

## **Minutes of the Recreation and Parks Advisory Board Meeting**

### **February 12, 2015 Regular Meeting**

The February 12, 2015 Regular Meeting of the Recreation and Parks Advisory Board was convened at 7:08 pm in the Social Room of the Oak Ridge Civic Center with Alan Tatum, Chair, presiding.

#### **Roll Call**

Members present at roll call: John Clayton, Steve Dittner, Ray Garrett, David Kitzmiller, Dan Robbins, and Alan Tatum. Members absent at roll call: Naomi Asher, Fay Martin, Ken Rueter.

#### **Approval of the November 12, 2014 Meeting Minutes**

A motion to approve the minutes for the November 12, 2014 meeting was made by Ray and seconded by Dan. The minutes were approved unanimously.

#### **Appearance and Citizen Comments**

None

#### **Board Officer Elections**

Dan made a motion to retain the current Chairman and Vice Chairman, Alan Tatum and Ray Garrett. Ray seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

#### **Committee Reports**

##### **Bike/Ped Committee:**

- Rails-to-Trails: Kathryn Baldwin is awaiting the results of an appraisal from CSX. This is the next step in the process, as requested in the letter to CSX from the City Manager in January.
- Proposed North Ridge Parking Lots: Ray has forwarded the plan drawn by Steve Byrd and the TDOT application to the City Manager's office.
- Proposed East Fork Poplar Creek Trail: Royce Hills LLC property manager has not yet submitted the proposal to the land owners, but has offered support for the idea. The Board discussed the next steps for the project and concluded that Ray and Jon Hetrick should walk the proposed route to determine trail building requirements and cost estimates. Surveying is likely to be the single largest cost.

##### **Community Funding Opportunities Committee:**

- Alan reported that Naomi is putting the final touches on the brochure.

### Long Range Planning:

- Alan reported that the plan for the committee would be updated in the new Board Work Plan, to be discussed later in the meeting.

### New Business:

- 2015 Recreation and Parks Advisory Board Work Plan: Dan made a motion to adopt the Work Plan developed at the January 31, 2015 Board Work Session (attached). David seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
- Proposed New Trail on Parcel 405: Doug Colclasure, who requested that the Board consider supporting the construction of the trail at the January 2015 meeting, was not present for the discussion. The proposal was tabled until further notice.
- Bocce: Sharon Cabe provided a follow-up presentation to her appearance of citizens at the January 2015 Board meeting. She provided a new handout to the Board and requested the inclusion of bocce in future park planning and Board Work Plans, with the goal of the Club being to enhance the community with the inclusion of this recreational activity. Jon Hetrick noted that the City lacked funding for new development at this time and that the Club should seek private funding for bocce development, but the Department would coordinate with the club to assist with program development. John Clayton made a motion that the Board adopt a resolution of support for the Bocce club. Alan seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.
- City Council Special Events Committee: Jon Hetrick provided background information on the committee, which has been created by City Council to evaluate the funding, planning and execution of special events supported by the City. Each City Council has nominated a citizen to the committee and there will also be ex-officio representation from the CVB, AMSE and the Park Board. Nomination of Board representation was discussed. Naomi had expressed an interest previously, but was not present. David also expressed interest. Ray nominated David, who was then elected unanimously to represent the Board on the committee. Reports on the committee will be added to the agenda under Updates and Observations for the duration of the committee.

### Updates and Observations (Non Action Items):

- Convention and Visitor's Bureau: Steve reported that Marc DeRose was out of town out of town but attended the meeting via conference call. Steve reported the CVB is scheduling a planning session for a three year vision for the CVB. Steve noted that he see's growth and evolution of the CVB under Marc's leadership, though the focus is still "heads in beds". He also noted that the CVB will be contracting with a marketing firm for the next two years at a cost of \$75,000 for website development and other promotion.
- Friendship Bell: Alan reported on his update to City Council in January and his presentation to the Breakfast Rotary Club. He then reported that BWSC will be providing structural engineering analysis of the Bell pavilion proposals and cost estimates for construction, at no cost to the City. The next step in

fundraising planning is to determine what a realistic fundraising goal is and to reconcile that number with the cost estimated developed by BWSC. Finally, there was discussion of promoting the project at the Secret City Festival.

