
BENTON COUNTY NATURAL AREAS & PARKS ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

MINUTES

**February 14, 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, and Duncan Rothe.

Committee Members Absent: Miles Phillips, Elizabeth Spatafora, Kevin Chambers and Ben Watts.

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

I.

Introduction of our new Student Member Duncan Rothe

David welcomed Duncan to the Board and gave an overview of what this Board does. Duncan then introduced himself and talked about his interests and why he chose to become a member of the Parks Advisory Committee. Then each current member of the Parks Advisory Board introduced and gave some background on themselves as well.

II. BUSINESS

A. Approval of January Minutes (5min)

Phil moved to approve the minutes as written and John seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

B. Action Items- Jesse (5min)

Jesse met with Bryce to discuss more possible Disc Golf sites within the County.

C. North Albany Park Update - Jesse (20min)

Jesse showed everyone the plans for the restroom replacement and discussed the issues with the current restroom. And then talked about the RFP of the new restroom. Allen & Laporte Construction won the proposal process, and the project should be finished by the end of this summer in 2024. The department will meet with City of Albany permitting next week to get the permits lined out and finished for the new restroom as well as a few new trails.

D. Historic Resources Update - Jesse (10min)

Jesse reported that the first weekend of October will be the Ft. Hoskins event this year. AFRANA will partner with us on the event. We received some grant money to make this event a little more robust than has been in the past. There will be a fiddler, blacksmith, fanner, chainsaw artist and the Siletz Honor Guard. Possibly the reenactors as well. The main goal for this event is advocacy for the park. [David requested that staff put together a list of our historical properties and then bring it to the next meeting for the board to review. Also, to find a time on a future agenda to discuss those buildings.](#)

E. Grant Update - Jesse (10min)

Jesse talked about the local government grant that they got for Jackson-Fraizer. We are still in good standing with this grant and Mark has said that we can submit for as many extensions as we need. Not a whole lot has changed for the Jackson-Frazier Boardwalk replacement project. The engineering will be finished in about a month or so. Tomi added that there is a 34 million dollar grant pool that is available to apply for. Jesse also shared that we are applying for a Habitat Monitoring grant. They will go before the Board of Commissioners next week regarding that and then next month they will give the presentation to the Parks Advisory Board.

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

Bryce advised that the committee met today, they had a good informative meeting and clarified the mission of the committee as well as identifying specific needs and wants. He will be working with Jesse to create a map of Benton County resources where this might work. The Disc Golf Club is also working toward expanding more disc golf course opportunities in other areas. He would like to find more descriptive data about elevations, acreage, and timber stands. Areas that would be feasible and areas that would not.

G. Beazell Forestry Update - Jesse (10min)

Jesse reported that Trout Mountain is about to get started. They are just finalizing their agreements with their loggers. This project should be wrapped up about May. Log prices are looking good as well. He also showed everyone a map of the different tree stands as well as things that will be worked on. The roads are also looking great and have been a great investment in the Park. The culvert work has also made a big difference in the drainage and erosion. [David requested for the County CFO to either come to the next meeting or write up a memo to the Parks Advisory board to explain how the Beazell Trust Fund is managed.](#)

H. Ft. Hoskins Historical Interpretation Committee Update - Phil (10min)

Phil shared that he has all the general themes done and written up. The Committee asked Peter Hatch with the Tribe to take care of the tribal portion of the sign themes. This will go to the Tribal Elders for discussion but this will take quite a bit of time so we will have to wait for them to get back to us. He would like to get the bulk of everything put together and then bring a draft back to Ft. Hoskins Interpretation Committee to discuss whether these are the themes that we want to stick with. There was discussion to just replace the signs with the current signs for the time being while we are waiting for the Tribe to get back to us. There was also a suggestion to put the interpretation plan on a 10-year plan to eventually finish.

I. Cardwell Hill - Jesse (5min)

Jesse showed the Board a picture of the road/emergency route that is sluffing off into the Mary's River. He advised that they have elicited help from Public Works to help figure out what to do to repair this road. Ed Easterling also met with our department and Public Works to help come up with a plan to repair that section of the road. Ed gave us permission to widen this road into his property to help save it. So Public Works is currently running with the project.

J. Executive Director Report - Tomi (5min)

Tomi shared that our new Fairgrounds manager interviews are happening next Friday. Our new Events and Sponsorships person has been hired and starts on the 1st. Tomi shared information about Recreational Immunity with the group. Tomi will send the Park Board Legislative updates so that they get all of the up-to-date information and can act accordingly if they choose to advocate for anything. She feels encouraged with all of the ORPD grants that we will be applying for.

K. Other

Carolyn met with Shane Galloway last week and he shared with her a sort of catalog that he has started for benches, plaques, things for the cemetery, bags of wildflower seed and a few trees. Carol and Shane talked mostly about the benches, what people would want, naming and describing what that is, determined how contributions would be made, determine how to interface with the public, who will handle the request, locations within each park for bench sites, how the donation would be recognized, determine a number of benches each year at each location. They also talked about the amount of time that the bench would last and come up with maintenance costs as well.

III. MEETING ADJOURNMENT ~ 8:05pm

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