

Minutes of the Recreation and Parks Advisory Board Meeting

December 10, 2015 Regular Meeting

The December 10, 2015 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, David Kitzmiller, Fay Martin, Dan Robbins and Alan Tatum.

Absent: John Clayton, Ken Rueter.

Approval of the November 12, 2015 Regular Meeting Minutes

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

Appearance and Citizen Comments

Doug Colclasure reported that DOE had granted permission to expand the Powerhouse Trail at ETP. He also reported that a TDEC intern, Made McCormick, is working on a plan to develop a blueway on East Fork Poplar Creek from the Horizon Center to the Clinch River.

Committee Reports

Bell Update:

- Alan reported that the Bell Committee met in November and decided to move forward with the cantilever design, but are considering tweaking the location of the Bell Pavilion in the park.
- Alan also reported that D. Ray Smith is working with the group that is planning the development of the National Historical Park, including the role of the Bell in the Park. He informed the Board of a scheduled public input session for the National Park on Monday, February 1st at 5pm in the Oak Ridge High School cafeteria. The Bell Committee will have an information table at the session with a one-page flyer that will also be distributed at the Park Service desk in AMSE.
- Alan stated that the Bell Committee would be working on Fundraising details, more developed Bell documents and overall plan development after January 1st.

Bike/Ped Committee:

- Ray reported on his discussion with Sandra Goss, Director of Tennessee Citizens for Wilderness Planning (TCWP), about proposed changes to the management of the North Boundary Trail, including trail realignment in certain locations and allowing the use of mountain bikes on the trail. Sandra agreed to bring the proposal to the TCWP Board. TCWP originally designed and built the trail. Ray suggested an ad-

hoc committee of interested individuals be formed to develop the proposal and present it to the TCWP officers.

- East Fork Poplar Creek – Ray has continued to look at trail routing, finding challenges near Robertsville Middle School, including the need for three small bridges or culverts to cross tributaries to the creek.
- North Ridge trail maintenance – Ray reported that volunteers continue to do maintenance on the trail and the City Parks Crew cleared some trees blocking sections of the trail that had been reported.

Community Funding Opportunities Committee:

- Jon will have a correction made to the brochure layout and then have it printed for distribution.
- Naomi will work on setting up a PayPal account for donations after January 1st. Jon will check with the Finance Department to see how that would work within the City financial system.

Long Term Strategy/Needs Assessment:

- No Report.

Trail Stewardship:

- Friends of Haw Ridge (FoHR) has decided not to change their name or charter. They have found that participating in trail work days with other organizations allows them to broaden their scope without the need for a change in name or charter. Steve noted that City liability insurance covers the group for any work performed on trails within the City-managed trail system.
- Steve suggested that FoHR meet with the City in February to develop an MOU for the upcoming year.

Grants:

- Alan passed out a draft of a letter to the City Manager from the Board requesting that the City hire a grant writer. He requested Board members review it and provide comments by December 13th.

Programming:

- No report.

Unfinished Business:

- None

New Business:

- Alan - the Board will review the draft of the Annual Report to City Council in January.

Updates and Observations (Non Action Items):

- CVB – no report.

- Dan reported litter along the trails that is allegedly left behind by fishermen.
- Steve reported that FoHR is looking at creating a new trail parallel to Melton Lake Greenway on the east and traveling south of the Life Development Center. This trail will allow mountain bikers to bypass the paved greenway. Flagging of the proposed trail is scheduled for December 21st.
- Dan reported on the progress of the bluebird house project along Melton Lake Greenway.
- Dan also reported that he had re-blazed Cedar Hill and requested that a greenway sign be reinstalled at Blankenship field where the trail moves behind the visitor bleachers.

Director's Report:

- Jon reported that interviews would be conducted the following week for candidates to fill the Aquatics Manager position opening created by the retirement of Jane Gibson.
- Jon also elaborated on the blueway project mentioned earlier by Doug Colclasure.

Future Agenda Items:

- Alan proposed that the Board review its work plan for the upcoming year at the January meeting and that Board members creatively consider new ideas for the plan.
- Department Athletics supervisor John Harris will provide a report to the Board on Athletics programming.

Fay made a motion to adjourn and Ray seconded the motion. The motion to adjourn was approved unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 7:58 pm.

Alan Tatum