



Natural Areas  
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## BENTON COUNTY NATURAL AREAS & PARKS ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

### MINUTES

February 8, 2017

**Avery Facility Large Conference Room  
360 SW Avery Avenue  
7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.**

Committee Members Present: Phillip Hays, Ellen Tappon, Kent Daniels, and Janine Salwasser.

County Staff Present: Jeff Powers, Parks Director; Laurie Starha, AIC Parks Director; Adam Stebbins, Natural Resource Coordinator; and Leanna Steinke, Recorder

Phillip Hays called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

I. CALL TO ORDER:

II. BUSINESS

A. Review/Approval of October 2017 and January 11<sup>th</sup> Meeting Minutes

On the October minutes, the word "house" was left out in section "D" when talking about the Commander's House Restoration, this should be added in. Ellen moved to approve the minutes as amended, Janine seconded the October minutes. October minutes were approved unanimously. There were missing periods at the end of the first and second paragraphs in Section "C" in the January minutes. Kent moved to approve the January minutes as amended, Ellen seconded the motion. January minutes approved unanimously.

B. Jackson-Frazier Wetland Habitat Enhancement Update

Adam did a slide show regarding the Jackson Frazier Long Term Wetland Enhancement Project Phase 1. He gave a quick update on where we are at on the project as well as a

recap on landscape factors from landowners prior to Benton County acquiring the property. Adam talked about the Consultant that has been chosen for the project as well. The Technical team meetings will start February 14<sup>th</sup> along with some site visits to follow. Adam advised that he has reached out to the national wetland groups for funding opportunities on this project. Once the project is established they can go out during the next budget cycle and do topographical studies as well. Adam then went through some work that has already been done as well as the next steps to take place. Jeff added that a meeting will take place with the City, Good Samaritan, Greenbelt Land Trust and the County Healthy Issues team to make sure that they address all possible impacts to set the stage. Jeff advised that the County will fund the first phase and then grants will be sought to fund the rest of the work from there.

**C. Potential 12 acre Expansion - Adair Park**

Jeff reported that a gentlemen by the name of Tim Cornelius has approached the County about donating approx. 9 acres of property just north of Adair Park. Jeff asked the advisory board for a formal recommendation to move forward with this. This is another wetland mitigation site and has connectivity to Hibiscus road which would be another trail access for Adair Park. Because this is a mitigation site, if we chose to do anything with the property we would have to take special measures to complete these projects with the state. The Park Advisory Board recommended that the Parks Department pursue investigating the acquisition.

**D. Discuss/Next Steps COG South County Connectivity Draft Plan**

Jeff updated the board that the parks department hired Council of Governments to investigate the connectivity opportunity for the south county. Seth has finished the draft of this plan and is asking the stake holders to review. There will be additional public outreach meeting on this and the County Commissioners have advised that it should be the City's responsibility to do the community outreach with the County helping guide them along in the process. Monroe has a new full time City Manager, so this should be helpful in moving the process along. Ellen advised that the South County Citizens Group is interested in helping with this process as they know that the City is already doing quite a bit. An Inter-Governmental Agreement or scope of work will be recrafted.

**E. NAPD Staff Transition Planning**

Jeff passed around a page that outlined carryover projects that are happening in his transition out and Laurie's transition in. He advised that he will remain part time until most of these projects are wrapped up. Jeff also advised that Kathleen Bryant will be coming in on a contract to do the interior restoration assessment of the Commander's House. Jeff passed around a revised organizational chart to outline staffing positions.

**F. Miscellaneous & Parks Projects Update**

Jeff advised that there is lots of Solar Eclipse panning going on within the County offices. We will keep the Board apprised of plans along the way.

**II. MEETING ADJOURNMENT**

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