas and Parks Department asked the Healthy Communities team of the Health Department to help with the master planning process.

Healthy Communities staff performed outreach and engagement through:

- Key informant interviews to learn about North Albany residential concerns and opinions. Many of these were neighbors, worked at local schools, or at the City of Albany.
- Online surveys were sent through networks suggested by key informants and in service event surveys were collected.
- In park intercept surveys were completed by interns, community members and Natural Areas and Parks staff.
- In park observations for two weeks.

Other items taken into planning consideration included: crime prevention through environmental design (lighting, bathrooms, trails, line of sight) and an American's with Disabilities Act (ADA) assessment.

- All data collected was compiled into concepts and shared at a community meeting of over 60 residents. Attendees shared the pros and cons for each concept and then voted on the overall most important concept for the park.
- Experts (sheriff, transportation, environmental sustainability planners) were also in attendance to address questions any community members had.
- During the planning phase, over 160 trees were removed from the park that had infestation and disease. Longtime residents commented that removal of the trees caused a dramatic change in the landscape of the park.

Where specifically is the park? From N. Albany Rd. take Gibson Hill Rd. and the park is at the end of Crocker.

Could you talk about the density of the neighborhood? A little higher income, older aged and predominantly white population.

- Health department staff still interpreted all materials into Spanish to include all populations and model the process for other departments.
- Additional outreach took place with the Home Owners Association to discuss existing trail completions.

Will all the access will be through Crocker? Yes, the only way to get there by car is up Valley View and Hillcrest. Residents did not want more parking put in.

Is it bikeable to get there? The park is currently surrounded by residential homes on rural roads, but the City of Albany has plans to upgrade the roads to Crocker.

Was the planning more about adult usage? Families are moving in even though there are many older adult only homes. The healthy communities team and planners have families in mind and are looking to include parents with strollers, ADA requirements, etc. into the plan. Committee members were interested in what was asked on the survey. Residents were mostly asked:

- What characteristics they like most about this park and what would they like to see changed. If they had never visited they were asked what they would like to see most in a park.

***Healthy Communities staff to send the survey information to the PHPAC.**

Director Fautin commented on how the project was a great example of policy development, healthy design, and healthy communities through community based intervention, policy based intervention and design based interventions shared among multiple jurisdictions.

- A previous grant the health department and Natural Areas and Parks department received from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, allowed a staff member to work at both departments for five years.
- This helped both departments learn about each other, cross fertilize and teach others to keep health (equity, inclusion, multi-generational health, determinants of health) in mind while planning and building. At the same time, the health department learned about municipality and park and recreational design.
- Even though the grant ended, the outcomes of that project totally changed the way both departments operate, collaborate and build relationships, which continue to this day.

The North Albany Park project led to great collaboration and relationship building, where there had previously been a gap in engagement between North Albany residents and Benton County.

IV. Annual Retreat

- In the past, PHPAC has held annual retreats in September to discuss what the committee would like to work on or learn more about in the coming year. One of the commissioners is usually in attendance.

- The committee tentatively scheduled the retreat in January in lieu of their regular meeting on the 18th. Member Hanley will look into holding the retreat at a clubhouse in her neighborhood and member Hochfeld offered to provide his home as a back-up location.

V. Member Activity Reports

- Member Marstall discussed the Conference on Aging that provided information about housing and care for aging populations. Marstall appreciated the networking opportunities and getting to meet administrators responsible for the programs. Marstall also noted there was a lot of information on proposed policy regarding earned income tax credits, affordable housing and single payer healthcare.
- *What is the committee interested in learning about over the next few months?* The committee would like to review the Rand Report at the end of November, revisit immunizations, analyze the future of the Affordable Care Act (access to healthcare), address the homeless population, and hear what Benton County is doing to prepare for natural disasters.
- Guest Curry enjoyed the variety of lectures offered at the Oregon Public Health Association (OPHA) and commented that public health in Oregon is progressive and seemed to be in agreement and heading in the same direction.
- Member Elliott joined the Oral Health section of the OPHA and enjoyed networking opportunities and both keynote speakers.
- The Presidents of both Washington and Oregon's Schools of Public Health attended the entire conference. Members appreciated the collaboration between both presidents.
- Member Sundquist enjoyed new information from the climate change presentation. Oregon was one of five grantees awarded funding for climate change projects and was the only state that pushed all the funds to the local level. Benton County's Emergency Preparedness Coordinator was one staff member who helped develop a climate change adaptation plan that was presented to the Board of Commissioners and acknowledged by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Chair Bean asked the committee to think about broadening membership invitations to businesses, other cultures, genders, the food industry, and faith based organizations.

Director Fautin announced that the Board of Commissioners recently approved funding to update the courthouse, public works and health departments.

- The courthouse is currently rated unescapable and non-survivable in the event of an earthquake.
- Public works is overcrowded and will receive a second story at their facility. Staff will be temporarily housed in the Sunset building until construction is over.
- Some health department staff (public health, healthy communities, and health department administrators) will be moved to the Sunset building permanently when Public Works has moved back into their building.
- Funding is coming from a grant awarded the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Association to the clinic (federally qualified health center of the health department), funds the health department has been saving for relocating, and funds the county plans to borrow for an operating loan.

VII. Next Meeting

The next PHPAC meeting is scheduled for November 16th in the Siletz Meeting room of the Benton County Health Department.

The December meeting is scheduled for December 14th, (a week early) in lieu of the regular meeting date on the 21st.

VIII. Adjourn

MOTION was made to adjourn; motion seconded; all in favor, so approved.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:31 p.m. by Chair Bean.