

Minutes of the Recreation and Parks Advisory Board Meeting

January 8, 2015 Regular Meeting

The January 8, 2015 Regular Meeting of the Recreation and Parks Advisory Board was convened at 7:05 pm in the Social Room of the Oak Ridge Civic Center with Alan Tatum, Chair, presiding.

Roll Call

Members present at roll call: Naomi Asher, John Clayton, Steve Dittner, Ray Garrett, Fay Martin, Bradley Spears and Alan Tatum. Members absent at roll call: Dan Robbins and Cathy Toth.

Approval of the November 12, 2014 Meeting Minutes

A motion to approve the minutes for the December 11, 2014 meeting was made and seconded. The minutes were approved by a 7-0 vote.

Appearance and Citizen Comments

Doug Colclasure requested support from the Board for his proposal for a trail on Parcel 405 connecting the North Boundary trail to the Big Oak Greenway trail. The trail proposal has previously been rejected by DOE. Brad Spears stated that he was working with DOE through UCOR to develop support for the project and was also coordinating support from the Legacy Parks Foundation. The request for consideration of support will be added to the February agenda. Steve Dittner suggested inviting Carol Evans, Director of Legacy Parks, to the February Board meeting.

Sharon Cabe then spoke to the Board about her interest in promoting the sport of bocce in Oak Ridge. She has established an organizing committee to establish a city-wide recreational league for bocce players. The committee is soliciting the "encouragement, cooperation and participation by the Recreation and Parks Department of the City of Oak Ridge" to promote and provide minimal funding for the establishment of bocce courts at City parks.

Committee Reports

Bike/Ped Committee:

Ray Garrett reported that Kathryn Baldwin, Community Development Director, informed him that the City Manager had drafted a letter to CSX requesting guidance on the next steps in the right-of-way acquisition process for the proposed rails-to-trails project.

Ray reported that City Engineer Steve Byrd had provided him with a sketch of the proposed North Ridge Trail parking lot proposed for Illinois Ave. Ray will present the sketch to Tim Webster, TDOT right-of-way specialist. He also reported that he has submitted a revised plan to City staff for the North Ridge Trail parking lot on West Outer Drive that extends deeper into the right-of-way, allowing vehicles to pull out on to the street rather than

backing out. Mr. Byrd continues to have concerns about the sight line distance for vehicles entering the roadway at that location.

Ray also reported that he has been in contact with Royce Hills, LLC, the owner of the property adjacent to the Kennel Club along the proposed Polar Creek Trail. He stated that the regional manager was receptive to his request to locate the trail on their property and planned to take the request to the company owners for consideration.

Community Funding Opportunities Committee:

Naomi Asher presented a draft brochure and requested comments from the Board. She discussed the need to create a tie-in to the Recreation & Parks website and a downloadable PDF. She also stated that her next project would be a brochure focused on larger corporate donations. She also proposed creating an Instagram account for the Recreation & Parks Department, emphasizing the need to keep it updated. Discussion then followed about the layout of the brochure and some changes to specific wording. Alan requested ideas for distribution of the brochures, such as trailhead kiosks. Fay asked about smaller donations than those listed in the brochure, which Naomi suggested could be handled through the website.

Needs assessment:

Alan reported that the UT MBA program has taken on a different project. He expressed the belief that there appears to be little support for a long-term needs study and asked the Board to consider the best process for documenting current and future needs of the Recreation & Parks department. Jon suggested that the priorities of the Capital Improvements Plan (CIP) be reevaluated based on current needs and funding projections. Brad suggested the Board create a yearly work plan for the Department. Alan recommended that the priority for the Board should be to advocate for the Department to get funding as needed. Steve asked how the Board could highlight the importance of Recreation & Parks to City Council and The City Manager. He suggested focusing on a three year plan, rather than long-range. Alan suggested the Board hold a Saturday work session in the next couple of weeks to allow the Board to create framework for a three year plan. Other Board members concurred with the suggestion.

Unfinished Business

Alan reported that the fundraising committee for the Bell project is coming together and gave an overview of his presentation to City Council on the project. He told the Board that the fundraising committee is working to determine realistic fundraising expectations and expressed the need to get more engineering and cost estimate information prior to the next public meetings on the project – hopefully within the next six weeks.

New Business

Naomi reported on the Tour DeLights community bike ride and other successful rides in Knoxville and suggested that Oak Ridge is an even better place to hold these types of rides. She recommended that we should be doing

similar events here. She suggested Emory Valley Greenway to Elza gate as a potential route and asked for ideas for other routes, particularly those that could be done safely without the need for police support. Brad recommended that an event be created, like Tour DeLights, because the rides are really more about the event than the route.

