
BENTON COUNTY NATURAL AREAS & PARKS ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

MINUTES

**January 10, 2024
6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.**

**Avery Parks Building
360 SW Avery Ave**

Committee Members Present: David Smith, Carol Walsh, Phil Hays, Bryce Downey, John Turner, Elizabeth Spatafora, and Kevin Chambers, and Ben Watts.

Committee Members Absent: Miles Phillips

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

I. BUSINESS

A. Approval of December Minutes (5min)

Bryce moved to approve the minutes and Elizabeth seconded. Motion was passed unanimously.

B. Action Items- Jesse (5min)

No action items at this time.

C. Hubert K. McBee Campground Update - Tomi (15min)

This last Tuesday the sale agreement was signed and approved by the Board of Commissioners. Next week the department will be approaching the Board of Commissioners to apply for the first grant to replace the toilets out there. There will be a press release tomorrow regarding the park and campground. David asked if there were any issues of concern by the Board of Commissioners regarding the financial information. Tomi replied that she and Jesse were sure to provide everything possible to the Board so that they had a very clear picture of the acquisition of the property.

D. Hubert K McBee Forest- Adam (10min)

Adam reported that Hull Oaks captured all the stand data that was submitted to us when we acquired the park. Adam then showed a map of the different stands of trees and their age classes.

He has a lot of great data on what the stands look like. He advised that there is an area that will need some thinning at some point. David advised that he would like to see the department put together a 4th management plan on this part of the park. Phil moved that the department hold off on any logging on the property until we have an established management plan for the park. Elizabeth seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

E. JFW Engineering- David/Jesse/Adam (10min)

Jesse advised that the department just had a planning meeting with the two Engineering groups today. CSE Engineering and Udel Engineering are the two that they met with. He feels things are looking good between the Engineering groups. Adam advised that we have all of our wetland permits in and approved from the Federal and State Agencies. They are hoping to have the Engineering plan by about March of this year.

F. Disc Golf Sub-Committee Update - Bryce (10min)

Bryce took some trips to McBee Campground and the Alsea Falls area as well as the City of Monroe Park along the Long Tom River looking for possible future Disc Golf sites and found that there isn't anything feasible right now for those areas other than supporting local interest in Monroe with a few baskets for local enjoyment to fit into the developing Monroe Park. The subcommittee activity will soon commence with John, Alex and Dan volunteering. The Disc Golf community remains very excited to see this move forward. Bryce will be working with Jesse to develop an overall approach for the next phase of this group.

G. Ft. Hoskins/King Valley Event next year - Jesse (10min)

Jesse advised that we got a Grant from the Historic Resources Commission and the whole goal was to get more people out there to expose them to the park so that they can see everything. The hope is to have an event where we will have a couple of people out there talking about restoration and to put more eyes on the park. We will be partnering with the Historic Resources Commission on this event, and it will be held approximately the first week of October.

The repointing of the chimney will also happen this spring.

H. Plunkett House- Jesse (5min)

Jesse and other department staff met with OSU faculty to check out the mold issue in the Plunkett House. It turns out that it's not the dangerous black mold as previously thought. So there are plans in place to go in and really clean the house up and take out all the modern things that were left by previous renters of the house and restore it back to its original version. The department also is hoping to turn it into a museum to reflect what life was like in the 1800's out there.

I. Parks Projects - North Albany Restroom/Bezell - Jesse (10min)

Jesse reported that the RFP is out for contractors to bid on the restroom. There is a mandatory meeting for them next week to take a look at the site. The engineer drew up a couple specs to add to the RFP. He advised that the restroom kit prices have absolutely skyrocketed so they had to design the RFP for a stick built structure.

Trout Mountain is ramping up to get all the Foresters lined out for the Bezell project.

J. AFRANA report- Phil/Jesse (5min)

Jesse added this item on our meeting agenda so that others of this group can understand who they are and everything that they do for us. To bring awareness of the group to the rest of the Park Board.

K. Other (Bench?)

Jesse and Carol will be working on a bench donation protocol for the department. One was started but has not been finished yet.

III. MEETING ADJOURNMENT ~ 7:48pm

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