
BENTON COUNTY NATURAL AREAS & PARKS ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

MINUTES

**September 11, 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, Carol Walsh, Miles Phillips, Duncan Rothe, and Ben Watts.

Committee Members Absent: Kevin Chambers.

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

I. BUSINESS

A. Approval of August Minutes (5min)

Carol moved to approve the minutes as amended and Phil seconded the motion. Motion approved unanimously.

B. Action Items- Jesse (5min)

Jesse sent out the links to the Ft. Hoskins Day to the group for review.

C. Comp Plan Update - David (20min)

Petra Shutz from Community Development joined the meeting and spoke to the Parks Advisory Committee about Comprehensive Plans, the rules behind them, how they are made, what they are for and how they help. She talked about the policies that each department needs to have to reach the Counties Goals. The Parks Comprehensive Plan should be based off the County Comprehensive Plan. Jesse then showed the committee the County Goals that the County has come up with. David advised that the next meeting of the subcommittee will be rescheduled.

D. Elections for Chair & Vice Chair - Jesse (10min)

David opened the floor for nominations for Chair and Vice Chair. David nominated Elizabeth for the Vice Chair position. Carol nominated David for the Chair position, and he accepted. David will remain the Chair and Elizabeth will remain the Vice-Chair.

E. Ft. Hoskins Event Update - Jesse (10min)

Jesse showed everyone a slide show presentation regarding what will be happening at this event. It will be October 5th from 10:00am to 4:00pm. He then talked about the volunteer support that he will need for the event. He will send out list of where help is needed.

F. McBee Update - Jesse (10min)

Jesse advised that the logging project is finished. The parking is also finished and useable. Jesse reported that the department applied for a \$650,000.00 grant and let the committee know that we were awarded it. This will help get the park construction ready for things like new bathrooms, a well, fire rings, and a few new shelter structures. A consultant will be hired to help with completing the renderings of the park and the budget needed to do that.

G. Jackson-Frazier Update - David (10min)

David reported that the committee had a meeting in June with the engineers about the design. They talked about this being a design build contract rather than a County built project. No decision was made yet on how they will move forward with that.

H. Mushroom Day - Jesse (5min)

November 3rd will be the Mushroom Day event this year at Beazell. Adam advised that there is already people registered for the event and that this will be the last year that it is held at Beazell due to it growing in popularity.

I. Park Project Updates - Jesse (10min)

Jesse advised that the North Albany Park Restrooms are not quite finished yet, they have until November to finish. But it's looking really good.

The Salmonberry Campground Season is coming to an end on October 1st.

Jesse also talked about the unhoused sweeps that ODOT and the City of Corvallis did this last month that ultimately moved all of those people out to our parks which has been a disaster for us at Jackson-Frazier and Irish Bend parks.

J. Other

This was Duncan Rothe's last meeting as our student member. He is off to college at OIT in Klamath Falls. We enjoyed having him as part of this committee and his contributions to this group.

Kevin Chambers has resigned from the Board as well. So the Parks Advisory Committee has two positions open currently.

III. MEETING ADJOURNMENT

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