
BENTON COUNTY NATURAL AREAS & PARKS ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

MINUTES

**November 10, 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/794670349>

You can also dial in using your phone.

United States: +1 (571) 317-3122

Access Code: 794-670-349

Committee Members Present: Dan Rosenberg, Bob Hansen, David Smith, Jackie Hastings, and Bryce Downey.

Committee Members Absent: Mary Derr and Elizabeth Spatafora.

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

II. BUSINESS

A. Approval of September & October Minutes

David moved to approve the September minutes and Bob seconded. Motion passed unanimously. David moved to approve the October minutes and Bryce seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

B. Action Items Discussion ~ Jackie

Actions items have been completed.

C. Park Board Recruitment ~ Lynne

Lynne advised that there are no current applications. The ad will be posted on our social media as well as websites and the paper. There are currently three open positions as we are losing one more member. Mary Derr has submitted her resignation. There was discussion as to what may be leading to members wanting to resign. Lynne asked the board if they knew of anyone that would be interested in being on the board and advised that she will be happy to send out the applications to everyone so that they can give them to anyone interested in applying. Lynne will push to have all three new members by January.

D. Administrative Supervisor Update ~ Lynne

Lynne introduced Jennifer Ward as the new Administrative supervisor. She thanked Bob and David for their help on the interview panel. Jennifer then introduced herself and talked about her interests in the department.

E. Forest Stewardship Plan Update - Adam

Adam advised that we have done a lot of work over the last two years and started some work implementation and had to adjust on the fly. Adaptive management has gone on due to different changes that have happened with each project. Adam shared a power point presentation on the three major updates below.

o **Approval of Old Forest Reserve Addendum**

Adam sent out the Old Forest reserve final plan addendum which is the second addendum to the plan that was adopted in 2020. He went through the forest reserves and the meadow systems for Beazell with the group. He then went over the analysis results as well. Adam thanked David and Dan for their help on this. Jesse added that we have spoken to the Commissioners about this and have received a lot of support and they were appreciative of all the work that has been done. Dan moved to approve the addendum. Bob seconded the motion to approve. Motion passed unanimously.

o **Fitton Green Access - Denial of final option for alternate haul route by Greenbelt Land Trust**

Adam then moved on to the Fitton Green project. Originally we had a focus on thinning the douglas fir areas through this park but due to the road deterioration and erosion it was decided that we couldn't move forward with this. Fitton Green for the foreseeable future won't be able to have any thinning or forest management projects happen.

o **New Forest Stewardship Priority - Beazell**

Adam talked about the new road that was put in on the east side of the park that will help with the management work going forward.

a) **Meadow Connectivity and thinning project - bid process to begin ASAP**

Adam shared that this project will be bid out per the forest stewardship plan. There will be around a 100foot cutout of this meadow as well as thinning in this section and pocket meadow. Adam highlighted that we can do this corridor creation and thinning work while not having any impact on the species in the meadow. We don't have to haul the timber from this work immediately and can deck them next to the road system to allow things to dry out first. This will have positive impacts on the T and E species in both meadows. Adam feels that it's a great win, win project that he would like to move forward with as soon as possible. Adam advised that he would email a draft RFP to the board for review within a few weeks. Adam will also send out an updated bid summary to the board as well.

F. Park Project Updates ~ Jesse

Jesse asked the board if they would like to keep the board retreat in January or if they would like to delay it for new board members and have the retreat in February instead. David moved to cancel the December meeting as there will not be a quorum and then have an in person meeting in January and a retreat in February. The board voted unanimously to approve that motion.

Jesse talked about the Family Mushroom hunt out at Beazell and congratulated Adam on the success of the event and the partnership with the City of Corvallis. He then talked about the scholarship program that the County provides up to 20 kids to be involved in the Outdoor education program throughout the summer and it has been increased to 30 scholarships.

The logging projects was finished at the North Albany Natural area. The hazard trees were removed and there was some oak release done at the same time which was received really well by the neighbors.

We are working on installing two new restrooms in the Alsea Area. These Pit Toilets at Clemens Park and Salmonberry are still going through the permitting process but everything looks pretty good as far as the approval of those.

The North Albany Master Plan was approved a few years ago. Public works is helping us with the engineering of the master plan. The design should be done soon and then we can start to talk about all the amenities that we will be able to offer that area with the help of the community.

The Adair Park Master Planning process will start picking up in the next few months as well.

Jesse then thanked Bob Hansen and another volunteer for their hard work and planting of the camas at Jackson-Fraizer Wetland. Bob shared that they planted about 3,000 bulbs in four days. All of these bulbs came from the Grande Ronde Tribe.

G. Updates from AFRANA ~ Jesse

Their main focus has been the Jackson-Fraizer Board Walk replacement. There isn't a great deal of progress right now but they are still working with different organizations to figure out the best way to go about getting this project completed.

III. MEETING ADJOURNMENT ~ 7:22pm

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