

DRAFT

Minutes of the Recreation and Parks Advisory Board Meeting

October 9, 2014 Regular Meeting

The September 11, 2014 Regular Meeting of the Recreation and Parks Advisory Board was convened at 7:04pm in the Social Room of the Recreation Center with Alan Tatum, Chair, presiding.

Roll Call

Members present at roll call: Naomi Asher, John Clayton, Steve Dittner, Ray Garrett, Fay Martin, Dan Robbins, Alan Tatum and Cathy Toth. Members absent at roll call: Bradley Spears.

Approval of the September 11, 2014 Meeting Minutes

A motion to approve the minutes for the August 14, 2014 meeting was made by Ray Garrett and seconded by Cathy Toth. The minutes were approved by an 8-0 vote.

Appearance and Citizen Comments

Alan Brogan, who recently moved to Oak Ridge from Arkansas, provided a plan to revitalize tennis programming in Oak Ridge. He was encouraged to meet with City staff to discuss his plan and the opportunities for implementation.

Committee Reports

Bike/Ped Committee- Bradley Spears and Ray Garrett

Ray reported on a follow-up meeting he had with City Engineer Steve Byrd to review his plans for parking along the North Ridge Trail. Ray will need to provide TDOT with preliminary drawings for review of his proposal for a small parking lot on Illinois Ave. Steve will not be able to approve Ray's proposal for parallel parking along West Outer Dr. at the Mississippi access to the North Ridge Trail due to the limited sightlines at that location.

Ray then reported that he has contacted the City Attorney, Ken Krushenski, who will study the Tennessee Code Annotated regarding liability. He informed Ray that a survey of the properties would be required for any kind of an agreement between the City and the property owners. Ray is still waiting on verbal approval of the trail route from AmVets and the Oak Ridge Kennel Club.

Community Funding Opportunities Committee- Naomi Asher

Naomi reported that she and Alan had met to review the brochure and they are getting closer to completion. The brochure is expected to be completed by the end of the year. The brochure will provide an overview of the program and will include a QR code to link to more detailed information that will be available on the Recreation and Parks website. She also discussed a similar brochure to publicize opportunities for rentals of Recreation & Park facilities.

Long-term Strategy/Needs Assessment Committee – Alan Tatum

Alan reported that there has been little progress on the project. Austin Lance, his contact with the UT MBA program is still looking for a well-defined benefit to the MBA students if they conduct an updated study of recreation needs in Oak Ridge, as requested by the Board.

John Clayton, a graduate of the professional MBA program at UT, suggested he may be able to provide an alternate contact to help move the project forward.

Waterfront Redevelopment Master Planning Committee

Jon Hetrick reported that the Convention and Visitors Bureau (CVB) has hired a new Director, Marc DeRose, who is focused on bringing additional events to Oak Ridge, including the Marina area. This dovetails well with the current focus on increasing use of the waterfront through additional activities.

Dog Park

Jon Hetrick reported that City staff is prepared to move ahead with the installation of security lighting as soon as the weather will allow work to begin. He has requested quotes for a 20 ft. x 20 ft. cantilevered shade structure with a fabric canopy and will requisition the structure as soon as a selection is made.

Unfinished Business

Bell House update – Alan reported that the presentation by the architect working on the Bell House redesign has been postponed until November to allow additional time to develop design alternatives and cost estimates. The Board was advised to check the November agenda carefully because the meeting location will probably be changed to provide better audiovisual equipment for the presentation.

Alan then submitted a recommendation that the Board approve an ad hoc International Friendship Bell Advisory Committee. After a brief discussion, Dan made a motion to vote on the recommendation, with a second from Naomi. The Board approved the recommendation by an 8 – 0 vote. Alan also reported that he expected to be able to provide additional information on the community fundraising effort next month.

Alan reported that the Japanese General Consul from the Nashville Consulate will be visiting Oak Ridge in the near future to learn about the Friendship Bell Renovation Project.

Updates and Observations (Non Action Items)

Clark Center Park – Jon updated the Board on discussions between the City, DOE, GSA and the National Park Service regarding the process for transferring the property, if that transfer should take place.

Director's Report

Jon Hetrick reported on the Anderson County Greenways project, which is a project led by the Anderson County Tourism Council to gather information on greenways and public green spaces in Anderson County. They have developed a draft report that provides a wealth of information regarding the value of these spaces and the opportunities to promote economic development in Anderson County through promotion of these assets.

New Business

City Manager Mark Watson discussed the desired attributes of the new Director of Recreation & Parks and provided a tentative timeline for the interview and hiring process. He encouraged the Board to review his presentation and submit comments to him by email.

Naomi made a motion to adjourn and Fay seconded the motion. The motion to adjourn was approved by an 8-0 vote. The meeting was adjourned at 8:25 pm.
