



Natural Areas
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BENTON COUNTY NATURAL AREAS & PARKS ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

MINUTES

August 8, 2018

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, and Dan Rosenberg.

Committee Members Absent: Jay Sexton, Ellen Tappon, and Janine Salwasser.

County Staff Present: Laurie Starha, Parks Director; Adam Stebbins, Parks Superintendent; and Leanna Steinke, Recorder.

I. Introduction of Guests and New Members

David Smith introduced himself and talked about his background and why he was interested in working with the Park Board. Jackie Hastings introduced herself, gave some background on what she has done and what her interests are in working on the Park Board. The current Park Board members then introduced themselves to the two new members in attendance.

II. BUSINESS

A. Approval of June Meeting Minutes

Dan moved to approve the minutes as written and Susan seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

B. Recap of Park Tour

Phil shared that it was a fantastic tour and he talked about the different parks they visited, the current projects and park issues. There was a question regarding the soft closure of the old trail in North Albany Park and then a reopening once the new trail is finished. Adam brought up a map of North Albany and talked about the possible soft closure to see how it will affect the cul-de-sac access into the park. Board will be updated on use of new and existing trails.

C. Review of County Boards and Committees

Laurie advised that the Public Works Department is doing the Road and Parks Tour on October 11th and that this committee will be of course invited.

Laurie then reported that County Counsel will be reviewing all the Advisory Boards and has asked for feedback from staff. The external public advisory boards and committees have not been reviewed in over 25 years and Laurie wanted to give the members a heads up regarding this process. Laurie invited the members to share any ideas they may have. She added that the City of Corvallis went through this same process about a year and a half ago.

D. North Albany Trail Update

Adam provided a slide show regarding the process of the trail construction. He started with the history of the trail and talked about the assessment of all the hazard trees and the infestation of beetles as Douglas Fir trees continue to die within the Natural Area and Park. Adam recapped that there has already been substantial removal of dead/dying Douglas Fir trees since September 2016. This summer the trail construction started based on the North Albany Conceptual Master Plan outline. Adam noted that the work to cut the trail tread (4 ft. wide) was completed by the parks landscape/natural resources specialist. Rocking of the trail was to county standard (3" base with ¾ overlay). He shared that the County has been able to team up with the City of Albany to do this work. He then shared some pictures of the work completed so far. He also went through the costs of things at this point and some of the added costs of others and discussed a timeline to finish the project.

E. Jackson-Frazier Project Update & Advisory Committee re-establishment

Adam shared a slideshow presentation for the Jackson-Frazier enhancement project. He talked about the history behind the need for the enhancement, the Phase 1 functions, the technical team members and the concepts and goals that they came up with to start phase 2. He discussed a timeline overview for phase 2. And then shared some pictures of the targeted mowing that has been currently taking place. The board noted that the project should support awareness and efforts to raise funds for boardwalk replacement.

Committee - Adam talked about the need for an advisory committee for Jackson-Frazier Wetland (it has been 12 years since there has been an active committee.) He added that he felt that the committee needs to be active the next 5 years while this project is going on, but is waiting for further instruction from County Counsel after review of internal advisory committees.

F. Miscellaneous & Park Project Updates

Adam reported that the Outdoor Education and Recreation Program had the majority of its activities during the spring summer and then the fall forest family mushroom hunt event will be in the Fall. He passed round the popular Benton County Outdoor Summer Adventurers program. This year the program was 4 days instead of three and all days were fully booked with 12 (7-13 year olds). This 3rd year of the program is a partnership with Corvallis Parks and Rec and was advertised in the City Parks & Rec Summer Schedule.

He discussed the Parks Use Estimation Survey and added that it's on the verge of wrapping up. He shared that they are approximately 500 responses.

Suzanne talked about the Trails Connectivity Meeting that was last held. She reported that they mainly talked about the south trails connectivity and the ideas that were shared. She also talked about the outreach that they are hoping to do.

Laurie shared that the Bellfountain shelter project will be starting construction at the end of September.

The sewer connection through Adair Park project will be happening in late September and they have been working with the City of Adair, the County and the Willamette Disc Golf Club as well as an arborist to make sure there will be minimal impacts to each.

The Crestmont Farms and Fitton Green trail connection project has been funded by the Audubon Society-Corvallis for \$19,000.000. Laurie will be developing an MOU between Crestmont Land Trust, the Audubon and the County. Laurie will email out a conceptual map to the Parks Board for review.

III. MEETING ADJOURNMENT - 8:53p.m.

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