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## **BENTON COUNTY NATURAL AREAS & PARKS ADVISORY BOARD MEETING**

### **MINUTES**

**February 12, 2025  
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, and Carol Walsh.

**Committee Members Absent:** Ben Watts.

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

#### **I. BUSINESS**

**A. Approval of January Minutes (5min)**

Minutes were approved unanimously as submitted.

**B. Action Items- Jesse (5min)**

No action items at this time.

**C. Park Board Roster Update and Vacancies - David (15min)**

Updated board roster was reviewed and discussed need to fill vacancies. Board discussed need to fill board from diverse areas and roles.

**D. Park Board Chair Participation in County Comp Plan - David (15min)**

David discussed that he will be working on the comprehensive plan update that will occur countywide. The work will be coordinated by Shannon Bush in community development and a listening session will occur. David discussed that last comprehensive plan was developed in 2007 with a focus on policy statements rather than a plan. There was no planning and scenarios in the 2007 version, but the current planning goals are for scenario planning, but this doesn't fit within the 15 State Goals. David is focused on evaluating how the current county comprehensive plan has been achieved. David stated that it's likely that the process will require 2 years of planning. Phil stated that the tracking of achieving comprehensive plan goals is difficult. Jesse stated that the commissioner's goals are to be achieved and may be linked to the county comprehensive plan goals.

Elizabeth stated that the priorities and aspirations are important to note and track. David also stated there is a consultant in Portland area that will be supporting the strategic plan efforts. David also shared the website and database concept (STOPT) with the consultant and county planning. David stated that the guiding principles are highly important, and reiterated it is a multi-year effort.

**E. McBee Status Update - Adam/Jesse (15min)**

Adam discussed the field trip and the afternoon session at McBee. He then discussed the rezoning process and the next steps with consultants. There was also discussion about acquiring the adjacent Weyerhaeuser land as well.

**F. Web/STOPT Information - Adam/Leanna (15min)**

Adam talked about website priorities for each of the master plans. Adair and North Albany master plans need to be added.

**G. NAPE Facilities Review - Jesse (30min)**

Jesse noted that the donation and giving guide is the leadership academy capstone project for Shane Galloway (NAPE Maintenance Manager). Jesse stated that the policies will be updated and refreshed for review and drafting updates. Parks board will help to create these document updates.

Jesse reported that the Board of Commissioners office will roll out the civic plus board portal page to have improved recreation management for reservations, sharing information, and more.

Jesse reviewed the facilities conditions slides. The board asked about the budget cycle and how this will be reviewed and prioritized. Jesse confirmed that the courthouse building will not be NAPE responsibility. Jesse stated that the maintenance team is currently prioritizing maintenance of the existing infrastructure.

### **III. MEETING ADJOURNMENT**

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