
BENTON COUNTY NATURAL AREAS & PARKS ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

MINUTES

**December 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, and Ben Watts.

Committee Members Absent: Miles Phillips

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

I. BUSINESS

A. Approval of September Minutes (5min)

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

B. Action Items- Jesse (5min)

None

C. Directors Report - (Jesse 15min)

Jesse gave a presentation regarding what has been happening in the Parks department. He shared pictures of the new leaf pick up machine as well as some work being done at Adair Park to help the drinking fountains work again. He also talked about the trail work, limbing and other maintenance that our crews have been working on. He talked about the completion of the North Albany Park Restroom. And then moved on to the Outdoor Recreation Conference where he did some advocacy for our Parks department with some congressional staff. He talked about staff training that took place for maintenance staff as well.

D. Events Re-cap - Jesse (10min)

Jesse reported on the Mushroom Day event and how successful it was. Those from the Park Board that attended also felt it went well. Jesse then moved on to the Ft. Hoskins History Day. This event was grant funded and very well attended. There was a comment for better pre-event publicity.

E. McBee Update - Jesse/Adam (20min)

Jesse reported that the department had secured an ORPD local government grant as well as David Evans Associates as a consultant to lead drafting the conceptual plan for the campground. The consultant and plan will inform the public on development options. They will also be available for community outreach once the project reaches that stage. With new state requirements and having to do an Archeology survey, completion of all of the park upgrades has been slower than anticipated and slowed the opening of the park for camping again.

F. Strategic Operations Work - John/Carol (30min)

David advised that the comp plan sub-committee has been meeting for the last six months and have come up with a possible plan to update the Parks Comprehensive Plan. Carol talked about a tool that would track department operations, activities and projects. They talked about a webpage format that may be beneficial. It was also discussed how the GIS Dashboard has already been in use by staff providing for major work and time tracking.

Jesse will talk with the I.T. Department on what options are available for this dashboard idea. John Turner will put together a draft dashboard in the next few weeks so that Jesse has a visual to give to I.T. for his request. David will draft a short functional description for this as well. The Advisory Board feels that it would be a good idea to move forward with this concept. The sub-committee will meet again after we get the feedback from I.T.

G. Other

Phil made a motion to strongly urge Board Members to attend meetings in person instead of virtual meetings. John Turner seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

III. MEETING ADJOURNMENT

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