

## **Minutes of the Recreation and Parks Advisory Board Meeting**

### **April 14, 2016 Regular Meeting**

The April 14, 2016 Regular Meeting of the Recreation and Parks Advisory Board was convened at 7:07 pm in the Social Room of the Oak Ridge Civic Center with Alan Tatum, Chair, presiding.

#### **Roll Call**

Present: Naomi Asher, Steve Dittner, Ray Garrett, David Kitzmiller, Dan Robbins, Ken Rueter and Alan Tatum.

Absent: Kevin Hoyt, Fay Martin.

#### **Approval of the March 10, 2016 Regular Meeting Minutes**

A motion to approve the minutes for the March 10, 2016 regular meeting was made by Dan and seconded by Ken. A few spelling errors were noted. The minutes were approved unanimously as corrected.

#### **Appearance and Citizen Comments**

Citizens present: Mary Lou Daugherty, Doug Colclasure, Jimmy Groton, Liane Russell, Peggy Mitchell, and Timothy Bunn.

Alan provided an overview of how the City/Schools Joint Preschool Committee was formed and their final recommendation to site the new preschool at Elm Grove Park. He then followed with a recap of last month's discussion and motion from Dan, which was tabled at that time to allow additional information to be gathered. He then opened the floor to citizen comments on the subject. Doug, Jimmy, Liane and Peggy spoke in favor of having the preschool sited somewhere other than Elm Grove Park.

#### **Unfinished Business:**

Oak Ridge Schools Superintendent Bruce Borchers distributed the executive summary of the Joint City / Schools Preschool Planning Committee along with an information packet on the sites reviewed. He then explained the process that the committee used to develop the site recommendation. Board members then asked questions of Dr. Borchers. Dan made a motion: "The Recreation & Parks Advisory Board enthusiastically supports the City's Preschool Program and recognizes the need to house it in a safe environment. We also enthusiastically support our City's parks and do not believe siting the new preschool building in Elm Grove Park is in the best interest of the citizens of Oak Ridge." Ken seconded the motion. The Board then discussed the motion at great length, considering many possible changes to the wording of the motion. Alan finally suggested the following revised motion, based on the Board's comments: "The Recreation and Parks Advisory Board enthusiastically supports the City's Preschool Program and recognizes the need to house it in a safe environment. We also enthusiastically support our City's Recreation and Parks amenities. The report of the Joint City/Schools Preschool Planning Committee recommends location of a new preschool facility at Elm Grove Park. We are not in support of this recommendation, but regardless of the City's path forward on this issue we request that the

Recreation and Parks Board, as well as the Recreation and Parks Department, be involved in site planning discussions to ensure that playgrounds, walking trails, and green spaces are maintained and that natural assets are preserved to the greatest extent possible." Dan agreed to the revised motion and Ken seconded the revised motion. The motion passed 6-0 with one abstention (David).

### **New Business:**

The request for light pole banners along Melton Lake Drive was not submitted; the item was removed from the agenda.

### **Board Work Plan**

#### Bell Update:

- Alan reported that he attended a meeting with a group of representatives from the City, National Park Service (NPS) and DOE to discuss the progress of development of the Manhattan Project National Historical Park. Alan provided an update to that group and discussed the dilemma of trying to determine the placement of the Bell within the Park footprint. The Bell Committee will begin work on a principle of agreement with the NPS and DOE. Tracy Atkins, acting Superintendent of the Park, will return to Oak Ridge in June for further discussions.
- The fundraising subcommittee will meet at the end of the month.

#### Community and Corporate Donations Guide:

- No report

#### Trail Development:

- Ken presented an update on the Gallaher Point trail initiative. It is a much larger plan than the Sinkhole trail. DOE has authorized scouting to look at trail routing options. The Legacy Parks Foundation will again partner for the use agreement with DOE and local trail builders will again partner to evaluate potential trails. Ken presented two different maps of potential trail routes. The group will look at developing trails for riders of diverse skill levels. Ken cited the Baker Center report on the economic impact of the Knoxville Urban Wilderness and the potential for a similar impact in Oak Ridge. Ken and Carol Evans, Legacy Parks Executive Director, will meet with DOE in May. Ken would like to have a letter of support from the Board for the project. Plans include a cyclocross course and an NCAA certified cross country course. Ken stated that DOE is planning to remove the Three Bends area from the Reservation footprint. Dan cautioned that certain environmental groups within DOE had opposed the license agreement for Gallaher Bend Greenway and especially any off-trail use. Ken acknowledged the challenge, but felt that there is more DOE support for recreation now. He also mentioned that State Economic Development Commissioner Randy Boyd will be speaking soon on recreation development and possibly some associated grants.

