

Minutes of the Recreation and Parks Advisory Board Meeting

August 13, 2015 Regular Meeting

The August 13, 2015 Regular Meeting of the Recreation and Parks Advisory Board was convened at 7:20 pm in the Social Room of the Oak Ridge Civic Center with Alan Tatum, Chair, presiding.

Roll Call

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

Absent: Naomi Asher, John Clayton and Ken Rueter.

Approval of the July 9, 2015 Meeting Minutes

A motion to approve the minutes for the July 9, 2015 meeting was made by Ray and seconded by Fay. The minutes were approved unanimously.

Appearance and Citizen Comments

Doug Colclasure was introduced.

Committee Reports

Bell Update:

- The second public input session for the Bell Pavilion Project was held prior to the regular Park Board meeting. Alan updated the Board on the progress of the fundraising committee, which is currently working to identify large corporate donors to start the fundraising effort. It was noted that the City currently has \$25K allocated in the FY2016 Capital Improvements Program (CIP) for the project. Jon will speak to the City Attorney about coordinating contracting with a mix of City and donated funds managed by the Rotary Club. It was also noted that WBIR covered the public input session and interviewed Pat Postma following the meeting.

Bike/Ped Committee:

- Ray announced that he and his wife are now the trail stewards for the North Ridge trail. They have successfully organized a maintenance group that is actively working on the trail.
- Sinkhole Trail: Very close to receiving approval from DOE on the license agreement with Legacy Parks. Trail construction will begin as soon as approval has been granted. Steve reported later in the meeting that he received a message from Ken Reuter that the DOE Realty Office has sent the Greenways & Biking Trail License to Carol Evans, Executive Director of the Legacy Parks Foundation for signature. The agreement will be official once signed.

Community Funding Opportunities Committee:

- Alan noted that Naomi Thompson, Administrative Assistant for the Recreation & Parks Department, is working with Naomi Asher to complete the brochure.
- Dan commented that Greenways Oak Ridge is posting solicitations for donations for bluebird houses on Melton Lake Greenway, with a 50/50 match from Greenways.

Long Term Strategy/Needs Assessment:

- Jon reported that he is working on updated costs for the outdoor pool filters and ballfield light replacement.

Trail Stewardship:

- Steve reported that Friends of Haw Ridge is still working on amending its bylaws.

Grants:

- Steve reported that he is working on making contact with Sherith Colverson, who is working with the Community Development Department on grant writing, and noted a grant from the State to the City of Alcoa for a pool renovation project.
- Steve reiterated his belief that the City needs to hire a grant writer. Steve will draft a letter from the Board making a formal recommendation to the City Manager.
- Steve also noted that the National Historical Park designation opens up many new grant opportunities.

Programming:

- No report.

Unfinished Business:

- Doug Colclasure presented a slide show illustrating why AFORR has recommended that Clark Center Park be added to the National Park Service list of cultural landscape sites. In addition to Clark Center Park, the recommendation would include the entire Three Bends Area and other sites of historical significance on the reservation.
- Doug requested that the Board endorse the plan and noted that EQAB has already done so.
- Alan asked about the form of the endorsement. Doug noted that he has drafted a letter that could be signed by the Board and submitted.
- Dan made a motion to approve the endorsement of the plan. Steve seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

New Business:

- David reported that he expected to miss the next two meetings. Dan and Alan also reported that they would miss the September 10th meeting. After some discussion Alan made a motion that the Board not meet in September. Fay seconded the motion. The motion passed 5 – 1, with Steve voting Nay.

- Fay reported that organized tennis has returned to Oak Ridge. Alan Brogan has organized a new tennis league.

Updates and Observations (Non Action Items):

- Convention and Visitor's Bureau: No report.
- The City Council Special Events Task Force: David reported that the Task Force has completed its final report and that the report was presented at the August 10th City Council meeting. David reviewed the five recommendations presented to Council by the Task Force. He noted that the recommendation to move the event to the fall appeared to be the only real point of conflict. David also noted that the City Council is discussing meetings with the various advisory boards.

Director's Report:

- Jon noted that the Department would be trying to form a dodgeball league in place of fall volleyball this year.
- He also reported on the construction of a bird observation platform on a wetland at the Worthington Cemetery site by TVA. The site is owned by TVA and jointly managed by TVA and the City, with a trailhead at the City's Elza Gate Park. TVA will also be installing a kiosk at the trailhead to attract attention to the Worthington Cemetery trails and provide information about the area. Jon also reported on a work day at the site on National Public Lands Day, September 26th.
- Jon responded to questions about the spoil dump at Elza Gate, explaining that the City used it to dispose of excess material from work projects, such as water line breaks. Eventually the area will be filled and leveled, providing an opportunity to expand Elza Gate Park.
- Jon reported that the contract with BWSC for final design, bid administration and construction management for the eighth lane at the rowing venue was approved by City Council Monday night.
- He also reported that the Interlocal Agreement with the Great Smoky Mountains Regional Greenway Council had been approved for the Mayors signature Monday night, which will officially make Oak Ridge a member of the Council and appoints Jon Hetrick as the voting City representative and Roger Macklin as the voting citizen representative from Oak Ridge.

Future Agenda Items:

- None.

Fay made a motion to adjourn and David seconded the motion. The motion to adjourn was approved unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 8:22 pm.

Alan Tatum