

Minutes of the Recreation and Parks Advisory Board Meeting

December 8, 2016 Regular Meeting

The December 8, 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: Steve Dittner, Ray Garrett, Kevin Hoyt, Fay Martin, Dan Robbins, Ken Rueter and Alan Tatum.

Absent: Naomi Asher, David Kitzmiller

Approval of the November 10, 2016 Regular Meeting Minutes

A motion to approve the minutes for the November 10, 2016 regular meeting was made by Ray and seconded by Ken. The minutes were approved unanimously.

Appearance and Citizen Comments

Citizens present: Mary Lou Daugherty, Doug Colclasure.

Doug expressed his appreciation for the Recreation & Parks Department.

Unfinished Business

None.

New Business

None

Board Work Plan

Bell Update:

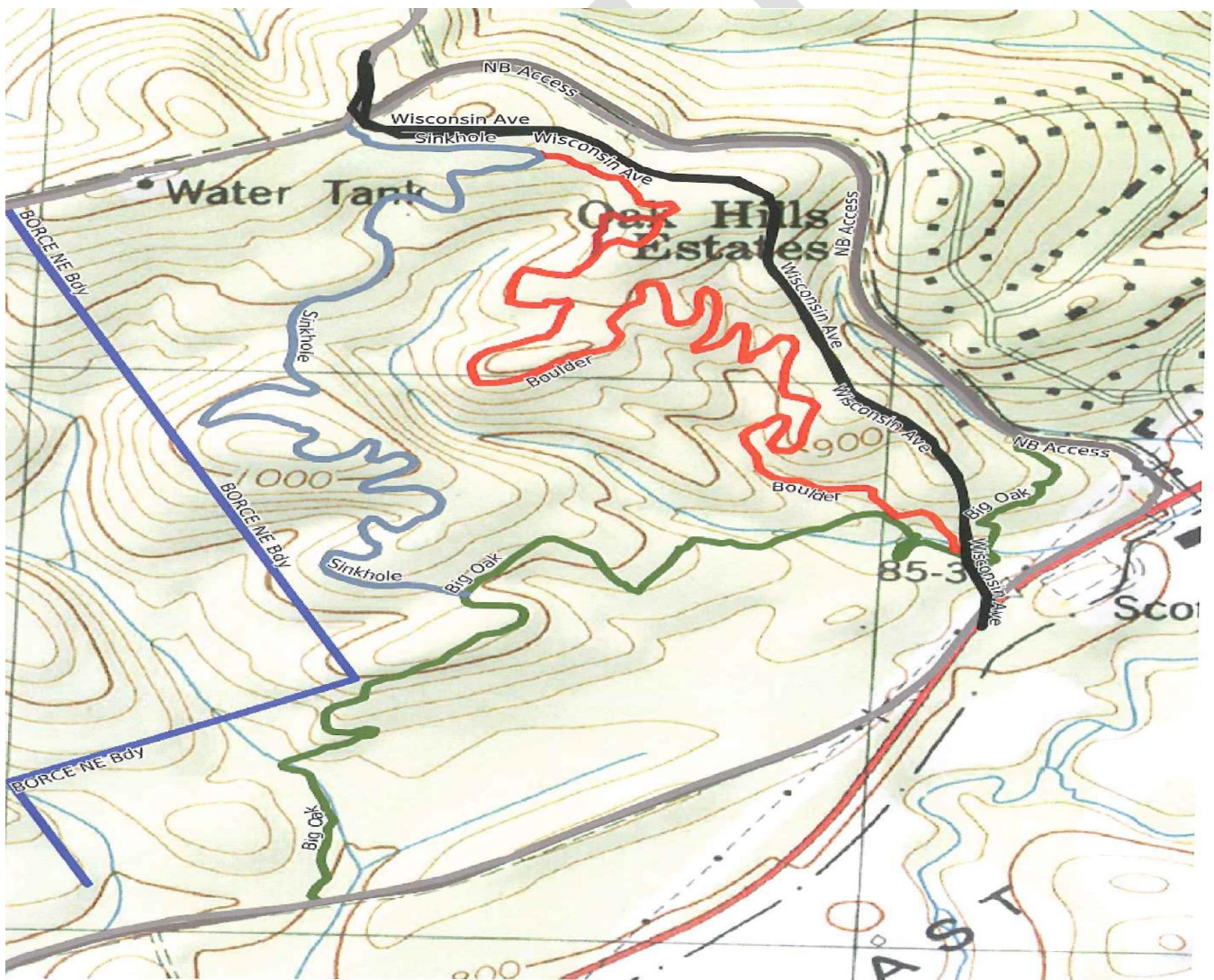
- Alan shared the PowerPoint presentation created by architect Ziad Demian for the Bell fundraising kickoff event and provided an overview of the event. He also gave an update on the fundraising, which is currently about \$430,000. He also played the video that closed the kickoff presentation.