- Fitness Walk: Dan noted that about fifty (50) people attended the fitness walk on Melton Lake Greenway Phase IV held on Saturday February 7<sup>th</sup>. He noted that the walk was dedicated to Boyce Griffith for his volunteer work on the greenway over the years. It was noted that Boyce passed away the following day.
- Nonresident fees: David commented that participation in recreational leagues was down and expressed the need for additional social media promotion and his concern that non-resident fees were impacting participation.
- Boyce Griffith Memorial: Steve noted that the Friends of Haw Ridge were coordinating fundraising for a memorial for Boyce Griffith, possibly a plaque along the greenway.

#### Director's Report:

- Jon followed up on his discussion at the Work Session about the proposed Pellissippi Blueway. He had a follow-up meeting with Tom Dunigan, who originally proposed and mapped the blueway, and a representative of the National Park Service, Alison B. Bullock. Ms. Bullock, a Community Planner with the Rivers, Trails & Conservation Assistance Program, suggested that the blueway might qualify as a National River Trail and encouraged the formation of a coalition of interested parties to apply for that designation.

#### Future Agenda Items:

- Steve has arranged for Carol Evans, with the Legacy Parks Foundation, to be a guest at the March meeting.
- The Board will hold another Work Session at a date to be announced. Alan asked that members check their calendars and email him with their preference for Thursday March 5<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm or Saturday March 7<sup>th</sup> at 9 am.

Ray made a motion to adjourn and John seconded the motion. The motion to adjourn was approved unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 pm.

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# **Recreation and Parks Advisory Board 2015 Work Plan**

## **High Priority Activities and Goals**

- 1) International Friendship Bell Pavilion (Alan Tatum)
  - a) Develop final pavilion design with Ad Hoc IFB Citizen Advisory Committee
  - b) Pursue funding opportunities with Fundraising Committee
  - c) Hold public input sessions
  - d) Work in conjunction with, and report progress to, the City Manager, City Council, and Parks Director
  
- 2) Complete Community and Corporate Donation Guides (Naomi Asher)
  - a) Finalize and distribute Community Guide
  - b) Develop Corporate Guide
  
- 3) Pursue Proposed Bike and Ped Projects (Ray Garrett)
  - a) East Fork Poplar Creek Trail
  - b) Parking spaces for west North Ridge Trail
  - c) Rails to Trails: Elza Gate to Y12
  - d) Clinton to Elza Gate trail
  
- 4) Create an Overall Trail Stewardship Group (Steve Dittner)
  
- 5) Evaluate Clark Center Park Options as Requested
  
- 6) Evaluate Grant Opportunities (Steve Dittner/Ken Rueter)
  - a) Lighting
  - b) Second Dog Park
  - c) Pellissippi Blueway
  
- 7) Long Range Planning (Alan Tatum/John Clayton)
  - a) articulate a 3-5 year vision for the Recreation and Parks program by creating a living document that can be updated at least annually
  - b) review, update, and prioritize the Capital Improvement Plan including capital maintenance and amenities
  - c) develop an annual report
  
- 8) Pursue Opportunities to Promote the Oak Ridge Recreation and Parks Program (David Kitzmiller/All)



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## Potential Participation for Oak Ridge Citizens

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This data is a supplement to the agenda package for the 12 February 2015 Recreation & Parks Citizens Advisory Board.

The potential for participation of Oak Ridge citizens with the play of bocce is strong. The Organizing Committee of ORB has held the first of its organizational meetings (10 February) and although the attendance was small, the enthusiasm was large. ORB will be participating in the 14 February "Family Day" at the Civic Center by employing its demonstration court, videos and member interaction. The following organizations have responded positively to ORB's introductory contact:

- Oak Ridge Senior Citizen's Center (Director)
- Oak Ridge Rowing Association (Director contact, Board yet to advise)
- Oak Ridge Public Library listing as Oak Ridge non-profit orgs.
- Oak Ridge High School CDC program
- Greenfield Senior Living (Activities Director)
- Brookville Senior Living (Activities Director)

In addition to those organizations, ORB suggests participation with other possible activities such as:

- A "Bikes and Bocce / Ride and Roll" could possibly be held with the participation of GCR Ventures in the parking lot of Briarcliff Square. After the ride, refreshments and friendly competition on the portable bocce demonstration court.
- Identifying possible grants from senior health concerns to aid in the construction of bocce courts.
- Identifying potential small central city "Brownfield Sites" to be abated and allow construction of courts.

ORB is moving ahead with organization, a website and a 2015 season. We stand ready to partner with the City to promote the type of recreation that is available to all, regardless of age or ability, to foster learning, fun, competition and fellowship and to promote Oak Ridge, Tennessee as an enjoyable city to live, work and play.

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## Oak Ridge Bocce

**That's how we roll.**