
BENTON COUNTY NATURAL AREAS & PARKS ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

MINUTES

**October 13, 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/256002941>

You can also dial in using your phone.

United States: +1 (224) 501-3412

Access Code: 256-002-941

Committee Members Present: Mary Derr, Bob Hansen, David Smith, Jackie Hastings, Elizabeth Spatafora, and Bryce Downey.

Committee Members Absent: Dan Rosenberg

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

I. BUSINESS

A. Approval of September Minutes

Jesse and Leanna will revise the minutes and bring the changes back to the next meeting.

B. Action Items Discussion ~ Jackie

Jackie went over the action items from the last meeting minutes. It was agreed that everything was done and taken care of.

C. Board Recruitment x2 ~ Lynn

Jesse reported that we are down two committee members. Lynne has checked with the Board of Commissioners office on any applications which that may be left. No other applications have been submitted at this time. He asked the group if they knew of anyone that would be interested in joining our board.

Jesse also shared that Suzanne had submitted her resignation which added the second vacancy on the board. Elizabeth advised she has a friend that may be interested. Jackie added that there are a couple of past board members that are interested in coming back on if possible as well. [Jesse will make sure that the advertisement will go back up.](#)

D. Board Retreat ~ Lynn

Jesse shared that we are tentatively looking at having a retreat on December 8th at the Fairgrounds. Due to different members not able to attend in the next few months it was thought that possibly January would be a better month to have it. Jesse asked the board what the best route to take would be. Jackie added that January may be a better month to have it. Elizabeth felt the same and added that it may be better to have it in January in the event we have two new members. It was a unanimous decision to have the retreat in January.

E. State Land Board Wetland Award ~ Adam

Adam reported that the Parks department received a State Land Board Wetland award. [Jesse will send a link to the website and the award information to everyone.](#) Jesse added that we got the award for the Jackson-Frazier Wetland restoration work. He advised that we are very proud of the award. Adam added that we were pretty high ranked in getting this award due to the history of the park and he is pretty excited that we got the award as it will allow us to leverage it for grants. David gave the new board members a background on all the work that Adam has put into the restoration work at Jackson-Frazier. Jesse showed everyone the award video.

F. Old Forest Update ~ Adam

Adam reported that the on the ground truthing has been completed. And he has shared the maps of both units that will result in long term conservation of those areas. He added that it was done because it was in our conservation plan. He feels confident that he will have the package for everyone to review by the next meeting. He also added that there will be a substantial revenue loss due to the old growth of those areas so it may have to be run by the commissioners for approval. Bob advised that it may be worth asking the Commissioners what they would like to see with this project. David asked if there would be a reclassification of any of these units. He also asked if the boundaries would be redrawn as well. Adam advised that they would be. He will have final mapping and classifications for everyone to review soon. He also added that we are using this to update our comprehensive geo database. David advised that he too had additional data and information to add to this.

G. Park Project Updates ~ Jesse

Jesse reported that we have been doing some research on starting some of the Master Planning for North Albany. They found that the first step in doing the Master planning was receiving CIP money to replace the restroom that was damaged out there last year. We are putting in an all-weather restroom at North Albany Park and should have all the permits in the spring of next year. He added that next week we are removing some hazard trees from the Natural area of that park. Adam worked hard to find a buyer for some of that timber to try to recoup some of the money spent on that project.

Jesse added that we are set up with permits to replace two sets of pit toilets, one in the day use area of Salmonberry and the other in Clements Park. Both are out of compliance right now.

Adair master planning is also in the process and Jess advised that we have been working with some of the city officials at Adair to figure out trail work and development for connectors of the new neighborhoods in Adair as well as trail accessibility.

Natural Areas, Parks & Events has been continuing to work with Corvallis on the Owens Farm parking and development of the park.

Today Jesse added that he got word from our sign shop foreman that ODOT would be willing to replace our Park identification signs along Hwy 99, Hwy 34, Hwy 223 and Hoskins Road. He is working with them to potentially add icons to let people know what amenities there are at these parks.

He added that we are working with the architects on the construction of the indoor arena as well as the roof over the outdoor arena. We are working with RLS Architects to plan out this project.

The department is also going into quite a bit of trail work and repair right now as well. Jesse and Adam will be meeting with Greenbelt to go over the agreements for trail development and maintenance.

H. Updates from AFRANA ~ Jesse

Jackie advised that there is an open position here for any of our board members to be a liaison between AFRANA and Park Board if anyone is interested.

Jesse reported that AFRANA is really dedicated to projects with Natural Areas, Parks & Events as well as the restoration of Mary's Peak. There has been some discussion with Bob Hansen who will pick up a lot of camas and will go out to Jackson-Frazier with a work party to replant them. Bob added that 1000 bulbs will be planted at Jackson Frazier. His goal is to plant 1000 for the next three years.

III. MEETING ADJOURNMENT ~ 7:05pm

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