

Minutes of the Recreation and Parks Advisory Board Meeting

March 10, 2016 Regular Meeting

The March 10, 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, Kevin Hoyt, David Kitzmiller, Fay Martin, Dan Robbins and Alan Tatum.

Absent: Ray Garrett, Ken Rueter.

Approval of the February 11, 2016 Regular Meeting Minutes

Austin Lance's name needs to be corrected in the Bike/Ped report. A motion to approve the minutes for the February 11, 2016 regular meeting as corrected was made by Fay and seconded by Naomi. The minutes were approved unanimously.

Appearance and Citizen Comments

Doug Colclasure and Mary Lou Daugherty.

Presentation by Parks Division Supervisor Billy Pickett and Crew Chief Wade Cordell

See attached PowerPoint presentation.

Board Work Plan

Bell Update:

- Alan reported that the committee with major stakeholders/potential donors to discuss how it can be coordinated with the development of the Manhattan Project National Historical Park. Communication is ongoing with the National Park Service and others as they determine the final location and whether the Bell will be part of the hub or a spoke in the system.

Community and Corporate Donations Guide:

- No report

Trail Development:

- Steve reported that approximately seventy (70) people attended the Haw Ridge work day, constructing approximately .7 miles of trail from west of the Life Development Center to the East Edge trail. The new trail is getting a lot of use and getting bedded in well as it dries out.

- The next goal is to get TDEC to relinquish the no-bikes rule in East BORCE.
- Alan noted that a walk along the proposed route of the East Fork Poplar Creek trail would take place on Saturday the 12th at 10 am.

Clark Center Park:

- No report.

Long Term Strategy/Needs Assessment:

- No Report.

Grant Proposals and Opportunities:

- Alan reported that the letter to Mr. Watson from the Board was submitted and receipt has been acknowledged. The recommendation will be referred to the City Council Budget Committee.

Programming Promotion:

- Kevin reported that he is working on organizing a free fishing day in 2017, in cooperation with TWRA. He noted that there is a conflict in 2016 with the Secret City Festival, also scheduled for June 11th.

National Park Service Collaboration:

- Dan followed up with additional information from the February public input session.

UT Arboretum/City Trails Integration:

- Kevin has reported that he has been reviewing options, including access to the Arboretum through the parcel at S. Illinois Ave and Union Valley (former driving range). Parking for bikes could be provided, though they would still be restricted from most trails at the Arboretum.
- Kevin is working on a proposal to the dean for a fun run at the Arboretum at some future date.

Unfinished Business:

- Faye and Dan reported on 50K Tree Day and efforts to get volunteers scheduled to plant the ~600 trees planted.

New Business:

- Preschool Site Evaluation: Dan passed out copies of the editorial written by Liane Russel regarding the use of Elm Grove Park as a site for the new preschool. After some discussion, Dan made motion for the Board to vote to oppose the use of City parks for the preschool. Faye seconded the motion. After further discussion Steve recommended tabling the motion at this time and the Board concurred. Dan requested the issue be placed on the April agenda under unfinished business.

Updates and Observations (Non Action Items):

- CVB – Steve reported that the CVB Board is discussing options for the lease for the CVB offices. They are debating staying in the Wildcat Den or moving into the Chamber of Commerce Building. The Board also discussed heads-in-beds, with mention of the increase in athletic tournaments in Oak Ridge this year. The discussion then moved on to outdoor recreation.
- Dan reported six (6) more bluebird houses have been installed. He also mentioned concerns about root damage on sections of Melton Lake & Emory Valley Greenways.
- Steve mentioned Doug Colclasure's attendance at the Professional Trail Builders Association (PTBA) conference, held in Knoxville earlier in the month. He hopes Doug, who had left earlier, will provide the Board a report at the April meeting.

Director's Report:

- Bands have been selected for the Secret City Festival and will be announced to the public on April 1st.

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 request for light pole banners along Melton Lake Drive by the Oak Ridge Rowing Association (ORRA).

Fay made a motion to adjourn and Naomi seconded the motion. The motion to adjourn was approved unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 8:50pm.

 4/14/16

Alan Tatum