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## BENTON COUNTY NATURAL AREAS & PARKS ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

### MINUTES

April 14, 2021

#### GOTO MEETING

<https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/522615733>

One-touch: tel [+1 \(872\) 240-3212](tel:+1(872)240-3212)

Access Code: 978-594-421

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

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

Guest: Steve Dobrinich, Corvallis Area Metropolitan Planning Organization.

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 & Jesse Ott (Our new Deputy Director!)

Lynne introduced Jesse Ott our department's new Deputy Director. Welcome Jesse! Jesse shared a little about himself with the group. Each member then went through and introduced themselves and shared a bit about themselves as well.

Steve Dobrinich introduced himself and talked about his background with transportation planning with the Corvallis Area Metropolitan Planning Organization and the Oregon Cascade West Council of Governments.

#### II. BUSINESS

##### A. Approval of March Minutes

Ellen moved to accept the minutes as submitted and Suzanne seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**B. Adair Trails Project – Steve Dobrinich (Guest)**

Steve shared a document that was sent out to the group previously that explained the project that he is working on. It's an extensive multiuse trail system through Adair Village. He talked about the different types of trails that they would like to integrate throughout the City. One of the main goals was to connect the community to all the local resources. He also discussed all four emphasis areas for this plan as well as each task that will be worked on to achieve the goal of this project. They are hoping to complete this plan in the next 6-9 months and then submit it to the City and County for approval.

**C. Bellfountain Playground Project Outreach Update**

Jesse advised that they met with the playground contractors and that they are just waiting for the equipment to be delivered. They will also be sending out English and Spanish postcards to re-engage the public regarding the playground. Jesse then shared that the new playground will be installed in the old volleyball court. It is estimated to be completed by the end of June.

**D. Delay of Fitton Green Harvest & Forest Stewardship Project Schedule Update**

Adam reported that the Fitton Green south unit thinning harvest for Oregon White Oak release and significant wildfire risk reduction will be delayed. The delay is due to the Cardwell Hill Road/Trail easement and community evacuation route conditions being recently determined, by forestry contractors assessing the site conditions on the ground, to be unsafe to haul heavy equipment or log trucks in and out. There is significant head cutting near the Mary's river side of the road within the Crestmont Land Trust property that is creating major damage to the road system in that area. At this time Benton County Public Works has stated they are unable to address this issue and has no timeframe for completing any work. Due to the safety risk, Natural Areas, Parks & Events staff and contractors are not able to complete the 15+ year delayed forest thinning harvest until this is fixed.

Due to the continued delay of the Fitton Green thinning project, the next highest priority within the updated Forest Stewardship plan, is completing road maintenance work at Beazell Memorial Forest. Adam has developed a scope of work for addressing issues along the main north access route, and gaining bids to complete the work this spring/early summer. This work is required in order to move forward with thinning harvests, staff maintenance, and contract monitoring/research. Due to this, David suggested looking into a less invasive way of logging measures to be able to successfully complete our Forest Stewardship plan in these places. Adam responded that the department has and will continue to use the lowest impact harvesting methods including: cut to length and forwarder equipment with minimal ground disturbance and leaving of woody debris.

**E. Outdoor Education & Recreation Update**

Adam talked a bit about our outdoor education program and the partners that help us with the program including ODFW and City of Corvallis along with the local school district. He advised that we are into our 4<sup>th</sup> year of the Park Use Estimation &

Survey. He then passed it to the 3<sup>rd</sup> program intern, Thomas Howe to talk about the surveys.

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

Thomas did a broad overview of the survey and park use estimation, it showed that there was a change in park use. Fitton Green has increased use during the pandemic versus Adair. Parks usage increased significantly as a whole throughout the County. Length of time spent at parks also increased and showed that they were largely used for exercise and fitness. He also went over car counts as well as suggestions or recommended improvements that people gave. Adam will resend this document out to everyone for their review.

**F. Bellfountain Park - Hazard Tree Project Completion**

Adam reported that the Bellfountain hazard tree removal & maintenance project was scheduled by Shane Galloway (Maintenance Supervisor) when contacted for an earlier start date than expected. Adam was notified and took over coordination to complete the contract which totaled \$27,000- this included: crane operation, arborist climbers, stump grinding, pruning, and significant chipping and log removal. Adam showed everyone a slide presentation overview of the project. He started with a project timeline and then went through the 11 trees that were selected for removal. He then discussed the harvest process of the trees and what happened to each of them. Adam noted that the tapered ends of smaller diameter logs were kept and given to the public to cut up for firewood. Woodchips were left onsite for landscaping.

**G. Updates from AFRANA**

Ellen reported that they have been focusing on Jackson Frazier wetland. They met with Lynne, Adam and Thomas to develop a detailed scope of work for analyzing elements of Jackson-Frazier Wetland boardwalk replacement. There is also a donor that reached out to the group regarding Bellfountain Park and Ellen is working with him now. She advised their next meeting is Friday May 14<sup>th</sup>. She asked that if anyone is interested in attending a meeting to let her know.

**H. Other**

**III. MEETING ADJOURNMENT ~ 7:42pm**

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