#### Clark Center Park:

- No report.

#### Grant Proposals and Opportunities:

- Steve reported that he had sent news of a grant opportunity to Jon, but acknowledged that the deadline was too soon to allow development of a plan. It was agreed that a plan needs to be in place in order to respond to grant opportunities.

#### Long Term Strategy/Needs Assessment:

- Alan requested that Jon email last year's top twenty CIP priorities to the Board to allow members to consider the need for reevaluation.

#### Programming Promotion:

- Alan reported slow progress on the condensed department presentation.

#### National Park Service Collaboration:

- Dan noted that Doug Colclasure and others had toured the North Boundary Greenway by bike with representatives of the NPS. Ken, who participated in the ride, provided an overview. He reported that it was a very good trip, with an interactive ride route planned by Doug that included the guardhouse, K25, the Wheat community and other notable sites. Tracy Atkins, with the NPS, was very enthusiastic about the trip and what she learned. Ken, as a citizen, wrote a letter about the ride to Mayor Gooch, who responded positively.

#### UT Arboretum/City Trails Integration:

- No report.

#### Updates and Observations (Non Action Items):

- CVB – Steve reported that the CVB will be moving into the Chamber of Commerce building. The Board also discussed the increase in projected cost for the 8<sup>th</sup> lane project.
- Dan discussed the effort by Stephanie Carlson, Public Works Stormwater Manger, to get volunteers to water the trees planted during 50K Tree Day. He also mentioned that he has noticed a large number of cigarette butts at the Haw Ridge parking lot.
- David mentioned discussions he has had with softball players regarding non-resident fees. He has asked them to write letters to the Board to express their thoughts on the subject.
- Ray is looking into next steps for the East Fork Poplar Creek trail.

#### Director's Report:

- Bands have been announced for the Secret City Festival. The Charlie Daniels Band will headline Friday night and Grand Funk Railroad will play a double bill Saturday night with the Atlanta Rhythm Section. Tickets will go on sale May 1<sup>st</sup>.

- The Knoxville Regional Transportation Planning Organization (TPO) has agreed to partner with the City to fund a master plan for the proposed rails-to-trails project. This will help build public support and assist with any grant application. City staff will also apply to have the project included in the TDOT Mobility Plan, which is the first step in qualifying for transportation grants from the State.

**Future Agenda Items:**

- Recreation Manager Linda Jackson will present a report to the board on the Oak Ridge Senior Center.
- The Board will be asked to consider a letter of support for the Gallaher Point trails initiative.

David made a motion to adjourn and Ken seconded the motion. The motion to adjourn was approved unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 8:58pm.



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Alan Tatum

## JOINT CITY/SCHOOLS PRESCHOOL PLANNING COMMITTEE

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

October 20, 2015

The Oak Ridge City Council and the Oak Ridge City Schools Board of Education appointed nine members and three non-voting members to form the Joint City/Schools Preschool Planning Committee. The Committee was charged "to determine whether or not to remodel the existing buildings at 304 New York Avenue; lease and renovate a building; or build new."

To meet the charge, the Committee met in a series of six formal meetings and numerous smaller work sessions from April 9 to September 28, 2015. The committee's charge led to a series of questions outlined in the report addressing: remediation of existing building problems and renovation to meet needs; the community needs for preschool facility; whether or not a new facility would be leased or new construction; costs of options; size of facility; factors for a building site; review of sites in prime service area; and recommendations from this committee to the City Council and the School Board.

The Committee sought to find a fiscally responsible and community-oriented solution to the preschool building need. In addition to the meetings to address the charge, data were gathered from community assessments, requirements of funding agencies, designation of prime service area, criteria for site selections, variety of recommended sites, individuals' site visits, directors of maintenance reports, public work reports, city maps, and infrastructure reviews. The Committee also spent significant time discussing potential preschool options beyond the existing operations, including working with adjacent services, such as Girls, Inc. at their site, and cooperating with existing preschools to offer tuition based programs, and converting existing properties within the city limits.

