

APPROVED

Minutes of the Recreation and Parks Advisory Board Meeting

June 19, 2014 Regular Meeting

The June 19, 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.

Roll Call

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

Approval of the May 8, 2014 Meeting Minutes

A motion to approve the minutes for the May 8, 2014 meeting was made by Ray Garret and seconded by Dan Robbins. The minutes were approved by a 5-0 vote.

Appearance and Citizen Comments

Boy Scout Troop 42 attended the meeting as part of their Merit Badge requirements. The Scouts were introduced to the Board.

Committee Reports

Staff Presentation- Jon Hetrick

Jon discussed his role within the Recreation and Parks Department and his reviewed the activities of the Parks Division.

Bike/Ped Committee- Ray Garrett

Ray reviewed his proposal to build a single track dirt trail along the north side of East Fork Popular Creek and discussions with Wayne Clark and Mel Sturm regarding access across their property. Ray encouraged the Board to support his proposal in order to make contact with property owners along the proposal route. Ray also discussed proposed parking areas along West Outer Drive and North Illinois Avenue to support the use on the North Ridge Trail. Ray related a conversation with Steve Byrd, City Engineer, that indicated a willingness to consider parking at the West Outer area but would not support the North Illinois proposal. Steve suggested contacting the regional TDOT office in order to submit his proposal. This item will be added to the July 10 Recreation Board agenda for action.

Steve Dittner asked about the removal of the crossing signals at Illinois Avenue and Emory Valley Road.

Community Funding Opportunities Committee- Naomi Asher

Naomi reported that she had reviewed the work that was presented to the Board in the fall of 2013 and that she would complete the brochure after taking another look at the Department needs.

Long-term Strategy/Needs Assessment Committee – Alan Tatum

Alan discussed two old planning documents that detailed recreation needs in Oak Ridge. Due to the extensive surveying component of the documents, Alan expressed concern over the time required to complete such an undertaking. He suggested making contact with the UT MBA class and seeking assistance.

Waterfront Redevelopment Master Planning Committee
No Report.

Unfinished Business

No Unfinished Business

New Business

Friendship Bell

Josh Collins discussed the charge to the Board from the City Manager that included developing a short term strategy for displaying the bell and making it available to the public. Additionally, the Board will engage the public to assist with the development of a longer term strategy that would evaluate the current location and recommend a revised bell house design that addresses the issues identified in the Tetra Tech Friendship Bell Inspection Report dated April 2014. Once a new design has been approved by City Council, the Board will take an active role in once again engaging the citizens to raise the needed funds to construct the new bell house.

Josh outlined two short term options that included removing the bell house and returning to bell to the concrete pad where it current sits. Another option envisioned removing the bell house and relocating the bell to the court yard at the Municipal Building. The Board discussed the advantages/disadvantages to for option. After some discussion, Dan Robbins made a motion to approve the staff recommendation that envisioned the removal of the bell house and the return of the bell to the concrete pad where it currently sits. Ray Garret provided the second and the motion was approved by a 5-0 vote.

Director's Report

Secret City Festival Update

Josh thanked several Board members for the help in driving shuttle carts during the two day event. Rain on Friday created several issues while Saturday's weather exceptional. The Kid's area was active throughout the weekend.

Steve Dittner made a motion to adjourn and Dan Robbins seconded the motion. The motion to adjourn was approved by a 5-0 vote. The meeting was adjourned at 8:50.

P. D. Tatum 7/30/14

Bike and Ped Committee Report
Recreation and Parks Board Meeting

June 19, 2014

Ray Garrett

1) Rails to Trails

Nothing new

2) East Fork Poplar Creek Trail

- a. Held further conversations with Wayne Clark and Mel Sturm about EFP Creek proposal
- b. Delivered Tennessee statute on liability issue for land under conservation easement
- c. Identify need for adoption of pursuit of the plan by the board
- d. Need authorization to inquire of land owners

3) Parking lots for Western End of North Ridge Trail

- a) Talked to city engineer Steve Byrd. Seemed OK for W.O. lot, negative on Ill. lot (*Slides of site*)
- b) With advice of Kathryn Baldwin, called Region 1 TDOT person, Tim Webster.

Received TDOT forms for application to use ROW on North Illinois Ave. as parking. Proposed lot on TDOT right-of-way looks feasible.

- c) (*Slide show of site*)