



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

### MINUTES

September 14, 2016

Avery Large Conference Room  
360 SW Avery Ave., Corvallis  
7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Committee Members Present: Phillip Hays, Clancy Caster, Janine Salwasser, Ellen Tappon, Nathan Brown, Jay Sexton, Madison Boock, and Andrew Damitio.

County Staff Present: Jeff Powers, Parks Director; Lisa De Graaf, Parks Operations Coordinator; Adam Stebbins, Natural Resource Coordinator; and Leanna Steinke, Recorder

Phillip Hays called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

#### I. CALL TO ORDER:

#### II. BUSINESS

##### A. North Albany Park Master Planning & Hazard Tree Removal

Adam showed a Power Point of the tree removal that was recently done at North Albany Park and Natural Area. He then went over the next steps that are left to do. A lot of the logs that were taken were hollowed out and or rotting from the inside out. The harvest contractors have done a good job to make sure that there has been low impact on the area. The contractor was R.L. & Sons Logging out of Philomath. The contractors hope to be wrapped up on this by the end of the week and everything seemed to go smoothly and as anticipated. Departmental staff has been emphasizing that most of the Doug -Fir trees within the park were severely stressed or dying so it was good to take out the dangerous or hazardous ones now. Jeff passed around a letter he wrote to the City of Albany Community Development Manager which detailed the Master Plan process and actions taken by the County regarding the selective harvest. The Albany Community Development ultimately decided that a formal city plan review would not be necessary.

**B. Proposed Vegetation Management - Jackson-Frazier Wetland**

Adam then went through another presentation of the recent vegetation control work that has been done at Jackson Frazier. The work was done by a contractor using a masticator. This is a low impact machine and it worked well in the tight areas adjacent to the boardwalk. Adam made sure to walk along with him to make sure that only the specified areas were done. He described the need for Reed Canary Grass control, and also recommended regrading disturbed areas of the wetland, over time... for diversity and a higher quality wetland.

The board stated that staff could talk to Greenbelt and other groups for future funding possibilities. Reseeding will occur during the fall.

**C. Report on recent Youth Outdoor Ed/Adventure sessions**

Adam showed pictures of the rafting expedition which was part of the summer Outdoor Adventure/Recreation program. The kids got an introduction to riparian restoration efforts being done by the Greenbelt Land Trust prior to launching rafts into the Willamette. Cascadia Expeditions co-sponsored the event and provided the kids a lot of information about rafting and water safety. Everyone had fun; it was a big success.

We have an agreement with city of Corvallis for facilitation, fees, etc.

Adam talked about the scholarships that were available for this trip and other activities. The kids were from 9 to 12 year olds.

The "Back in Time" event at Ft. Hoskins was also well attended successful.

We made the minimum revenue necessary to run programs. (See Adam's financial breakdown sheet he gave to board).

We are discussing activities for next year - would like to include a river trip again.

There was further discussion about social media and how to get the word out concerning these offerings. Our new PIO may be able to help.

**D. Report on Recent Bailey Branch Corridor Vegetation Control**

Jeff brought the board up to date with the Bailey Branch in Monroe, and that the Department particularly will need to maintain vegetation control on the corridor immediately north of the library.

Staff mowed and cut the entire Bailey Branch this summer. Jeff said that staff and the board will need to pay attention to this piece moving forward as it will probably become sole responsibility of Parks.

Ellen gave a brief update as well concerning the recent efforts of the South Benton County Alliance. Some Farmers are continuing efforts to buy back some of the Bailey Branch from the county. Also the idea of a right-of-way swap along Alpine Road is still being discussed.

**E. Park Construction Project Updates**

Lisa gave an update on the Alsea vault Restroom Replacement project and Palestine Church rehabilitation project

Jeff updated the status of the commander's house and showed photos. He also mentioned that coming in December; we will visit the idea a new fee schedule for large gatherings like the Adair ATI party last weekend. Staff will research and bring some examples of fee structure to the Advisory board.

**F. Miscellaneous Updates**

**III. MEETING ADJOURNMENT**

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