
BENTON COUNTY NATURAL AREAS & PARKS ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

MINUTES

**May 20, 2026
6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.**

**Avery Parks Building
360 SW Avery Ave**

I.

Introduction of Guests

II. BUSINESS

A. Approval of April Meeting Minutes (5min)

Phil moved to approve the minutes as submitted. Ben seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

B. Dashboard Update - John/David/Jesse (15min)

David advised that there has been quite a bit of work done on the dashboard so far. There are now three tabs on it, once for current projects and operations and the other two are saved for long term planning and activities. The McBee and Jackson-Frazier projects are now on the dashboard as well. He then talked about the new Teams Channel that he will be sending everyone a link to join so that they can stay up to date on the Dashboard. He then reminded everyone that this is still in the pilot stage and that it's not quite ready to be up and running completely.

C. McBee Campground Update - Jesse (10min)

Jesse showed everyone slides of the new restroom engineering plans and added that the staff feels really good about them. It comes with quite a bit of storage space for supplies for the camp host. There is an option for a solar panel to help with some kind of ambient lighting on them as well. It will be a basic pit toilet, no sink or running water but there will be hand sanitizer in there. He then discussed the fire ring possibilities and who may be able to build them as well as where the picnic tables will come from as well as signage.

D. Historic Courthouse Project Update - Jesse (10min)

Jesse reported that they got approval to release the RFP for the independent assessment or feasibility study on the Courthouse. He also shared that they are going to stop doing the Court House Preservation Committee meetings at the Courthouse do to the inaccessibility and lack of technology for virtual meetings and

screen sharing. Jesse explained that they are going to move the meeting to the Kalapuya building instead.

E. NAPE Events & Outreach - Jesse (15min)

This last weekend there was a Spring All Girls Rodeo that our Queen, Jessica McLennen rode in. A fun, wholesome and educational event to those that don't know rodeo well.

The Fairgrounds just completed an LED upgrade of all of the lighting. 550 fixtures were converted into LED.

On June 3rd Jesse will be giving a presentation the Kiwanis Club regarding the Jackson-Frazier Wetland Boardwalk.

On June 27th there is a Fenders Blue Butterfly Celebration at Finley Wildlife Refuge.

F. Adair Clubhouse- Jesse (10min)

Jesse discussed the state of the Adair Clubhouse. The building is in need of a great deal of repair. And the County just doesn't have the funds to complete the repairs. Interest to rent it has fallen as well. So Jesse discussed possible the current operations budget for it along with the next steps with the Park Board.

G. Get Outdoors Day- Jesse (5min)

Saturday May 30th is Get Outdoors Day at the Peavy Arboretum. Leanna and Mindy will be out there to set everything up and manning the booth for the first part of the day.

H. Cemetery Memorial Day Event - Jesse (5min)

Jesse talked about the Historic Cemetery outreach event that our County PIO put on, on May 20th at the Cemetery. Shane our Maintenance Manager gave a small talk on the Cemetery history during the event. A couple ROTC groups, a former City of Philomath Mayor and our County Commissioners were all in attendance.

I. Other Park Project Updates - Jesse (5min)

Jesse shared that North Albany Park has been getting hammered by vandalism so the department has posted trail cameras around the park to try to catch the vandals.

J. Board Member Recruitment

Jesse let everyone know that we have a few positions coming open after July. We are losing two board members and we have our student position open as well. He asked that everyone get the word out so that we can recruit for the open positions.

III. MEETING ADJOURNMENT

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