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## **BENTON COUNTY NATURAL AREAS & PARKS ADVISORY BOARD MEETING**

### **MINUTES**

**September 8, 2021  
6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.**

#### **GOTO MEETING**

**Please join my meeting from your computer, tablet or smartphone.**

<https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/654013333>

**You can also dial in using your phone.**

United States: +1 (646) 749-3122

**Access Code: 654-013-333**

**Committee Members Present:** Mary Derr, Bob Hansen, David Smith, Jackie Hastings, Elizabeth Spatafora, Dan Rosenberg, Suzanne Lazaro, and Bryce Downey.

**Committee Members Absent:**

**County Staff Present:** Lynne McKee, Natural Areas, Parks & Events Director; Jesse Ott, Natural Areas, Parks & Events Deputy Director; Adam Stebbins, Natural Resources Coordinator; Leanna Buck, Recorder.

#### **I. Introduction of Guests & New Board Member**

Lynn introduced our new Board Member Bryce Downey. Bryce introduced himself to everyone and gave a little bit about his background. The current board went around and introduced themselves as well.

#### **II. BUSINESS**

##### **A. Approval of August Minutes**

Suzanne moved to approve the minutes as revised, Elizabeth seconded the minutes. Motion passed unanimously.

##### **B. Action Items Discussion ~ Jackie**

Lynn follow up on the application for our new member. Adam brought up the document that is labeled Red Flag Warning. He then explained what unit Benton County and our trail systems are in. He went through the document so that members could understand what constitutes a Red Flag warning or extreme weather events and the combination of both. He then went over how many times in the 2020 year that these events happened.

He also talked about extreme weather restrictions that ODF enforced and the events that have happened this year. He then talked about a research paper that was done in the science journal that detailed how complicated the Red Flag Warning declarations are and what some of the inherent issues once they are issued. Adam advised that he will send all of the the Board for review.

**C. Old Forest Analysis - Beazell Pilot Project ~ Adam**

Adam recapped the stewardship plan update of 2020. Based on the data and discussions it was agreed that Beazell was the best place to start. He then went over the document that he put together to describe to everyone how he came up with the approach. He also went over the maps and described each region and age classification. [Adam will email all of the maps and information out to the Board. He will also try to coordinate a fieldtrip with interested park board members, to ground truth proposed old forest conservations stand locations.](#) In addition, Adam will be completing on ground GPS mapping of proposed conservation units. Updated mapping of conservation units and addendum to stewardship plan will occur. Adam noted that proposed changes would likely need to be approved by the Board of Commissioners, if requested by the Department Directors, as the old forest conservation areas will have a major impact on long term revenue generation from Beazell Memorial Forest timber harvests. Dan, David and Bob would like to participate in the field day that Adam will work on planning

**D. Trail Closure Procedure Update -**

Jesse reported on the trail closure event that occurred from August 13<sup>th</sup> to August 15<sup>th</sup>, 2021, which was triggered by a combination of a red flag warning and extreme fire danger, as prescribed by Benton County Natural Areas, Parks and Events (NAPE) recently adapted trail closure protocol. The following other land owners/managers were consulted prior to the closure were OSU, City of Corvallis, Greenbelt Land Trust and Crestmont Land Trust. Only Benton County and Crestmont Land Trust agreed to close their trails. The others did not feel the closure was warranted. The decision to close NAPE trails at Fitton Green trail head access off of Panorama drive as well as Crestmont Land Trust at the Cardwell Hill Road access. These closures were made consultation with Oregon Department of Forestry. Jesse felt that the NAPE response was good as far as signage and communication went.

**E. Board Retreat ~ Lynne**

Lynne advised that the Fair board is having a retreat to strategize long term goals and how to move forward on projects and where to put funding. She would like to look at having a retreat for the Parks Board and asked if there was interest in having the retreat during a standing meeting or if they would want to carve out time on an upcoming weekend. She said she would like to make it on a time when the most people could attend. She also asked if people would want to meet in a building and spread out or if they would rather continue with Zooms. [Lynne will send a poll out to achieve dates and whether we meet in person or via zoom.](#) Adam shared that in 2018, there was significant work completed for strategy development including 3<sup>rd</sup> party facilitated staff planning sessions. Previous Director didn't utilize the strategy documents and data collected. Adam shared all the information collected from this past work and recommended it be utilized for a Board retreat. In addition, [Adam will work with Outdoor Ed/Rec intern to develop a comprehensive presentation overview of the department organization.](#)

**F. Park Project Updates ~ Jesse**

Jesse advised that we are diving a lot into what it will take to replace the Jackson Frazier Board Walk. He also reported that we are looking at new pit toilets at Salmonberry and Campbell Park. Working on getting the permits for those in now. David asked about the Adair Park Master Plan and where it's at. Jesse advised that it's still at its infancy and that they are currently working on it now.

Jackie added that the Courthouse is being repurposed and they will be doing a remodel. Tonight was the first meeting and Jackie advised that she would be happy to send along the information to everyone regarding what is happening with it. Lynn advised that she has been put in charge of the Courthouse feasibility study and would be happy to pass information along as well

**III. MEETING ADJOURNMENT ~ 7:54pm**

**Please visit us at: <http://www.co.benton.or.us/parks/>**