

APPROVED

Minutes of the Recreation and Parks Advisory Board Meeting

July 10, 2014 Regular Meeting

The June 10, 2014 Regular Meeting of the Recreation and Parks Advisory Board was convened at 7:05pm in the Social Room of the Recreation Center with Alan Tatum, Chair presiding. Jon Hetrick, Parks Division Supervisor, substituted for Josh Collins as the City representative at the meeting.

Roll Call

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

Approval of the June 19, 2014 Meeting Minutes

A motion to approve the minutes for the June 19, 2014 meeting was made by Ray Garret and seconded by Dan Robbins. The minutes were approved by a 7-0 vote.

Appearance and Citizen Comments

No citizens attended the meeting.

Committee Reports

Staff Presentation- Linda McGhee

Linda discussed the Senior Center operations, including staffing, programming, facilities and challenges for seniors. Linda explained what the Senior Center is doing to try to address those challenges, which include food, transportation, engaging new seniors, and the location of the facility. Alan asked if inspections of exercise equipment at the Center are required.

Bike/Ped Committee- Ray Garrett

No report

Community Funding Opportunities Committee- Naomi Asher

Naomi reported that she would complete the brochure by the next meeting. Dan asked how a donation would be made under this program. Naomi explained that the brochure states that payment can be made at the Recreations Center by check or cash. Checks are made payable to the City of Oak Ridge.

Long-term Strategy/Needs Assessment Committee – Alan Tatum

Alan reported that he is pursuing contact with the UT MBA program to engage their assistance in conducting an updated study of recreation needs in Oak Ridge, as discussed at the June meeting.

Waterfront Redevelopment Master Planning Committee

No Report.

Dog Park

No report.

Alan asked how the remaining funding would be spent. Jon responded that he is looking at the cost of a sail-type shade structure. Once the cost for that has been determined he will look at best to spend any remaining funds from the grant.

Dan asked about potential locations for an east end dog park. Jon responded that staff had been looking at the central part of Solway Park, adjacent to the fishing pier. Steve suggested staff consider a city-owned parcel on Belgrade Rd.

Unfinished Business

Ray Garret introduced two motions based on the June Bike/Ped committee report. The first motion was that the Board recommend enhancement of the western segment of the North Ridge Trail through construction of parking places at the trailhead at the intersection of Mississippi Ave and West Outer Dr. and at the South Illinois Avenue trailhead. Dan seconded the motion. The Board discussed whether this should be one motion or separate motions for each location due to the need to work with TDOT on the South Illinois Ave location. Steve recommended keeping the projects combined in one motion to make it easier to find funding opportunities, such as a Recreational Trails Program grant. Cathy recommended the motion be changed to have the Board authorize the Boards Bike/Ped Committee to develop a plan to enhance the facilities. Ray accepted the amendment. The amended motion passed 7-0.

The second motion from Ray was to authorize the Boards Bike/Ped committee to develop a plan to develop a new hiking trail along East Fork Poplar Creek from Oak Ridge Turnpike-Illinois Ave. intersection westward to Big Turtle Park. Cathy seconded the motion. Steve recommended to Ray that he refer to the Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan developed by the City in 2011. It was noted that original members of the Board had been provided copies of the plan, but newer members had not received copies. Cathy recommended that all new members receive copies of the plan. Alan asked if the Board was authorizing Ray to talk to property owners along the proposed trail route. Cathy recommended that Ray be authorized to gather information for the Board, but that he would in no way be acting as a representative of the City. The Board agreed with this interpretation of the motion. The Board voted and the motion passed 7-0.

Friendship Bell

Alan noted that the Board had approved a short-term plan to address the Friendship Bell at the June meeting, but they still needed to make a recommendation on the long-term plan for the Bell structure. Alan asked that the Board consider a recommendation that the City spend money for a design study by Tetra Tech or others so that cost estimates could be made. This item will be added to the August 14 Recreation Board agenda for action.

New Business

No new business.

Updates and Observations (Non Action Items)

Steve noted that he would be attending the Convention and Visitors Bureau Board meeting next Thursday for the first time as the Recreation and Parks Advisory Board's liaison. He will present his findings at the August 14 meeting.

Dan noted that he held a bird-watching walk on Melton Lake Greenway Phase IV on June 26. He trained participants to identify birds by their songs using a phone app. He will hold another walk on October 1.

Director's Report

No Director's report.

Alan Tatum made a motion to adjourn and Faye Martin seconded the motion. The motion to adjourn was approved by a 7-0 vote. The meeting was adjourned at 8:45.
