

## **Minutes of the Recreation and Parks Advisory Board Meeting**

### **April 9, 2015 Regular Meeting**

The April 9, 2015 Regular Meeting of the Recreation and Parks Advisory Board was convened at 7:03 pm in the Social Room of the Oak Ridge Civic Center with Alan Tatum, Chair, presiding.

#### **Roll Call**

Members present: Naomi Asher, John Clayton, Ray Garrett, David Kitzmiller, Fay Martin, Dan Robbins and Alan Tatum. Members absent: Steve Dittner and Ken Rueter.

#### **Approval of the March 12, 2015 Meeting Minutes**

A motion to approve the minutes for the March 12, 2015 meeting was made by Dan and seconded by Ray. The minutes were approved unanimously.

#### **Appearance and Citizen Comments**

Doug Colclasure shared information with the Board about a planned new trail at the ETP.

#### **Committee Reports**

##### **Bell Update:**

- Alan reported that he is still waiting on the engineering report and cost estimate from Barge, Waggoner, Sumner & Cannon Inc. (BWSC). He hopes to receive it any day now.
- Alan also reported that the Bell subcommittee has formed three additional subgroups: Publicity & Special Events, Fundraising & Timeline.
- The Fundraising Group is looking at grants, especially Rotary grants. They have concluded that a \$500,000 budget appears to be feasible.
- The Timeline Group has looked at various aspects of project scheduling, including grant applications and estimates for construction and concluded that that the goal is to complete the project by the fall of 2016.

##### **Bike/Ped Committee:**

- Rails-to-Trails: Still awaiting the results of an appraisal from CSX.
- Proposed North Ridge Parking Lot: Ray met with the City Manager, Mark Watson, who was receptive to the parking lot proposal.
- Proposed parking lot on West Outer Dr.: Ray has concluded that there is adequate space for a single car pull off parking space with some limb trimming and the addition of some gravel.
- Proposed East Fork Poplar Creek Trail: Royce Hills LLC property owners have not yet approved the request to establish an easement through their property for the trail.

#### Community Funding Opportunities Committee:

- Naomi reported that she is tweaking the appearance of the brochure prior to final review.
- The Board discussed the need to acknowledge donors and ways that might be done.
- Naomi has a draft template for the Corporate Donations Brochure.

#### Long Term Strategy/Needs Assessment:

- Jon has received from Department Managers a list of Capital Maintenance needs for their respective areas of responsibility. Once Jon compiles this information it will be passed on to the Board for review.
- Jon noted that the agenda for the upcoming City Council meeting included recommendations from the City Council Budget Committee to the City Manager. Included in these recommendations is additional funding in the amount of \$100,000 to \$150,000 for Recreation & Parks maintenance needs.

#### Trail Stewardship:

- Dan reported on the Friends of Haw Ridge meeting he and Steve had attended in which the group discussed changing the charter and the name of the group to encompass support for all single track trails in Oak Ridge. He also provided background information on Greenways Oak Ridge.

#### Grants:

- No report.

#### Programming:

- No report

#### Unfinished Business:

- The Bocce Club draft letter of support was reviewed and was unanimously approved with recommended revisions.
- The draft letter of support for the Sinkhole Trail was reviewed and unanimously approved.

#### New Business:

- David discussed his concerns with regard to non-resident fee's and their potential role in the decline of athletic league registrations.
- The Board requested that the Department provide a report on the historic level of collections for non-resident fees – are they increasing, decreasing, or staying consistent?
- Fay reported that the Oak Ridge Tennis Club has been dissolved.

#### Updates and Observations (Non Action Items):

- Convention and Visitor's Bureau: No report

- The City Council Special Events Task Force – David reported that the first meeting of the Task Force took place on March 30<sup>th</sup>.
- Dan reported that the Shoreline Cleanup was very successful.

Director's Report:

- Secret City Festival – Jon provided an update on Festival planning, including the announcement of the main stage entertainment and the return of the WWII Battle Reenactment.
- Jon reported on the current UT MBA student project on human powered sports and announced the upcoming final report presentation on Monday, April 20<sup>th</sup>.
- Jon informed the group that they are eligible for membership in the Tennessee Recreation & Parks Association as citizen members of the Department. He will arrange for them to be added to the membership roster.

Future Agenda Items:

- Due to scheduling conflicts, the Board agreed to move the May and June meetings to the first Thursday. The May meeting will be on the 7<sup>th</sup> and the June meeting will be on the 4<sup>th</sup>.

Naomi made a motion to adjourn and Fay seconded the motion. The motion to adjourn was approved unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 pm.

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