
BENTON COUNTY NATURAL AREAS & PARKS ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

MINUTES

**February 11, 2026
6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.**

**Avery Parks Building
360 SW Avery Ave**

Committee Members Present: Phil Hays, John Turner, Elizabeth Spatafora, David Smith, Bryce Downey, and Carol Walsh.

Committee Members Absent: Dave Conca, Ben Watts, Alexis Maxwell.

County Staff Present: Jesse Ott, Department Director and Leanna Buck Recorder.

I.

Introduction of Guests - Greg Johnson with Willamette Disc Golf Club (WDGC), Jim Flemming with WDGC and Drone Pilot. Jeff Powers with AFRANA was also in attendance.

II. BUSINESS

A. Approval of January Meeting Minutes (5min)

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

B. Disc Golf Discussion - Bryce (30min)

Bryce gave a presentation on disc golf courses and the climb in demand of them all over the county. He then gave ideas, observations and data for another disc golf course in Benton County. He then passed around a diagram of features of each park that would make it ideal for another disc golf course. Adair, North Albany, McBee and Ft. Hoskins were the top parks that stood out the most. The Fairgrounds even became an option for a smaller course. Ft. Hoskins was #1, North Albany Park was #2, McBee came in at #3. Bryce would like to see a kickoff on a new course at Ft. Hoskins and then see if the North Albany Disc Golf Club would be interested in designing a plan for North Albany Park and bringing a presentation back to us. David expressed concern about starting any other projects right now and the short capacity of the NAPE department. David asked for a more formal proposal of the economics for putting a course in at Ft. Hoskins and where the resources will come from.

C. Welcome AFRANA - Jesse (15min)

Jesse talked about AFRANA, it is the “friends of” group for our Parks department to help with grants and collaborations with outside sources. Jeff Powers talked about the health of AFRANA and their contributions.

D. JFW Boardwalk Discussion - David/Jesse (45min)

David presented building specs and a draft work plan to the group. There is hope to put in at least 10 modules by this fall. We would need to have them purchased by this May in order to have them by September. David’s goal is to get everything finalized as soon as possible. David would like an affirmation from the group to move forward with submitting this bid specification to obtain bids and be able to move forward with this phase. David will work with Jesse to get the bid spec finalized.

E. McBee Campground Update - Jesse (10min)

Jesse reported that the project is going really well right now and that some of the campsites and the roads have been established. The department is currently working with an engineering firm on the bathrooms.

F. Dashboard Discussion - John (10min)

Jesse said that John Turner has been a big help on the dashboard project. Jesse showed the spreadsheet on where things are at, at this point.

III. MEETING ADJOURNMENT ~ 8:05pm

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