



**Benton  
County**

**NATURAL AREAS, PARKS  
& EVENTS DEPARTMENT**

Natural Areas, Parks  
& Events Department  
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## **BENTON COUNTY NATURAL AREAS & PARKS ADVISORY BOARD MEETING**

### **MINUTES**

**February 10, 2021**

#### **GOTO MEETING**

<https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/913988453>

One-touch: tel [+1 \(786\) 535-3211](tel:+17865353211)

Access Code: 913-988-453

**360 SW Avery Ave., Corvallis  
6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.**

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

**Committee Members Absent:** Ellen Tappon.

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

#### **I. Introduction of Guests and New Members**

Welcome to our three new members, Amy Becker, Bob Hansen, and Mary Derr!!

#### **II. BUSINESS**

##### **A. Approval of January Minutes**

David advised that we went through and discussed the goals and priorities at the last meeting and he would like to see them recorded in the minutes from last month. Suzanne moved to approve the minutes as revised. David seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

##### **B. Forest Stewardship Plan Update - Adam**

Adam reported that there have been three different versions of the Stewardship Plan draft. He added that he has been in consultation with both the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde and the Siletz tribe which will have comment on the final draft. He shared that there was great attendance on the public presentation, it has

been saved as a YouTube video and can be viewed by everyone. The contract for developing the plan with Trout Mountain was \$40,000 dollars, which ends at the end of June. Adam feels that we have really gotten our money's worth. Unfortunately we are out of funds to go further so staff will create an addendum to complete all changes to final document based on public comments received and input received from the Advisory Board to date. He recommended that everyone check out the presentation for a better overview of the plan. He shared that the comments have been rolling in pretty consistently, the comment period ends February 16<sup>th</sup>. Once they are gathered a final plan will be shared with the board and then presented to the Board of Commissioners. Adam then opened it up for a group discussion regarding the progress. There was a comment regarding getting the word out to the public about the draft plan so that more people can review it and give more input. Dan asked Adam to send the draft plan out to the group that had helped with the project early on as well. David shared that he reviewed a great deal of the comments, he advised that overall there has been a pretty positive response. There was a question regarding the preservation of the old growth and expanding those old growth areas. Adam advised that if we are more focused on the old growth we have to be sure that it will be something that will succeed in each of their locations. He also shared that there is a large problem with the die off of the Douglas Fir trees specifically due to forest, soil and climate change problems so it makes it harder to preserve these old growth stands and be sure that they are viable and non-hazardous areas.

**C. 2040 Thriving Communities**

Lynne shared that we are currently going through the new budget process now with the newly merged department. There will be three new goals submitted with this budget that are part of the 2040 Goals.

She is also working on the bilingual signage for our parks with the health department. Lynne will email everyone the 2040 Goal criteria.

**D. Updates from AFRANA**

This item has been moved to next month's meeting.

**E. Miscellaneous & Park Project Updates**

Adam reported on the Bellfountain Park project regarding the removal of the 12 hazard trees that are in really poor condition. He talked about the arborist (both private and in house) that have assessed all the trees to find the most problematic trees for removal. The project will begin on Monday February 22<sup>nd</sup> and will be done with cranes and professional arborists. The wood will not be taken to the mill and will be cut up and decked in an area there at the park to be available to the community through our firewood permit program. Phase two of this project will be the removal of the old playground from under the large grove of trees and the installation of the new playground where the volleyball courts are currently. This was done to minimize the root impact of the grove of trees where the playground now resides.

Adam spoke with the chair of Greenbelt Land Trust to work on partnering in some of the restoration of our natural areas. They advised that they do plan to move forward with the harvest on the Mulkey Ridge trail this summer. He is working through all the details with Greenbelt right now to try to partner efforts in park restoration.

Adam also shared that when he drove the Emergency Evacuation Route he found that part of the road runs next to Mary's River which is in danger of washing that whole section of road away should a large rain storm event happen.

**F. Other**

Dan proposed to move the meetings to 6:30 as he felt a bit rushed to meet the 6:00pm time. It was agreed by the Board to stick with the 6:00pm start time.

Lynne shared that the County is remodeling the Clubhouse out in Adair and doing some much needed upgrades. She also added that the materials have been ordered to repair the North Albany Restroom and that once those come in the contractor will get started on the repairs.

**III. MEETING ADJOURNMENT ~ 7:39pm**

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