
BENTON COUNTY NATURAL AREAS & PARKS ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

MINUTES

**March 13, 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, Duncan Rothe, and Ben Watts.

Committee Members Absent: Miles Phillips, and Kevin Chambers.

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

I.

Introduction of Guests

Ellon Tappon - AFRANA President

Jerry Davis - AFRANA

Jeff Powers - AFRANA

II. BUSINESS

A. Approval of February Minutes (5min)

Phil moved to approve the minutes as amended, Bryce seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

B. Action Items- Jesse (5min)

Action items will move to the next meeting.

C. AFRANA (Alliance For Recreation & Natural Areas) Discussion - Phil (30min)

Ellen gave a presentation regarding AFRANA. She talked about the history of the group and talked about why it was started and the efforts they work through to accomplish all of their goals and tasks. She then went through the projects that they have been involved with around the County.

D. State Parks Grant for McBee - Jesse (15min)

Jesse reported that our team met with Community Development and went over the site plan review for McBee Park.

He also talked about the County Opportunity Grant which is specific to campgrounds and Local Government, it will have all of the funding we need for restrooms, gravel, gray water vaults, the well and major tree removal of hazard trees, day use parking area and shelters. He talked about everything that would trigger having to go through the planning commission if we expanded beyond the original footprint of the campground. The current shelters will have to be replaced due to being hazardous. Jesse and the parks staff are very focused on the grants right now. They are hoping to do a sort of Community Meeting in the form of hikes and work with the County Public Information Officer as well as the Health Department and the Nystroms to get these going.

E. Disc Golf Expansion Update - Bryce (10min)

Bryce reported that the committee had their meeting, they are planning to look at properties throughout the County System and rate them for different options.

F. Jackson-Frazier Update - Jesse (10min)

Jesse reported that the engineers should be finished up soon which will help with larger fundraising and funding opportunities. Staff is hoping to work with the Owens Farm Group, Samaritan Hospital, and the City of Corvallis for funding opportunities.

G. Department Personnel Update - Jesse (15min)

Jesse shared that Tomi is no longer with the County. He thanked her for her time with us. Jesse then reported that the new Fairgrounds Manager Jen Martin is starting on Monday which will help our department a great deal.

H. Other

Phil passed out two examples of the current signs that will be replaced. He also used the US Forest Service Sign guidelines to build these draft examples. [He will be sending these drafts to everyone on the parks advisory board and is asking for people to give him any suggestions regarding the signs.](#) Then he and Carol will look at the remaining signs out there and do the same.

Jesse advised that Carol Chynn is a historical preservation expert and has offered to re-paint the Chimney. Inga and Jesse have found a grant to pay for Carol and the materials to do a Chimney repaint clinic on Sunday April 21st.

This will also be filmed to help others down the line. On Saturday April 20th NAPE will be doing a table event at the Corvallis Community Center during Planet Palooza.

Jesse and Adam have put together a schedule for three spring/early summer, weed pulls at Fitton Green, the second one will be a planting at Jackson-Frazier during the summer and the third will be at Jackson-Frazier and will be a weed pull during the fall.

Jesse shared that our department is leading the effort for the Historical Courthouse Preservation. They were meeting to figure out what to do with the Courthouse after it is decommissioned and the court system moves out of it. This Friday their report will be finalized and it will go to the Board of Commissioners.

Devon is doing a very robust tree survey of all the trees at the oak grove at the Fairgrounds. He is developing a program to keep track of all the trees to help us keep up on tree health and possible hazardous removal.

III. MEETING ADJOURNMENT

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