

SUMMARY MINUTES

BENTON COUNTY PARK BOARD

Tuesday, April 12, 2016, 6:30 p.m.
Benton County Justice Center
Kennewick, WA

Board Members Present

Richard Nordness, Chair
John Becker, Vice Chair
Diana Ruff, Secretary/Treasurer
Donna Raines, Member
Yessica Rosas, Member
Michael Crowder, Member

Benton County Employees

Adam Fyall

Board Members Absent

Robin Emmingham, Member

Call to Order/Pledge of Allegiance/Roll Call

Chair Richard Nordness called the meeting to order at 6:31 p.m. The Board recited the Pledge of Allegiance and roll call was taken.

Review & Approval of Agenda

The agenda was approved as presented.

Approval of Minutes

The Minutes of March, 2016 were approved as submitted.

Chair Report

Chair Nordness recapped that he attended the funeral service for former Park Board member Marilyn Hyde, saying it was a great tribute to her life and was a standing room only affair. Her service to the community over many decades was well documented, as was her love of trees.

Staff Report Update

In addition to a review of his written report, conversation ensued over the question of possibly bringing wi-fi service to Horn Rapids, and Adam gave some detail about his recent interactions with Benton REA. Members Crowder and Raines encouraged Adam to contact Desert Winds to see if they could offer service, and Adam said he would follow up with them.

Park Board Bylaws and Policy Manual

Ms. Ruff presented the updated bylaws and policy manuals, explaining one short revision to the text that was presented. No other comments were offered nor corrections made.

MOTION: It was moved and seconded to adopt both the Bylaws and the Policy Manual as presented with the single correction to the Bylaws. The motion carried 5-0 with Member Donna Raines abstaining.

Adam was asked to check the terms to make sure any reappointments (July) were taken care of, and prepare for the May elections.

Tribute to Marilyn Hyde

Ms. Raines recapped the recent funeral and revisited many of the projects in the community that Marilyn Hyde had been involved with in her life. It was noted that a sycamore tree was dedicated to Marilyn's father at Horn Rapids Park a few years prior, and Ms. Raines suggested it would be fitting to dedicate a new tree in Marilyn's honor, preferably at Horn Rapids. After some discussion and further accolades, the Board concurred.

There was brief discussion of a plaque and Adam noted that traditional bronze plaques mounted on an engraved rock worked well. The Board concurred.

Adam said he would make some recommendations for placement of a tree or trees at Horn Rapids Park, to be dedicated by the Board at its August meeting at the park. He said he would start working on language for a plaque and submit some proposals for Board review.

Public Comment

George Hager: Noted that the shooting season was in full swing, with shooting competitions almost every weekend. He said the great spring weather had made it nice to be out at the range.

Dick McGrew: Thanked the County for the work being done on the parking lot at Higgins Field. He mentioned an event upcoming that weekend and detailed the May event at Two Rivers Park. Additionally, he updated the Board on the survey of electrical infrastructure at the Field.

Linda Smith: "It was wet" Linda said, as she was surprisingly upbeat about Chili Feed, which was hit pretty hard by inclement weather. Linda noted that Rattlesnake Ridge Riders had to cancel the live auction and their board would be meeting about resolving that since it was their primary fundraiser for the year. She mentioned that the park was in great condition, both of the horse rides went well, and that the kitchen ran well. There was discussion how folks dealt with the rain storm. Mr. Crowder asked about the date (second weekend of March), and Linda recounted the reasons and challenges around the date, but added that the date was unlikely to change.

Cindy Faith: Noted that Purple Sage Riders assisted Rattlesnake Ridge Riders with the Chili Feed event and they were currently working on their own ride calendar for the year.

Chair Nordness asked about the number of riders at Chili Feed and Linda Smith said there were about 200 on the long ride and about 100 on the short ride.

Poll of the Board/Adjournment

Michael Crowder: Recounted a recent excursion to the Washington DC area where he visited a number of preserved battlefield sites and various city, county, and state parks. He noted Benton County had great parks and there were only a few that compared among those he visited. He said he was excited for Candy Mountain to become a reality.

Diana Ruff: Recounted a recent excursion to New York City and made comparisons about urban parks and green spaces to the types of park lands here in Benton County. She said it made her appreciate our large spaces, green spaces, and variety. She also noted that urban and hyper-urban park planning was a

completely different animal and that you needed to keep an open mind because there were so many interpretations of "park".

John Becker: Thanked Diana for her work on the Bylaws and Policy Manual.

Yessica Rosas: Told a great personal story about a recent hike with her husband on Badger Mountain and getting caught out on the new Langdon Trail which was much longer than they anticipated.

Donna Raines: Thanked the County's park partners and asked Linda Smith a few more questions about Chili Feed.

With no further business to report, the meeting adjourned at approximately 7:18 p.m.

The next regular meeting will be the first Tuesday in May at the Kennewick Justice Center.