



Natural Areas
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BENTON COUNTY NATURAL AREAS & PARKS ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

MINUTES

October 12, 2016

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, Janine Salwasser, and Andrew Damitio.

County Staff Present: Jeff Powers, 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 April & September Meeting Minutes

Jeff let the group know that the minutes from April and September need to be approved. There was a thought to approve these through email.

Janine wanted to have in the September minutes in II-B that "The board stated the desire to pursue a more aggressive and comprehensive restoration plan for the wetlands in collaboration with the greenbelt and the city." Andrew advised that there was a discrepancy in the September minutes in II-C "the numbers were not reconciled and Adam was going to get more information from the city and report back to the board." Ellen moved, Andrew seconded. Minutes approved.

Add Janine to the April minutes. Kent moved and Andrew seconded for the April minutes.

Daniel Rosenberg was welcomed as a new Park Board member. Daniel expressed his dismay with the off leash dog problem at local parks around the Oak Creek area. Ellen requested that the "Dogs off leash in natural areas" subject appear on a future agenda for discussion.

B. Update on Adair Parkland transfer request

Jeff reported that the City of Adair wants to move forward with this transfer. He also reviewed the concerns the Model Railroad Club had expressed regarding this issue as well, and that there is a possible agreement with the City of Adair for this club to move into the remodeled former barracks near Hwy 99 instead. Pat Hare (Adair City Manager) will be coming to the BOC/Avery Department Head meeting on Monday to request that the "Federal Lands to Parks Program" transfer application be endorsed by the Board of Commissioners in consideration of the City of Adair development plans. Jeff's intent is to re-discuss the timeline of events with the Board of Commissioners and to reiterate that the property will transfer with the same designation and recreational deed restrictions currently in place associated with County ownership. It will also be stressed that the City of Adair will be responsible for changing the "program of utilization" later. County Parks will be given the first right of refusal to maintain and administer the parkland which would later be designated as part of any change in the program of utilization associated with the transferred parcel. Jeff will keep the Park Board up to speed on this process.

C. Update on the North Albany Park Planning Process

Jeff advised that the North Albany Park planning meeting will be tomorrow at North Albany Middle School. The Parks Department is going to give three different concepts to the public. A dog park, trail connectivity, playground configuration and trails within the Natural Area will be prominent discussion points. Jeff advised that the recent logging had upset some people and that he had fielded four or five calls and questions regarding the issue.

The Parks Department will be working with OSU's Jenna Tilt and her Environmental Site Planning class again this year, this time dealing with conceptual plans for revegetation and stormwater management in the park and new natural area. Our goal is to move toward a final concept plan by early December.

Adam advised that the post-harvest work has been buttoned up and that there was a decent amount cleanup done. Numbers wise it cost roughly \$19,000 including the contractor, stump grinding and chipping work to harvest the hazard and declining trees from the park and natural area. The department received \$17,000 in revenue associated with sale of the logs. There were roughly 160 Douglas fir trees that were taken down in total in both areas. No further forest management work will be done until the concept plan is finished and accepted.

D. Project Prioritization - 2017-2019 Biennium

Jeff advised that the budget process for the next biennium is coming up and he distributed a project prioritization sheet which updated the status of prioritized departmental projects. Specifically; the exterior restoration of the commanders is about done with the exception of the roof; the Palestine Church project is progressing with window installation, two vault restrooms are going to soon be installed within the Alsea River corridor; a well had to be drilled out at Ft. Hoskins after the spring dried up; and the Bellfountain Park Shelter and playground

equipment needs to be evaluated for replacement, it's in pretty bad shape. He just wanted to give this list to the board to give everyone an idea of what's on the project list and then invited the Board members to comment or offer other project priorities. Phil suggested that Adam's previously discussed Jackson-Frazier Wetland planning and restoration idea should be a priority and needs further discussion. Jeff advised that he and Adam will put together a Natural Area project priority list to present to the board at a later meeting.

Mary at Valley Catering called and advised that she would like to extend her concessionaire agreement for another 3-5 years.

Jeff passed around a proposal from Kathleen Bryant, an OSU associate of Dave Brauner's, to do an assessment report focusing upon the restoration of the inside of the Commander's House. The Ft. Hoskins Advisory Committee has reviewed the proposal and endorsed moving forward with implementing it.

E. 2040 Thriving Communities Initiative Listening Session

Ellen asked if there were any questions on the information that she sent out to the board regarding the 2040 Thriving Communities Initiative. She explained that the committee is touching base with as many different groups as possible on this comprehensive vision so that input can be funneled into a formal plan to be put forth next biennium. The goal is to start working a plan now in order to get it integrated into the County Budget process. They are really wanting to look at the foundation of certain problems or ideas that the public sees or has.

1. What do you like about living in Benton County? The ability to bike everywhere, the impact of the University and its programs on the community, the parks and open space, the hiking trails, accessibility and the diversity of things to do recreation wise and the non-motorized accessibility of the area. The community involvement in growth and development of the area and its population is rated as one of the most educated in the nation. The Willamette River and the recreation abilities on it as well as the stability of the economy here. It's an overall safe community. The Health system is strong and superb here. The climate is relatively mild.

What do you want Benton County to be like between now and 2040? More attention to the Willamette River and the recreation activities and to have more connection and access to the river. Improving the quality of the river and the environmental issues surrounding the water. Improve the livability and alternative transportation of the area. To control the housing and dorm development. The City and the County work together for some control over housing development to control the McMansions or College housing and develop more low income housing so that people can afford to live within the county and cut down on the transportation numbers. Open spaces accessible to low income housing. Encouragement of small business and hope for a green infrastructure plan. The push for rural economy.

2. What needs to happen to achieve your vision? No selling off of the state and federal property. A consolidation of O and C lands and a retainage of lands. More planning for how the open spaces are used. Bringing along the next

generation of land stewards. Giving generations of people a reason to stay. Hope that the city/county governments took this information seriously and made the necessary changes of codes and ordinances to bring about the desired outcomes. More of the public engaged and not just dependence on the government. Being aware of and adapting to trends. More University engagement. More music venues to attract more people to this area.

Ellen asked everyone to email her any other ideas they may have on this after this meeting. She will keep the board updated as the process goes on.

F. Miscellaneous Updates

Adam talked about the three prescribed burns that the parks department had done recently. He talked about his goal to rotate the burns and the reseeding process he is implementing.

Kent brought up the fact that August 21st 2017 is a solar eclipse and there may be some opportunity for events in the parks.

III. MEETING ADJOURNMENT

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