

Minutes of the Recreation and Parks Advisory Board Meeting

August 11, 2016 Regular Meeting

The August 11, 2016 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

Present: Naomi Asher, Steve Dittner, Ray Garrett, Kevin Hoyt, David Kitzmiller, Fay Martin, Dan Robbins, and Alan Tatum.

Absent: Ken Rueter

Approval of the July 14, 2016 Regular Meeting Minutes

A motion to approve the minutes for the July 14, 2016 regular meeting was made by David and seconded by Ray. The minutes were approved unanimously.

Appearance and Citizen Comments

Citizens present: Chuck Hope, Mary Lou Daughtery, Larry Creech, Doug Colclasure, Brad Spears and Sarah Self.

Unfinished Business

None.

New Business

- Carol Evans, Executive Director of the Legacy Parks Foundation, provided the Board with an overview of what Legacy Parks does to assist communities with the acquisition and development of public recreational facilities. She explained that the Foundation is currently expanding from a Knoxville-centered focus to a more regional approach and that the Foundation could potentially assist Oak Ridge with future projects. The license agreement with DOE to create the Sinkhole Trail on the west end of town was cited as an example of the kind of work they can do for the community. Possible future collaborations discussed included the proposed Gallaher Bend trail system, Clark Center Park and the proposed East Fork Poplar Creek trail.
- Ray provided an overview of the East Fork Poplar Creek trail project up to this point and outlined the remaining steps to complete the project. He then presented a motion the Board: "I move that the Recreation and Parks Advisory Board endorse the development of a hiking/biking trail along East Fork Poplar Creek from Illinois Avenue to Wiltshire Drive, to be implemented through permanent easement agreements negotiated and executed through Legacy Parks Foundation, a Tennessee not-for-profit corporation." Dan seconded the motion. A lengthy discussion followed about who would ultimately be responsible for the trail, since Legacy Parks Foundation does acquisition and development with the intent of turning long-term responsibility to another entity. The Board then voted unanimously to approve the motion.

Board Work Plan

Bell Update:

- Alan provided a brief PowerPoint presentation on the Bell Committee's proposed new location for the Bell in AK Bissell Park, across the creek from the current site. The Board members had no objections to the proposed change.

Community and Corporate Donations Guide:

- Naomi presented a draft layout of the corporate donation guide. Her plan is to have the brochure provide basic information and to direct potential donors to the department website for more detailed information.

Trail Development:

- No report

Clark Center Park:

- No report.

Grant Proposals and Opportunities:

- No report

Long Term Strategy/Needs Assessment:

- No report.

Programming Promotion:

- No report

National Park Service Collaboration:

- No report.

UT Arboretum/City Trails Integration:

- No report

Updates and Observations (Non Action Items):

- Brad Spears provided an update on the Gallaher Bend trails on behalf of Ken Rueter. He stated that all indications are positive so far and that the City would not have a role. The agreement will be between Legacy Parks and DOE, with the Friends of Haw Ridge providing long-term maintenance.
- Dan reported that Greenways Oak Ridge had performed 118 hours of volunteer service. He also told the board about some vandalism to some of the bluebird houses GWOR has installed along Melton Lake Greenway. A trail sign was also pulled up.

Director's Report:

- Jon updated the Board on the Senior Center plan to temporarily move into the Recreation Center. The County has hired an architecture & engineering firm to evaluate moving the Sessions Court into the space now occupied by the Senior Center in the county-owned Daniel Arthur building. The City will be recommending a contract with Studio 4 for A & E services at the September City Council meeting. Once approved, Studio 4 will plan the renovation of the building at 205 Badger Rd. (formerly Recording for the Blind & Dyslexic) for Recreation & Parks administrative offices. They will also plan renovations to the Rec Center in the area now occupied by Rec & Parks administration for use by seniors. Studio 4 will also develop long-term plans for new Senior Center construction, either as an addition to the Rec Center or as a stand-alone building on the Civic Center campus. Jon noted that meeting space in the Rec Center will be more restricted while the Senior Center is co-located in the building, so after the administrative offices are moved it is likely the Park Board will begin meeting in the 205 Badger Rd building to free up meeting space in the Rec Center.
- Jon provided an update on the 8th Lane project. BWSC has redesigned the project to be much more cost-effective. The project has been re-advertised with the new design. An optional pre-bid will take place on August 12th, with the bid opening scheduled for August 31st. A recommendation for award of contract will go to City Council in September, assuming the lowest qualified bidder provides a bid that fits within the project budget. The goal is still to complete the project prior to the start of spring training on the course. There will be a temporary greenway closure in the work area during construction.

Future Agenda Items:

- Community bike rides.

Naomi made a motion to adjourn and Ray seconded the motion. The motion to adjourn was approved unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 8:45pm.

Alan Tatum