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

### **MINUTES**

**June 9, 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/459384125>

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United States: [+1 \(224\) 501-3412](tel:+12245013412)

**Access Code:** 459-384-125

**Committee Members Present:** Jackie Hastings, Dan Rosenberg, Mary Derr, David Smith, Bob Hansen, Travis Obermire, Suzanne Lazaro, and Ellen Tappon.

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

#### **I. Introduction of Guests**

#### **II. BUSINESS**

##### **A. Approval of April Minutes**

Suzanne moved to approve the minutes as written. David seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

##### **B. Trail Closure Plan with City of Corvallis, Greenbelt, OSU**

Jess talked about needing to create a procedure for trail closures in the event of a natural disaster, wildfire or high fire danger. He has been meeting with local partners regarding this issue to explore the possibility of a trail closure. They have been researching trigger point parameters and logistics. They are also working on continuity across the board. They discussed ramifications and the lack of enforcement of those closures. The group has been getting quite a bit of feedback from ODF regarding this issue. It was advised to largely increase education and

notification instead of trail closure. As well as signage regarding fire danger and for the community to reach out to us to report any issues. Jesse asked the Park Board about their thoughts on this as well. Dan offered his point of view about what he has experienced while living next to Macdonald Dunn forest. David gave his opinion regarding enforcement of the rules and developing a process for closures.

**C. Department Recruitment Updates**

Jesse advised that the applications have been received for both positions that were posted and each one has great potential. He is very enthusiastic about getting the help back that was lost through retirement and promotion. He is hoping that by July 1<sup>st</sup> that we will be fully staffed.

**D. Bench Proposal**

Jesse talked about the bench proposal that was submitted just before Memorial Day. He advised that the Staff recommendation is to move forward with the installation of the bench. He then asked the Board their thoughts. There was a concern regarding stability of the bench and the possibility to sue the county over injuries. Dan felt that it would be important that the County has the right to remove the bench at any time due to safety concerns. Jesse shared that the maintenance staff would do a thorough review of the plans before moving forward with the installation. David moved that we accept the proposal with the caveat that the staff has the right to deny the install if it's found that it's not adequate. Suzanne seconded the motion. Motion passed.

**E. Outdoor Education & Recreation Update**

**a) 2020 Park Use Estimation & Survey Report - Final**

Adam advised that he sent out the final surveys of the 2020 year. These are now closed and we are moving forward to other projects. David thanked Adam for re-writing the Park Use Estimation Report and how great it was.

**b) Recent & Scheduled Events**

Adam reported that they have secured all of their events for the summer. Since surveys are done the intern is moving forward with other trail issues and projects. Adam also advised that there are no events until July with the K-12 recreation activities.

**F. Beazell Road Maintenance Project Update**

Working on rocking the road networks at Beazell and bringing the south unit up to road standards so that they can get the logging operation done next year.

**G. Park Project Updates**

The Bellfountain playground has been completed and the wood chips have been delivered. He shared that the delivery guy cracked concrete when delivering the chips. Shane has been working with the company to reimburse the county for the repairs by donating a new water fountain instead. Friday July 16<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm will be the grand opening of the new playground.

The Adair Clubhouse is almost finished and look absolutely amazing. This was a massive facelift for the clubhouse and it looks almost completely different than it did prior. Lynn encouraged everyone to go check it out. The original budget was

\$55,000 for the project but as they got into repairs it was found that there were many more issues that needed to be addressed so Lynn was able to get additional funding to take care of those other issues. She and Jesse advised that the collaboration between Kate the new owner and our staff has been great.

#### H. Updates from AFRANA

Suzanne reported that the Ft. Hoskins event this last weekend went extremely well. She shared that AFRANA has been really focused on the Jackson Frazier Boardwalk replacement. They have been working with the Park intern on the cost analysis for that.

#### I. Other

Lynn shared that she is hoping to create a very robust volunteer program for the parks department and that it is one of her goals to bring the framework she puts together to the park board with in the next few months. David offered to work with and help Lynne as she puts the framework together. Suzanne offered help too.

Jackie had a question about terms and advising that she, David, Travis and Ellen all got letters stating that their terms are up in June. Lynne advised that she will reach out to the Board Of Commissioners office to get this ironed out.

### III. MEETING ADJOURNMENT ~ 7:14pm

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