

Benton County Ordinance No. 493

An Ordinance Amending Benton County Ordinance No. 355

Whereas, the Benton County Board of Commissioners re-established a Park Commission by amending Ordinance No. 355 on May 15, 2018; and,

Whereas, the newly established Park Commission having met on September 25, 2023 and by a unanimous vote of its members did recommend that the County Board add a representative of the Benton County Public Health Department to the Park Commission; and,

Whereas, the Park Commission record of discussion states that Park Commission members see value in having representation from Public Health due to their expertise in active living and ability to bring grant funding into the County park system; and

Whereas, a duly-noticed public hearing was conducted on these ordinance revisions June 4, 2024.

Now, therefore, Ordinance No. 355 is hereby amended as follows:

Benton County Ordinance No. 355
(Adopted April 1, 2003; Amended May 15, 2018; Amended June 4, 2024)

An Ordinance establishing a Benton County Park Commission

Whereas, the Benton County Board of Commissioners recognizes the value of citizen involvement in county issues; and,

Whereas, Minnesota Statutes Section 398.36 authorizes the County Board to establish a Park Commission; and,

Whereas, the Benton County Board of Commissioners conducted a public hearing on April 1, 2003 to consider the original adoption of this ordinance; and,

Whereas, Ordinance No. 355 was further amended on May 15, 2018 after a properly noticed public hearing to add a County Board member to the Park Commissioner; and

Whereas Ordinance No. 355 was again amended on June 4, 2024 after a properly noticed public hearing to add a representative from the Benton County Public Health Department.

The County Board of Benton County Ordains:

1. There is hereby created the Benton County Park Commission, which shall consist of five citizen members, one representative employed by the Benton County Public Health Department and one County Commissioner to be appointed by the Benton County Board of Commissioners. If possible, Park Commission citizen members shall reside in each of the five County Commissioner districts. However, if no qualified members from each Commissioner district are willing to serve, Commission members may be appointed when residing within any district in the County.

Benton Co. Admin.
No fee

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The representative from the Benton County Public Health Department shall also be a resident of Benton County, whose appointment to the Park Commission shall be made by the County Board upon nomination by the Benton County Public Health Director.

2. Term of Office. The term of all citizen Park Commission members shall be for three years, and shall be staggered so no more than two members terms expire in any given year. All regular terms shall expire on December 31st. No citizen members may serve more than three consecutive three-year terms. Terms for County Commissioner members of the Park Commission and a representative from the Benton County Public Health Department shall be determined by the County Board.
3. Duties. The Benton County Park Commission shall act in an advisory capacity to the Benton County Board of Commissioners, providing recommendations to the board regarding the planning, development, funding and evaluation of park and recreation facilities and programs.

The Commission shall adhere to the requirements of the by-laws of the Benton County Park Commission, as adopted by the Benton County Board of Commissioners.

4. Compensation. Citizen members shall receive per diem and mileage reimbursement, in an amount set by the Benton County Board of Commissioners for attending meetings. Compensation for County Board members shall be governed by County Board Resolutions. Compensation for a representative from the Public Health Department shall be governed by County Personnel Policies and applicable collective bargaining agreements.

Be it further ordained that the Benton County Board of Commissioners adopt the by-laws of the Benton County Park Commission, which are attached hereto and incorporated by reference.

This ordinance shall become effective upon passage and publication as provided by law.

Dated this 15th day of May, 2018

Benton County Board of Commissioners
/s/ Edward D. Popp, Chair

Attest:
/s/ Montgomery Headley, County Administrator

Adopted this 4th day of June 2024 and effective upon its publication in the official newspapers of Benton County.



Jared J. Gapinski
Board Chair

Attest:

Montgomery Headley
Montgomery Headley
County Administrator