

SUMMARY MINUTES

BENTON COUNTY PARK BOARD

February 10, 2009, 6:30 p.m.
Benton County Justice Center
Kennewick, WA

Board Members Present

Bert Lake, Chair
Skip Gest, Vice Chair
Hank Sauer, Secretary/Treasurer
Rick Kilgore, Member
Marilyn Hyde, Member, arrived at 6:38 p.m.
Donna Raines, Member, arrived at 6:38 p.m.
Kathye Kilgore, Member

Benton County Employees

Adam Fyall
Commissioner Jim Beaver

Call to Order/Roll Call

Chair Bert Lake called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. and roll call was taken.

Approval of Minutes

The Minutes of January 2009 were approved.

Reports to the Board

Chair Report

In addition to the written report provided, Bert Lake commented that Sam Meacham's recent absence was due to his wife having a series of strokes. He also discussed the workshop with the Board of Commissioners. A hardcopy of the Powerpoint presentation was provided to Board members.

Commissioner Report

Commissioner Beaver complimented the Park Board on its work.

Badger Mountain Centennial Preserve - Master Plan

Adam Fyall requested some direction from the Board on its selection of a consultant to complete the Master Plan.

An informal poll of the Board gave the following results: three votes for Studio Cascade; two votes for JT Atkins; one vote for Skookum Peak; and one Board member stated no preference.

The Board agreed to interview Studio Cascade and JT Atkins. The proposed date and time was set for 4:30 p.m. on Wednesday, February 25, 2009 at the Justice Center. Mr. Fyall was requested to make the arrangements.

Badger Mountain Water Reservoir Proposal

Mr. Fyall stated that a local developer, through his contractor, was seeking an easement within Badger Mountain Centennial Preserve to place one or two water reservoirs to serve a future development called "Indian Hills" in south Richland.

Mr. Fyall then introduced Dale Van Schoiak, who provided more detail on the proposal. He stated the reservoir being proposed would be placed at the existing new parking lot. Pete Rogalsky, Public Works Director for the City of Richland was also present.

Chair Bert Lake said the Board would need to look closely at liability issues and deed restrictions. Skip Gest also requested clarification on size and location.

In response to questions by the Board, Mr. Schoiak and Mr. Rogalsky offered the following comments:

- Time frame: There was not an immediate time frame set, but the developer wanted to keep the project moving.
- Relation to existing tanks: The City did not originally own reservoirs, but now owned some that were acquired from private property.
- Can tanks be placed underground? Possibly, but it changed the economics dramatically. Currently the City owns three reservoirs that are underground and buried in a different kind of strata.

- Clarification on amount of tanks: Initially just one, but the plan was for two tanks.

The Chairman stated the Board would get back to Mr. Van Schoiak with a decision in the next month or two.

Rattlesnake Mountain Shooting Facility

Mr. Fyall provided a detailed update on both the project development and property disposition situations. He said that project approvals from the State would be forthcoming, but the lease and patent transfers from the State and BLM were on a longer track.

Chair Lake provided additional detail and input, noting that many members of the TCSA were frustrated at the inability to move things along and that he, Adam, and Ron Davidson meet every two weeks now to update each other and strategize. He further noted the significant joint financial investment at the Range, the 15,000 yearly volunteer hours invested there, and that the Range was open to the public, not just members. He emphasized his message by stating the situation would be serious and dire if work with the Department of Fish & Wildlife and BLM went south. In closing, Chair Lake asked the Board to consider making property issues at the Range the "number one priority" for 2009.

MOTION: It was moved and seconded to make resolution of property issues at the Shooting Facility the number one issue for 2009. Upon vote, the motion passed unanimously.

Guest Comments

Linda Smith noted the Chili Feed weekend was set for March 7 and 8. Rudy Higgins indicated there would be work party at Higgins Field the same weekend, March 7 and 8.

Bob Fortman raised the issue of Kennewick General Hospital selling its trust lands and the possible impacts on access to the Wallula Gap properties.

Poll of the Board

Marilyn Hyde said she was not receiving the email notices sent out prior to the meetings and Mr. Fyall indicated he would look into it. Ms. Hyde also asked for an update on Hover activities and Mr. Fyall and Chair Lake discussed the recent site visit and plans to implement the Master Plan. Mr. Fyall said he would have a contractor look at the rubbish removal and the Hover Road parking lot improvements later in the week.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at approximately 8:00 p.m. The next regular meeting will be the second Tuesday in March at the Benton County Justice Center.