

## SUMMARY MINUTES

### BENTON COUNTY PARK BOARD

October 13, 2009, 6:30 p.m.  
Benton County Planning Annex  
Prosser, WA

#### Board Members Present

Bert Lake, Chair  
Hank Sauer, Secretary/Treasurer  
Skip Gest, Vice Chair  
Rick Kilgore, Member  
Kathye Kilgore, Member

#### Benton County Employees

Adam Fyall  
Cami McKenzie  
Commissioner Jim Beaver

#### Board Members Absent

Marilyn Hyde, Member  
Donna Raines, Member

#### 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 Agenda

Discussion of a letter from a TCSA member was added to the agenda and the agenda was approved as amended.

#### Approval of Minutes

The September 2009 Minutes were approved.

#### Reports to the Board

##### Staff Report Update

Mr. Fyall said the Horn Rapids Canal/Barker Ranch project was moving along, although they had a delay with delivery of the pipe. He said he had talked with

Tapteal Greenway Association and the City of Richland and they had provided a design for the proposed trail.

Mr. Fyall also commented that the Parks Department current expense budget was very tight and the Park Development budget was not being increased in 2010 due to budget constraints at the County.

### **Horse Heaven Vista - Project Update and Telescope Discussion**

Mr. Fyall reported that the project was now substantially complete and Dennis Rockwell would be working on signage and landscaping. Additionally, there were two large piles of debris (one on the property and one partially on the property) that had to be dealt with at some point.

Adam stated that Ken Swanson had provided an architectural concept for placing the telescope on this site and he submitted a copy to the Board. Also, he said that adjacent landowners had expressed interest in the adjoining properties and that DOT had said they would be giving the adjacent landowners first right of refusal, so it appeared that purchasing the additional property was no longer an option. However, Mr. Fyall indicated it could still fit on the existing property.

Bert Lake said they were not looking to the County to contribute to the building costs, however, he said the Park Board might look at providing site work preparation.

Hank Sauer discussed his concern about the dwindling park development funds and wanted to know where the money for the site work might come from. He stated the Commissioners needed to be made aware of the project so they might be able to assist with additional funding.

Commissioner Beaver said he liked the project and he felt like it was in the right place. However, Benton County was experiencing budget issues and he was trying very hard to make sure the County did not lose any people. Mr. Fyall indicated the site work preparation cost would be very minimal.

Kathye Kilgore wanted to know if the telescope and building would become a County asset. Mr. Fyall indicated they would probably be looking at a lease situation.

## **Eagle Scout Projects**

Mr. Fyall introduced Random Fairchild and said he was working on his Eagle Scout project and had asked about completing a project at Vista Park.

Mr. Fairchild said he was interested in Vista Park because his grandmother was one of the original planners of the Park organization and she thought it would be nice to construct a bench memorial. Mr. Fairchild also discussed upgrading the wheelchair ramp access.

Mr. Fyall said he wanted to work the planning process with the City of Kennewick and involve Mr. Fairchild and the Board agreed.

## **2010 Park Board Officers - Discussion**

Chair Bert Lake said it was time to elect new Park Board officers. He indicated that Skip Gest was not able to commit to being the Chair so he recommended that Mr. Gest and Mr. Sauer bring back recommendations for elections at the next meeting. The Board agreed.

## **2010 Meeting Schedule**

Mr. Fyall presented the draft 2010 meeting schedule for the Park Board. The Board discussed moving the Prosser meeting to the Justice Center. Ms. Kilgore suggested the October meeting be held at the Justice Center, pending business in Prosser. The Board agreed. Mr. Fyall said it would require a change in the bylaws.

## **Letter from Tri-City Shooting Association Member**

Chair Lake discussed a request from Paul Rittman to put in a hi-power one-mile firing line at the Rattlesnake Mountain shooting range. Chair Lake discussed the problems with this request, including that it would require a new lease with BLM because it was not on the current leased property and would require additional applications, appraisals, and surveys.

The one-mile firing line was listed in the Master Plan, however, was not yet listed in TCSA's approved and budgeted Capital Facilities Plan (with approximately 20 projects). He suggested the Board deny the request to look at the project at this

time, so it would not hinder the progress on the current lease. Additionally, he requested the one-mile firing line project not be considered until after the current TCSA Capital Facilities Plan projects were complete.

The Board agreed it would not pursue the issue at this time because it wanted to finish the current project and would address the one-mile firing line after the current Capital Facilities Plan projects were complete.

### **Adjournment**

The guests and board members gave closing comments and the meeting adjourned at approximately 8:00 p.m.