The Committee determined that the existing New York Avenue Oak Ridge Preschool building has numerous needs and will continue to need significant repairs to keep it up to code and safe for the children it serves. After a consideration of the costs of remediation and renovation of approximately \$7.5M, and the pros and cons of leased properties, the Joint City/Schools Preschool Planning Committee recommends a new building be constructed for approximately \$6.3M, with additional costs for infrastructure, architects and other fees, and an in-depth analysis by design and construction firms expected to be approximately 1.2 M for a total of \$7.5M.

The size and location of the facility were deliberated with information from a community needs assessment for services now and those anticipated for the future. The Committee recommends the size of the facility at approximately 40,000 square feet with future operations over 3-5 years of 20 classrooms and with the related spaces for program operation services.

The Committee considered numerous sites for the facility based on community concerns expressed to committee members, private properties available and known to the city, parcels owned by the city, exiting park sites and former school sites. Five sites were reviewed in depth

with the following criteria in mind: cost of land; accessibility to residential areas; transportation infrastructure; proximity to extra parking; proximity to churches/social organizations; displaced persons/activities; offsite evacuations; distance from sale of alcoholic beverages; and visibility.

The Joint City/Schools Preschool Planning Committee recommends to the Oak Ridge City Council and Board of Education that a new Oak Ridge Schools Preschool building be constructed at the Elm Grove Park site on existing city owned property. The cost of the total project is estimated at approximately \$7.5 million, which includes the cost of the new building, site preparation, infrastructure changes for the area, architects and other fees associate with the building and the site.

The following report and Power Point presentation will detail the Committee's considerations and explain the final recommendations.

Respectfully submitted,

Shirley C. Raines, Citizen Representative and Chair

Joint City/Schools Preschool Planning Committee Members:

