



Natural Areas
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BENTON COUNTY NATURAL AREAS & PARKS ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

MINUTES

April 10, 2019

Avery Day Room
360 SW Avery Ave., Corvallis
7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Committee Members Present: Phillip Hays, Suzanne Lazaro, David Smith,
Jackie Hastings, Dan Rosenberg, Jay Sexton, and Travis
Obermire.

Committee Members Absent: Janine Salwasser, and Ellen Tappon.

County Staff Present: Laurie Starha, Natural Areas & Parks Director; Adam Stebbins,
Natural Resource Coordinator; and Leanna Buck, Recorder.

I. Introduction of Guests and New Members

II. BUSINESS

A. Approval of March Meeting Minutes

Dan added that Travis's comment "all spray signage should be common among each entity." should be added to section B.

Suzanne moved to approve the minutes as amended and Jackie seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

B. Developing Friends Groups or Ad-hoc Committees for Priority Park Locations.

Adam stated that this has been brought up in the past. Parks does not have staff to do full time volunteer coordination. The model out there that seems to work is a designated group lead for each location and have them pull the volunteers together for each park. Community members make it their own but have it align with suggestions from the Parks department. The volunteers can take care of things like trash removal, weed removal, keeping an eye on the park for vandalism,

update the department on repairs and other things within the park. A one page report could be submitted once a month by the group. This would be an adhoc committee to the Parks Advisory Board. Adam added that he would be happy to be the point of contact for each committee. Suzanne stated that a list of procedures needs to be created for those volunteers at each park. Phil suggested to have each volunteer sign a liability release as well before starting work. On April 20th the Department is running three events for Earth Day. Adam and Devon will beat Bezell with OSU Civic Engagement, Laurie will be out at North Albany with Cindy McCain doing a weed pull and Phil will be at Fitton Green doing an informational talk about all the different things that have happened at Fitton Green. Laurie will send out a schedule to the Board regarding the Earth Day events. Adam will send out the Natural Areas Month schedule to the Board as well.

C. Finalize Locations for Park Survey & Use Estimation 2019. (*Bellfountain, Fitton Green, Ft. Hoskins, Irish Bend*)

Laurie reported that these are the locations that were discussed for summer of 2019. The idea was to continue car counts at Fitton Green at the top of Panorama. There was a suggestion to set up a trail camera and have an intern monitor the footage and report the amount of time that people are spending out there as well as possible number of people in each car. The idea would be that we would rotate through all of the parks every three years. Adam will collect all the data and put it in another report to give to the Board for review. Adam advised he would like to offer an incentive to people who complete the survey. There was a suggestion to also use OSU Recreation class's to help collect the information of each park. Adam and Laurie also discussed monitoring the Alsea corridor parks during the fall or winter to get those counts during salmon season.

D. Adair Park Planning update

Laurie reported she attended a meeting with Community Development, Public Works, Parks, Benton County Health Department, ODOT and the City of Adair Manager to discuss current and future development in Adair. A small city planner has been hired to work collaboratively between each entity to help with review of ongoing development activity. It was a way for everyone to make sure that everything is discussed and talked about, they are hoping to continue these collaborative meetings between each department.

Laurie stated she had a meeting with the Disc Golf group to discuss any concerns within the park, impacts on certain areas and if funded, the Master Plan process for Adair Park. It will be important to have them engaged during that process to get their ideas.

E. 2019-2021 Budget

Laurie shared that the Budget meeting will be held May 8th starting at 3:30pm at the Sunset building. She encourages anyone who would like to attend to come. This current budget cycle is 2.1 million dollars and the 2019-21 cycle ask will be 2.8 million dollars. She then went through the CIP projects. It totals \$428,000 dollars.

She then went through the projects list that she did not funding for due to timing issues or lack of priority at this time. She advised that she had a meeting with the Board of Commissioners regarding the historical structures in the County and a possible separate funding stream for those historical structures.

F. Miscellaneous & Park Project Updates

Laurie reported that the Park Tour needs to be discussed at the next meeting. She asked the committee to think about who they wanted to invite on the tour and where they would like to go.

The shelter at Bellfountain is almost done, they are just waiting on the gutters to be installed and the ADA path to be complete. This summer there will be an open house for the community.

G. Other

III. MEETING ADJOURNMENT ~ 8:36pm.

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