

Minutes of the Recreation and Parks Advisory Board Meeting

April 13, 2017 Regular Meeting

The April 13, 2017 Regular Meeting of the Recreation and Parks Advisory Board was convened at 7:04 pm in the Social Room of the Oak Ridge Civic Center with Alan Tatum, Chair, presiding.

Roll Call

Present: Naomi Asher, Ray Garrett, Dan Robbins, Ken Rueter, Brad Spears and Alan Tatum

Absent: Mark Cantrell, David Kitzmiller, Kevin Hoyt

Approval of the February 9, 2017 Regular Meeting Minutes

A motion to approve the minutes for the February, 2017 regular meeting was made by Ken and seconded by Brad. The minutes were approved unanimously.

Appearance and Citizen Comments

None

Unfinished Business

None.

New Business

None

Board Work Plan

Bell Update:

- Alan reported that fundraising commitments are approximately \$673,000 or so and moving along nicely. Surveying by BWSC is complete and the geotechnical work will be done next week.
- The Board discussed the fundraising and construction timeline for the project.
- Brad offered to add a link to the Bell website to the Chamber of Commerce newsletter to help reach out to local small businesses for support.
- Alan also reported that Ziad Demian would be in town next week to review the plans. The visit will include a trip to UT with Bell Committee members to review landscape designs produced by a landscape architecture class led by LA Garry Menendez.

Rails to Trails:

- Jon is working on the contract with TDOT for the grant. The RFQ will be re-released after the contract is in place.
- The Board discussed possible acquisition strategies for the rail line.

Trail Development:

- Ray reported that the first easement agreement for East Fork Poplar Creek Trail has been completed, but he is having difficulty completing the second easement.
- Ken note that Outside Magazine has ranked Knoxville 9th on its top 25 outdoor destinations for 2017. WBIR did a story on the article. Ken will send links to the article and news report to Jon for distribution to the Board.
- Ken is still working on development of the proposed Boulder trail on the ED-6 parcel. He is unsure what impact the fire on the Sinkhole trail will have on obtaining permission to move forward. DOE is not interested in pursuing further trail development on WBORCE at this time.
- Brad noted that a good video of Haw Ridge riding can be found on the Pinkbike website.
- Ray noted the Eagle Scout project recently completed on the North Ridge trail, with a set of steps constructed on a steep hillside. Brad mentioned plans to replace the picnic tables at Haw Ridge.
- Ken will continue to work with TCWP on a multi-use designation for sections of the North Ridge Trail.

Long Range Planning:

- Alan recommended that the Board use a spreadsheet similar to that used for the CIP evaluation to rank the comments from the City Blueprint meeting.

Promotion collaboration opportunities:

- Naomi is developing a plan for website linkage and social media development. She is working to schedule a meeting with Marc DeRose at Explore Oak Ridge. Jon noted that the Rec & Parks staff are working with Explore Oak Ridge to share calendars and collaborate on planning of some events.
- Ken noted that Roane County Tourism is focusing on online marketing of trails and other outdoor activities.

Events:

- Naomi is in discussions with ride organizers from the Knoxville Bicycle Company to plan some rides.

Updates and Observations (Non Action Items):

- Dan reported spending 40 hours in March picking up greenway trash and observing a marked increase in fire ant activity. He also requested information on the "Please Don't Smoke" signs the Anderson County Health Department produced to see if they are available for greenway posting.
- Ken noted that the City Council vote to build a new preschool in the Scarboro Community is a great decision.

Director's Report:

- The outdoor pool filters have been repaired and will be tested once the pool has been filled.

Future Agenda Items:

- Ken followed up on Alans proposal for the Board to have a pizza lunch with department staff to provide an opportunity to engage the staff and Board in a relaxed atmosphere. UCOR will sponsor the lunch. Due to a lot of recent turnover in staffing Jon has not set a date yet, but he will check calendars and confirm a good date in May.

Dan made a motion to adjourn at 8:12 pm., with Ray seconding the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Alan Tatum