Community and Corporate Donations Guide:

- Jon clarified that the new donation guide is intended to be printed as a rack card instead of a tri-fold brochure like the previous guide.

Trail Development:

- Ray reported that he is still waiting on a response from the City Manager on the white paper he created for the East Fork Poplar Creek Trail. He also informed the Board that Carol Evans, of Legacy Parks, has drafted an easement agreement for Wayne Clark that is awaiting signatures.
- Ray also reported that the Cumberland Trail organizers are now looking at creating connector trails into adjacent communities. One possibility would be a connector from the trail in Frozen Head State Park to Oak Ridge. Dan commented that Greenways Oak Ridge had looked at such a connection in the 90's and determined it was too challenging.
- Ken provided an update on west end trail development. A work day has been scheduled with AMBC (Appalachian Mountain Bike Club) in mid-February for trail development in WBORCE (West Black Oak Ridge Conservation Easement). If DOE approval for the trail work has not yet been received there is an alternate project on the ED-6 parcel, proposed to be called the Boulder Trail. Jon will distribute a copy of the Boulder Trail map that includes its connections to the Sinkhole and Big Oak trails. The proposed Boulder trail is shown in red below.



- Steve informed the Board about FoHR (Friends of Haw Ridge) discussions about the proposed new trails at Gallaher Bend and other potential new singletrack. FoHR does not have the capacity to do all of the associated work so they are looking at becoming a chapter of AMBC in order to increase capacity to build and maintain singletrack in Oak Ridge.
- Steve and Ken discussed the possibility of the removal of TDEC (Tennessee Department of Environment & Conservation) from BORCE (Black Oak Ridge Conservation Easement) management. It was stated that all of BORCE was originally intended for multi-use recreation, without the wilderness restrictions placed on the east section of BORCE by TDEC. It was noted that changes had taken place at Big South Fork National Recreation Area allowing bike access where it had previously been restricted.
- Jon noted that the Knoxville TPO award for master planning of the rails-to-trails project had been increased to \$100K because Knoxville had declined to accept funds originally allocated to two projects there. This is expected to allow the grant to cover both master planning and design/engineering of the trail.

Clark Center Park:

- The Tennessee State Park system is looking at the possible acquisition of the park. A meeting is planned in January to evaluate the proposal.

Grant Proposals and Opportunities:

- Jon reported that the City was still anticipating an award of an LPRF grant to move forward with the Blankenship football field renovation project.

Long Term Strategy/Needs Assessment:

- No report.

Programming Promotion:

- Alan reported that he has been talking to Marc DeRose with Explore Oak Ridge about producing a video to compliment the Department presentation PowerPoint. Marc also talked to Ken about incorporating trail information.
- As an aside, Dan discussed the maps at the Haw Ridge trailheads, which he considers inadequate. This led to a further discussion of trail markers in the park using a name & number system similar to the markers recently installed on Melton Lake Greenway. Ken noted that a QR code could be included that could bring up a trail map on a phone.
- Kevin discussed the upcoming "Tree Day" at the Arboretum, which is intended to become a yearly event. He noted that Urban Forestry professor Dr. Sharon Jean Phillipe is now working at the Arboretum facility and will be helping to plan and grow that event. They are also looking to expand collaboration with the City, including more training and workshops. Kevin also noted that they have advertised a new Program Coordinator position, with approximately 50 applicants so far.
- As an aside, Alan asked Kevin if he knew of anyone associated with UT who might assist with design of the landscaping at the Bell Pavilion. Kevin suggested Gary Menendez in the Landscape Architecture program. He might be willing to take it on as a class project. Jon noted that Gary's class had previously collaborated with the Department on a stream reclamation project in AK Bissell Park.

National Park Service Collaboration:

- Dan talked to Niki Nicholas, acting Park Superintendent, at the Bell fundraising kickoff and repeated his request to have trails included in the new National Park.

UT Arboretum/City Trails Integration:

- No report.

Updates and Observations (Non Action Items):

- There has not been a CVB Board meeting since the last Park Board meeting.
- Steve noted that this would be his last meeting with the Board since his term is expiring and he has decided to pursue other ventures for now. Alan took the opportunity to thank the Board members who were rotating off after this meeting. Fay, who also did not reapply for the Board, complimented the Board for its work and offered thanks for the City's collaboration with the Garden Club to install the Blue Star Memorial at Emma Lee Spray Garden in Jackson Square.
- Dan noted that GWOR had received a donation of six more bluebird houses. He requested 4x4 posts from the City for installation of the birdhouses.

Director's Report:

- Jon provided an update on the 8th Lane project. The contractor has completed excavation of the 8th lane and rip rap stabilization of the bank above the lane. The contractor has also cut out the bench for the retaining wall. At the progress meeting with the contractor and the project engineer last week it was agreed that progress on the project has been very good.

Future Agenda Items:

None

Fay made a motion to adjourn at 8:35 pm., with Dan seconding the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Alan Tatum