
BENTON COUNTY NATURAL AREAS & PARKS ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

MINUTES

**August 14, 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 June Minutes (5min)

Phil moved to approve the minutes as amended and Elizabeth seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

B. Action Items- Jesse (5min)

No action items at this time.

C. 2024 Benton County Fair and Rodeo report- Jesse (15min)

Jesse showed everyone a power point of the Fair and the events that happened during Fair week. There were 375 kids that had projects entered into the fair. The Lee Allen Memorial Youth Auction raised over a million dollars this year. The auction was moved to earlier in the afternoon this year and it was well received. The Larry Bell All Girls Rodeo was successful. They added Ranch Bronc Riding and Bull Riding to this rodeo as well which has not been done before. Jesse then read a letter that was written to the Rodeo Committee from the parent of a special needs student that got to have an exhibition Barrel Racing ride during the All-Girls Rodeo. He then talked about the Hull-Oaks table that was refurbished by our own maintenance staff, Hull-Oaks Family members that attended the auction lunch made some great comments about the table and how great it looked. Open Class events went great as well. Revenue from the Fair increased this year. He then talked about the main acts on the stage and the success of each performance. Overall, it was a great Fair.

D. Comprehensive Plan Update - David (15min)

Dave addressed the need to update the current comprehensive plan. There was a small committee that was formed to take a look at the current plan to see what can be updated. The committee has met three times in the last few months to discuss updates. The group discussed a plan that would, instead of creating a single use booklet, provide a system for itemizing NAPE-sustaining operations (such as facility maintenance and scheduled upgrades) AND prioritizing ongoing and arising project and policy desires (such as Jackson-Frazier boardwalk repair and expanding disc golf) along with their timeline, staffing, and other resource allocations and associated materials (such as links to policies). The system would be updated monthly as a means of communicating progress with this advisory committee, county staff and the Board of Commissioners. Project priorities can shift based on available information. The committee proposed that this advisory committee establish the elements of the system and that some resources be allocated for technical rather than for generating a new booklet. There was discussion to also create an annual report of accomplishments each year to track the progress of this plan. The Board is in support of calling it a management tool instead of a Comprehensive Plan. David asked that the committee meet again.

E. Ft Hoskins/Kings Valley Event- Jesse (10min)

Jesse talked about an event on Saturday October 5th at Ft. Hoskins. He passed around a packet of people that will be in attendance and other possibilities. The Oregon Heritage Grant is funding this event along with the repointing of the chimney in the Commanders House. There will be one more planning meeting before this event to finalize everything. [The flyer should be done tomorrow and will be sent to the Board.](#)

F. Historic Courthouse- Jesse (10min)

Jesse emailed out the report to the Board before the meeting so that everyone could take a look at it. He went over the team that was part of the task force for what to do with the Courthouse. He then went over the committee recommendation, and talked about what they came up with. Jesse asked the Parks Advisory Committee to read through the report so that they have a better idea of what came of this. [Jesse will give this board an update on what happens at the Oregon Infrastructure Summit at the next meeting.](#)

G. Jackson-Frazier Boardwalk Replacement Update - Jesse (10min)

Jesse reported that he has been in talks with State Parks and that he is looking at the Recreational Trails Program Grant to help with match funds to help with funding this project. Jesse is planning to get a grant application in for this in November.

H. McBee update- Jesse (10 min)

Jesse advised that the logging has been finished at McBee. They had to remove the shelter near the front of the park as it was beyond repair and not salvageable. There will be some culverts installed to help with drainage of the property. There were close to 20 loads of wood that came out of the park. The Parks department is waiting for the remits for the wood still and then will move forward with more park updates as they know how much they have to work with.

I. Park Project Updates - Jesse (10min)

Jesse attended the Monroe Park Board meeting. It's brand new and they are just getting started. They don't have a budget yet but are working on it and a comprehensive plan as well. Jesse asked them if they would help with the public outreach for McBee and possible park caretakers as well.

The North Albany Restroom is almost done and looks really great.

III. MEETING ADJOURNMENT

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