Updates and Observations (Non Action Items)

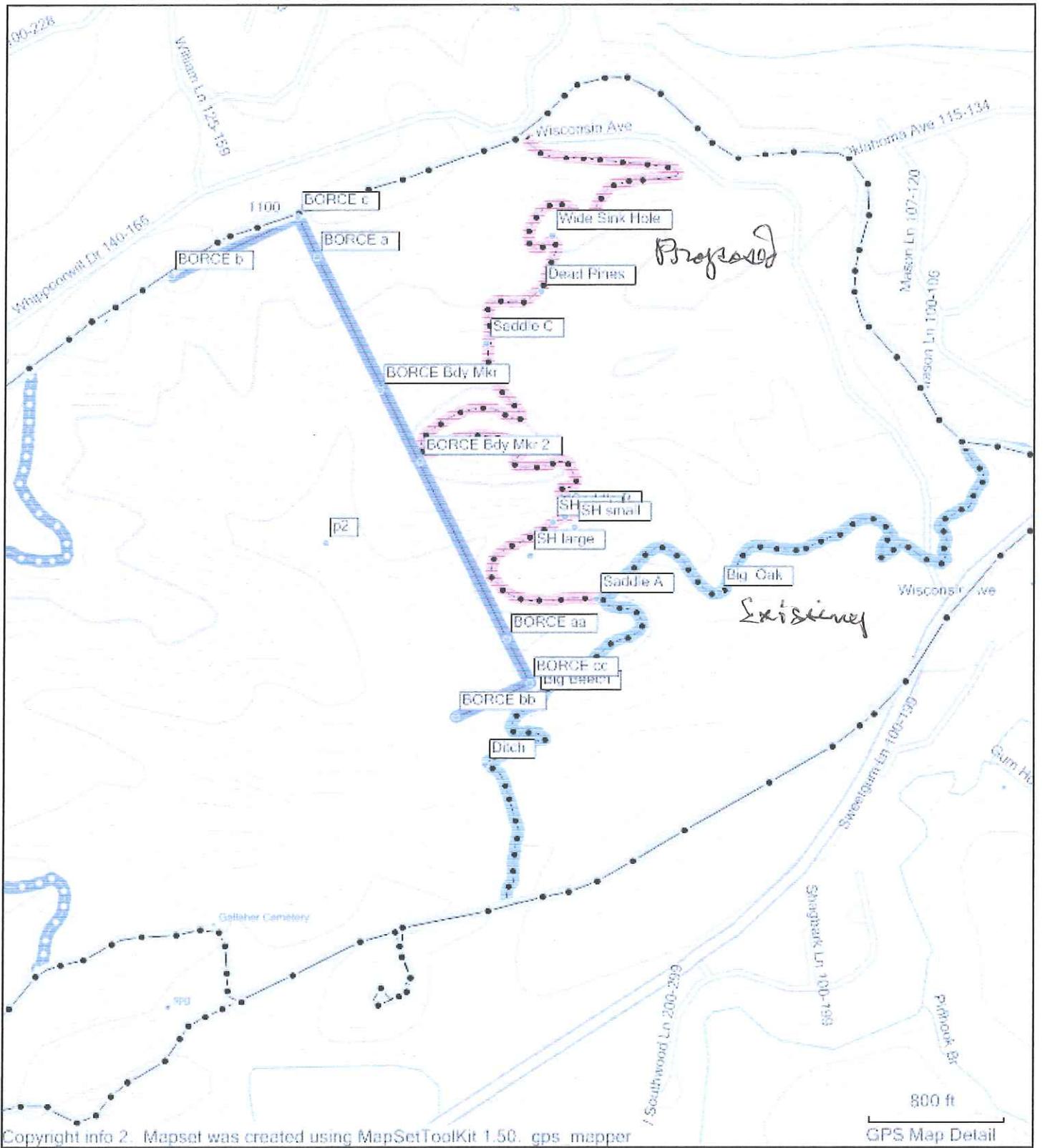
Alan noted that we have a new Recreation & Parks Director, Jon Hetrick. Steve then mentioned that noted trail steward Boyce Griffith, well known around the City for his efforts to remove litter along the greenways, has recently been diagnosed with terminal cancer. He asked if the Board would consider recognizing Boyce in some way, such as a plaque along the trail. Steve offered to check with Mr. Griffith's wife to see what she felt might be an appropriate memorial.

Director's Report

Jon Hetrick suggested that the Board consider holding an event to recognize Bike Month in May, such as a community bike ride or bike riding clinic for kids. He mentioned that the Knoxville Regional Transportation Planning Organization (TPO) has four interns available to assist with education and outreach efforts to bicyclists and motorists, including one intern from Oak Ridge. They are willing to assist in planning Bike Month events.

Jon also reported that the City Wellness Committee has partnered with the Schools Coordinated School Health organization to sponsor monthly walks. These walks have been opened to the public. The next hike will be held January 10th at Gallaher Bend Greenway.

Fay made a motion to adjourn and Ray seconded the motion. The motion to adjourn was approved by an 8-0 vote. The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 pm.



ORB

Oak Ridge Bocce

An organizing committee has been established for a bocce organization in Oak Ridge, Tennessee. This group is committed to establish a City wide recreational league of bocce players:

- 1) To provide a recreational avenue open to all ages of Oak Ridge citizens to foster learning, fun, competition and fellowship, and
- 2) To provide an opportunity for light exercise for senior citizens, and
- 3) To provide an opportunity for children to participate in a sports activity with minimal training and minimal expose to injury and with a minimum of expense and limited need of supervision, and
- 4) To provide an activity for those disabled citizens, and
- 5) To promote an avenue of interaction and recognition between Oak Ridge citizens and others in this state, nation and internationally, and
- 6) To promote Oak Ridge, Tennessee as an enjoyable city to live, work and play.

To those ends, the Organizing Committee of ORB solicits the encouragement, cooperation and participation by the Recreation and Parks Department of the City of Oak Ridge through its many opportunities to promote and provide minimal funding for the establishment of bocce courts at the City's Parks and facilities.

Oak Ridge Bocce

That's how we roll.