



Natural Areas
& Parks Department
360 SW Avery Avenue
Corvallis, Oregon 97333

Phone: 541.766.6821
FAX: 541.766.6891

BENTON COUNTY NATURAL AREAS & PARKS ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

MINUTES

October 9, 2019

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

Committee Members Present: Phil Hays, David Smith, Ellen Tappon,
Jackie Hastings, Janine Salwasser, and Travis Obermire.

Committee Members Absent: Suzanne Lazaro, Dan Rosenberg.

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

I. BUSINESS

A. Approval of September Meeting Minutes

David stated that under the Fitton Green discussion, "joggers utilizing the path would prefer a dirt shoulder to run on instead of the rock." David requested this be added to section E. Jackie moved that the minutes be approved with the amendments. Ellen seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously. [Leanna will add Action Items to the Agenda right after meeting minute approval.](#)

B. Update on Ft. Hoskins Open House Event - Ellen/Phil

Ellen shared that it was a great event, the day was beautiful but it was not well attended and no donations were received. She added that having the tribal presence there was wonderful. The reenactors were quite engaged. Devon did a nature walk and it all went really well. Laurie suggested for next year that the agenda needs to be set by August so that public notifications can happen sooner and draw a larger crowd.

C. Ft. Hoskins Sub-Committee Formation - Laurie

Laurie reported that the Ft. Hoskins Committee is no longer an official County Committee. But members have continued to meet over the past several months to support the Open House and discuss updated signage. The Parks Board was delegated the authority to create sub-committees to work on different projects and it was thought that the Ft. Hoskins Committee could be added to the Parks Board as a sub-committee. Ellen suggested that maybe the Ft. Hoskins sub-committee would work better under the AFRANA umbrella. The suggestion will be taken back to the Ft. Hoskins Committee to see what they think about being part of AFRANA. The Park Board decided that any sub-committee that is formed will be project specific and for a short term only. The Board decided not to form a Ft. Hoskins sub-committee through the Parks Board but recommended that it be supported under AFRANA instead.

D. North Albany Timber Removal Discussion - Adam

Laurie reported that Adam scheduled and conducted several public meetings before moving forward with removing the trees in North Albany Park. Approximately 50 trees were removed. Laurie and other Park Board members received several phone calls regarding the tree removal. Adam sent the Committee a report with pictures on the removal process and it addresses the reasoning why the trees had to come down. Due to conflict on the site, the operation stopped prior to completion of the project. Approximately 10 trees still need to be removed. Laurie stated that a replanting process will occur over the next several months. She asked the Park Board to share the report that Adam sent out to anyone seeking information about the project. Janine suggested it might help in the future to have an FAQ to update the public about similar projects.

E. Park Use Survey Update - Adam

The Board all agreed that the survey was very informative and they are happy that the data is being recorded. This will help staff develop future management strategies. Janine suggested that it would be helpful to see all the data collected from last year and combine it with the data from this year to see collectively how each park is doing. Jackie suggested adding another question to the survey asking where they look for, or find, information about Parks.

F. Miscellaneous & Park Project Updates

The Capital Improvement Projects to replace the roof on the Franz Dunn house started Monday. This project should be completed by the end of the week. The rocking of the Fitton Green emergency access road has been put on hold due to the early rains.

The Health Department and the Parks Department have met and gone over the data collected about the play structure at Bellfountain. They have decided they would like more youth input from the community. Results indicate a hybrid structure that has both natural type play and urban type play.

The new reservation system is on staff computers but is not available online yet. The system should be live by the first part of November.

Phil shared that AFRANA has received funds from the Elizabeth Lee Frenkel Family Trust to be used at the Jackson Frazier Wetland and the Mary's Peak Alliance to be used on Mary's Peak. Ellen shared that AFRANA also has a donor for the Bellfountain Park and he wants to donate stock to help with the projects. Phil shared that AFRANA needs more directors as well.

Laurie asked the Board when they would like to have the Joint Meeting and what topics they want to discuss. [Leanna will send the Board the minutes from the last joint meeting to help them with topic ideas.](#)

Ellen shared that there is going to be an event this Saturday at Peavey Arboretum at 2:00 p.m.

G. Actions Items:

Laurie is still working with County Counsel on the Bylaws. [Laurie will put an outline together for this committee to review at the next meeting.](#)

Janine sent out the document for the links to the websites and received feedback from Phil. Janine will send a link to the members for the Oregon Explorer website as well as a link to the document.

Laurie sent David the last tree assessments conducted at Bellfountain Park. David asked if the County has an arborist or a forester on staff. Adam Stebbins has gone through some forestry training but is not a professional forester. Currently the Department does not have a licensed arborist. This is typically contract work. David shared that he reviewed the document. His recommendation is that another assessment needs to be completed due to the age of the most recent report. This should be a high priority because of the status of the Douglas Fir in the area and the danger of them falling. David shared that he would like to help or participate in this assessment.

[Laurie will send out the requirements for Park Reservations to the members for review.](#)

Phil shared that the City does have a designation of Park and Natural Areas and went on to share his knowledge where this information can be found. It is in the City of Corvallis 2012 Park Plan and can be located online. Ellen moved that we change the name of Anderson and Saxon parks from "Park" to "Natural Area", David seconded the motion and motion passed.

III. MEETING ADJOURNMENT ~ 7:59pm

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