
BENTON COUNTY NATURAL AREAS & PARKS ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

MINUTES

May 8, 2024
6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Avery Parks Building
360 SW Avery Ave

Committee Members Present: David Smith, John Turner, Phil Hays, Bryce Downey, Elizabeth Spatafora, Kevin Chambers, and Duncan Rothe.

Committee Members Absent: Carol Walsh, Miles Phillips, and Ben Watts.

County Staff Present: Jesse Ott, Natural Areas, Parks & Events Deputy Director;
Adam Stebbins, Natural Resources Coordinator; Leanna Buck,
Recorder.

- I. Introduction of Guests
- II. BUSINESS
 - A. Approval of April Minutes (5min)

Phil moved to approve the minutes as amended. John seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.
 - B. Action Items- Jesse (5min)

No action items.
 - C. North Albany Project Start and Review - Jesse (20min)

Jesse shared pictures and a map of the start of the replacement of the North Albany Restroom project. The project started on Tuesday this week. He explained different aspects of the project and what will be affected by this project. He then discussed all the advantages of having this new restroom. Jesse advised that the department will also need to decide if we will really need to upgrade the shelter there. [He would like the Parks Advisory Board to take a look at the existing shelter and give their thoughts on that. Would a remodel work better and be more cost effective?](#) The restroom project will take approximately two to three months to complete.
 - D. County Wide Trails Master Plan Project - Jesse (10min)

Jesse talked about the TGM Planning grant through ODOT that will be used to do a County Trails Master Plan project.

The goal at this point is to have this help pay for a facilitator to develop a county trails master plan project. He then showed the group other projects that other organizations have done in Oregon with this grant. The Board will be heavily involved with this project and grant. David commented that this activity is closely related to the need to update the 2012 County Parks System Comprehensive Plan. He acknowledged the need and desirability to work with other organizations on a county-wide trails plan but feels that the Comprehensive Plan update should take priority. Jesse will keep this group updated on all the updates of this grant and project.

E. NAPE Org Chart/Staffing - Jesse (10min)

Jesse showed the Board the current organization chart for the department. He then went through each employee and what they do for the department.

F. NAPE Geospatial Asset and Work Tracker- Adam (10min)

Adam did a presentation on an asset and work tracker system that he developed. This is also an app that each worker can use and update on each of their cell phones. This will be a great way to track hours for grant work as well.

G. Fairgrounds projects- Leanna (10min)

Leanna reported that the department broke ground on the new storage building at the Fairgrounds that was funded by a Business Oregon Grant. The department is also working with a company to address the Solar Building ventilation and possibly the Arena Ventilation. We are also having a company take a look at the Guerber Hall HVAC system to make sure that it is still in good working order. The department is working on an RFP for the New Roof on the 4-H Barn. Lastly, the Marquee Sign at the Fairgrounds is now having issues connecting so that it can be updated for events and sponsors. Because the components for it are now outdated, the department is having to look at options for a new sign.

H. Ft Hoskins Interpretive/Chimney Repoint Workshop - Phil/Jesse (20min)

Jesse talked about the Chimney repoint workshop that happened out at the Commanders House at Ft. Hoskins Park. There were not only county employees but also some master masons that attended the workshop. He felt that the workshop was very informational and helpful in future maintenance needs.

I. Other

Bryce shared that the disc golf committee had a very successful 2nd meeting. They put together a ranking system for all of the parks and possible properties for new disc golf courses. They will be meeting again next month.

Jesse shared that on Tuesday, May 7th, McBee Park came into full ownership of the County. He thanked AFRANA for being so pivotal in that acquisition.

III. MEETING ADJOURNMENT ~ 8:02pm

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