



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

### MINUTES

January 11, 2017

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

Committee Members Present: Phillip Hays, Daniel Rosenberg, Ellen Tappon, Kent Daniels, and Andrew Damitio.

County Staff Present: Jeff Powers, Parks Director; Adam Stebbins, Natural Resource Coordinator; Josh Wheeler, Public Works Director; 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 November 9<sup>th</sup> Meeting Minutes

Dan suggested to remove the word "off" so that it reads "Add the leash area on that map." Kent moved to approve the minutes as amended and Andrew seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

##### B. Advisory Board input on Phase 2 Planning ~ Corvallis/Albany Path

Josh showed a map of the proposed Corvallis/Albany Multiuse Path. He talked about the location that was previously proposed which ran along the railroad on the west side of Hwy. This is the route which eventually got denied by the planning commission. Public Works then sponsored a survey in 2015/16 to gather public comment concerning support and suggestions concerning the proposed pathway. The survey showed that a large majority favored providing the connection. A professional agency was hired to do facilitate a public process and assess the possible alternate routes for the pathway. The proposed alternative routes were then presented at a recent public meeting. Approximately 100 people were in attendance with 70 comment cards left after the meeting. On January 3<sup>rd</sup> the Board of Commissioners voted to move forward with Phase 2 of this project. This phase includes Josh's attendance at pertinent Citizen Advisory Board meetings to explain

the process and talk about the recommended alternate pathway routes and get Advisory Board member feedback and suggestions. He then provided more detail and lined out all rationale behind each of the different routes. The Advisory Board members noted that there are plenty of pros and cons associated with each proposed pathway route. There was a question as to what the County was really trying to accomplish, is it providing a primarily recreational pathway or providing an alternative commuting route? Economically it also made sense to some to just widen the shoulders of Hwy 20 or other roads affected. There was also discussion on the "scary" crossings at some of the roads which intersect with Hwy 20. Josh added that Public Works will also be redoing their Transportation System Plan (TSP) this spring. The TSP will assess the feasibility of proposed bike paths throughout the County. The Board agreed that they are in support of this ongoing process.

#### **C. NAPD Director Transition Review & Discussion**

Jeff talked about his retirement and gradual transition out of the department. With his retirement and since the current COO Dennis Aloia is retiring in June, the decision was made to appoint an interim (acting in capacity) NAPD Director until roughly the end of 2017. Laurie Starha will serve in this capacity and is very qualified to do so Jeff' last day of full-time work will be March 1. He will be available after this, for 6 to 8 months, on a part time basis to help finish projects and assist with the transition. He explained that the Parks Advisory Board will have a role in the hiring of the new Parks Director in the Fall, and that Laurie will certainly have the opportunity to apply and compete for the position if she desires

Jeff added that Lisa De Graaf resigned from her position as Park Operations Coordinator in December. Given this retirement and the lack of certainty about a permanent NAPD Director hire until Fall, this has created the need to look at interim departmental reorganization possibilities in order to provide appropriate administrative/management support for the Interim Director. The department is looking at revising the Natural Resources and Parks Coordinator position and blending into one position. Adam Stebbins has interest in applying for this position and Jeff is working with HR to line out the new job description and meet required hiring procedures

Jeff passed around a brief report entitled "Acreage & Maintenance Responsibility Expansion within the BCNAPD 2008-Present". He then discussed how he proposed to re-organize other positions in the department to take advantage of their respective skills and experience, to better meet the expanded responsibilities within the department. He will also be recommending the addition of another full time Maintenance person within the 2017-19 budget cycle.

#### **D. Jackson-Frazier Wetland Habitat Project**

Adam provided a presentation on the proposed Phase 1 of the Jackson-Frazier Long Term Wetland Enhancement Project. He went through some of the history of the wetland and then went through some of the focus of least intrusive methods to accomplish the work goals for improving wetland function and habitat. He also talked about how the wetland has changed over time, and discussed the manmade landscape features that severely limit the habitat quality across the majority of the wetland. He then further discussed a few options for formulating the Phase 1 plan intended to guide achievement of the long term enhancement goals. One option

was: call together a Jackson-Frazier Wetland Enhancement Technical Team composed of consultant, local non-profit, government, and private sector representatives. The technical team will be tasked with reviewing development of the full project scope of work goals and objectives including survey and conceptual design. The second option took more of an approach where the NAPD Advisory Board worked closely with Adam and the consultant. The third Option was: Both Options 1 & 2: Contract with private consultant specializing in large scale wetland enhancement, creation and restoration (including state and federal permitting). Focus on engineering, hydrology and grading specifications to achieve Technical Team approved scope of work. He then showed a proposed timeline for this to happen as well as a 1<sup>st</sup> quarter budget draft. Ellen recommended and moved that Adam should move forward with long term enhancement plans based upon the third option outlined. Andrew seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

#### E. Outdoor Education Program Planning

Adam passed around two handouts regarding the Outdoor Summer Adventures program planning with the City of Corvallis Parks and Recreation Department. City and County staff added more days of programming because of the demand. He also passed around a page lining out the Outdoor Education & Recreation Program Biennium Budget.

#### F. Miscellaneous & Parks Projects Update

Jeff reported that the North Albany Master Plan is still moving forward. He passed around a map showing how the trail will move through the park and into the new area. He advised that this plan should be complete by the end of January. He also went over some of the new park amenities and facilities proposed as part of this plan as well. Jeff then briefed the Board that the Department has been approached about their interest in accepting a parcel of property north of Adair Park as a donation piece, approximately 12 acres, to the County which would become part of the current Adair Park.

Kent added that the Heritage Tree Committee will be meeting next week and he has submitted 5 tree proposals for this committee to consider

### III. MEETING ADJOURNMENT

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