Keys Fillauer, Board of Education Chair

Ellen Smith, Mayor Pro Tem, City Council Representative

Jessica Hill, Parent Representative

Bruce Borchers, Superintendent

Mark Watson, City Manager

Charlsey Cofer, Preschool Director

Lee Ann Shelton, Preschool Teacher Representative

Janis McGinnis, Finance Director

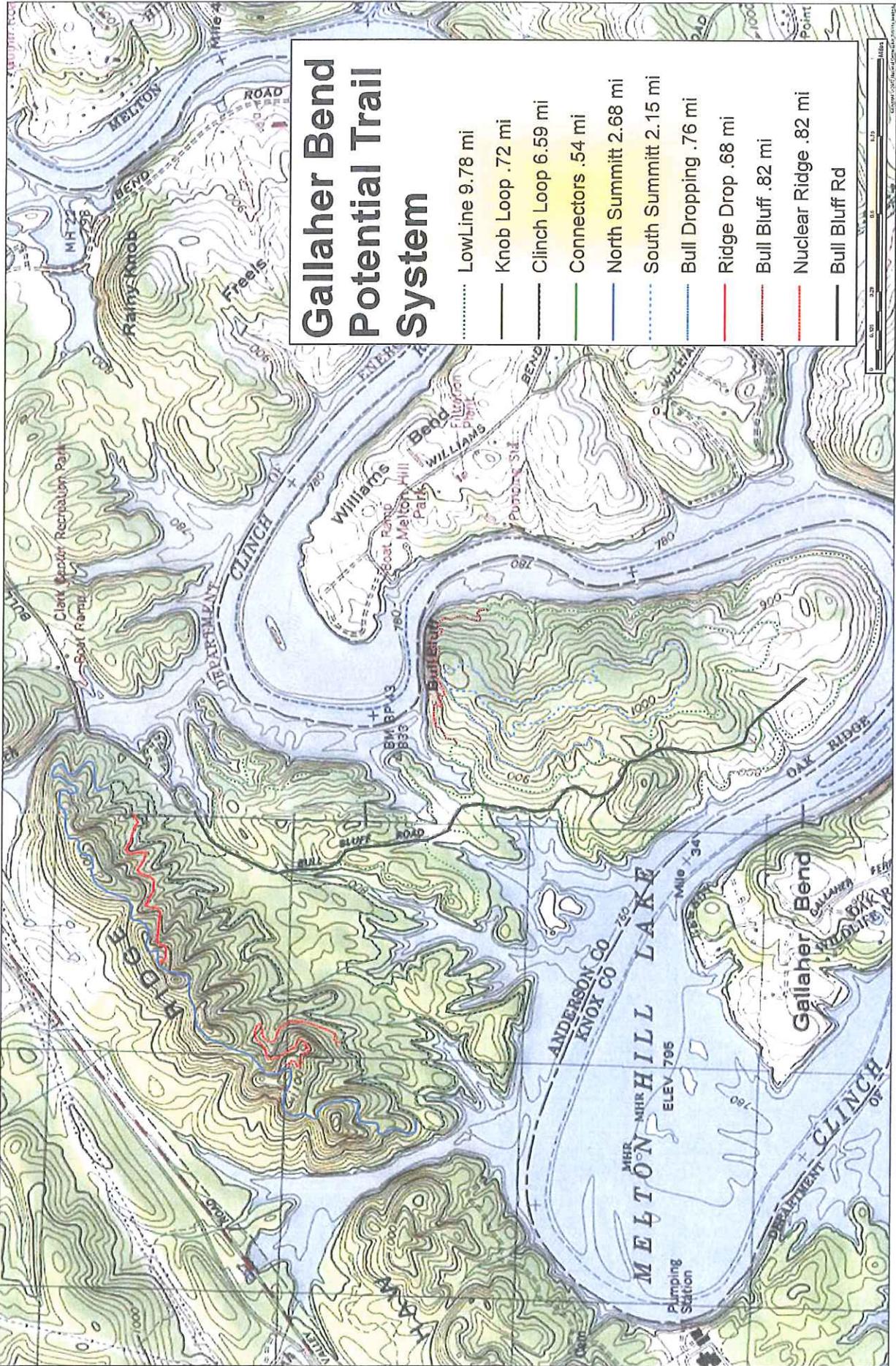
Pat Fallen, Public Works Operations/Maintenance Division Manager, Non-voting member

Allen Thacker, Board of Education, Director of Maintenance, Non-voting Member

Jon Hetrick, Recreation and Parks Director, Non-voting Member

# Gallaher Bend Potential Trail System

- LowLine 9.78 mi
- Knob Loop .72 mi
- Clinch Loop 6.59 mi
- Connectors .54 mi
- North Summitt 2.68 mi
- South Summitt 2.15 mi
- Bull Dropping .76 mi
- Ridge Drop .68 mi
- Bull Bluff .82 mi
- Nuclear Ridge .82 mi
- Bull Bluff Rd



Name	Color	Length
Bull Bluff Rd and Grassy EX		2.3 mi
E Cove		0.6 mi
E Harbor View Spur		0.1 mi
E Inner Ridge		0.5 mi
E Inner Ridge Access		0.2 mi
E Outer Ridge		1.1 mi
E Roll the Bowl		0.2 mi
E Valley		0.3 mi
FB Hawk Base EZ		1.9 mi
GP Bowl		0.8 mi
GP Cliff Base Loop		0.6 mi
GP East Contour		0.7 mi
GP Forrest Rd dt EX		0.5 mi
GP Karst Area		0.4 mi
GP N East Side		0.6 mi
GP Ridge Access		0.1 mi
GP Ridge Top		0.3 mi
GP Rock Dn Hill		0.4 mi
GP Rock Garden		0.3 mi
GP S West Side		0.4 mi
GP SH Overlook		0.7 mi
GP Shore		1.3 mi
GP Shore Access		0.1 mi
GP Shore Bridges		0.2 mi
GP Shore EZ Start		0.3 mi
GP Shore Tough Start		0.7 mi
GP South Woods		0.5 mi
GP West Side		0.5 mi
HR Eagle's View Spur		0.8 mi
HR Hawk Base		0.9 mi
HR High Flow		1.2 mi
HR Laurel Spur		333 ft
HR Low Flow		0.9 mi
I East Loop		0.5 mi
I West Loop		0.4 mi
W Cabin		0.4 mi
W Plateau Loop		0.6 mi
W Shore		3.1 mi
W Shore Access 1		0.5 mi
W Shore Access 2		0.2 mi

