

Minutes of the Recreation and Parks Advisory Board Meeting

February 9, 2017 Regular Meeting

The February 9, 2017 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: Mark Cantrell, David Kitzmiller, Ken Rueter, Brad Spears and Alan Tatum

Absent: Naomi Asher, Ray Garrett, Kevin Hoyt, Dan Robbins

Approval of the January 12, 2017 Regular Meeting Minutes

A motion to approve the minutes for the January 12, 2017 regular meeting was made by Brad and seconded by Ken. The minutes were approved unanimously.

Approval of the January 28, 2017 Work Session Minutes

A motion to approve the minutes for the January 28, 2017 work session was made by David and seconded by Brad. The minutes were approved unanimously.

Appearance and Citizen Comments

Citizens present: Mary Lou Daughtery, members of the Oak Ridge High School Baseball Team and Baseball Boosters organization.

Unfinished Business

None.

New Business

- **Board elections:** David nominated Alan to serve another term as Board Chairman and Brad seconded the nomination. Alan was unanimously reelected. Ken then nominated Kevin to serve as Vice Chairman, with Brad seconding the nomination. Kevin was elected unanimously.
- **Consideration of a proposal to rename the Oak Ridge Baseball Complex after community volunteer Joe Mason:** David made a motion for the Board to consider the proposal, with Alan seconding the motion. Jon provided an overview of the request made by the Oak Ridge High School. He also provided an overview of City Council Resolution 10-162-93, which provides guidelines for the naming of public facilities. Oak Ridge High School baseball coach Mark Garrison then provided additional background on Joe's contributions to the baseball program and its participants. Booster Ron Solmonson added his support of Coach Garrison's comments. Alan also expressed his appreciation of Joe's work for the baseball program. The Board then voted unanimously to support the proposal. Coach Garrison then added that there would be a naming ceremony at a future date (pending City Council approval) and he wished to include the Park Board.

- Approval of the 2017 work plan: Mark made a motion to approve of the 2017 Park Board work plan developed at the January 28th Work Session. Brad seconded the motion, which passed unanimously with no discussion.

Board Work Plan

Bell Update:

- Alan provided an update on the deminan\wilbur proposal for construction documents, bid administration and construction administration. The proposal is on the agenda for City Council approval on Monday night. There will be a separate contract with a local firm for geotechnical testing and surveying.
- Alan, Kevin, Jon and Pat Postma met with UT Landscape Architecture professor Gary Menendez to discuss a student design project for the pavilion gardens. Gary agreed to include the project in this semester's program.
- Alan provided a fundraising update. With a goal of \$750K, the fundraising committee has \$473K in paid donations and another \$173K in pledged funds, for a total of \$646K.
- The committee will distribute donation request letters to households in about two weeks.

Rails to Trails:

- The RFQ for design and engineering has been released.
- The Board discussed possible acquisition strategies for the rail line.

Trail Development:

- Ken reported that the first easement agreement for East Fork Poplar Creek Trail has been completed.
- Ken is waiting on the completion of negotiations between Legacy Parks and DOE to begin pursuing grants for trail development on DOE lands.
- Kevin and Jon met at the property on Union Valley proposed as the start/finish area for the Arboretum Fun Run to look at the viability of the proposal. It appears to be workable. Kevin will pursue support for the event from the UT administration before further planning is done. David asked about the possibility of a greenway connection along Union Valley from the end of the rail line back to the lake. Ken pointed out that the discussion needed to address UT concerns about security of the Research Center and current issues with an unapproved trail through the property from Haw Ridge.
- Brad reported on his meetings with Friends of Haw Ridge (FoHR) and the Appalachian Mountain Bike Club (AMBC). FoHR feel that they are at their limit for supporting trail maintenance and would like AMBC to start an Oak Ridge chapter, but apparently that won't be easy to do. Brad proposes instead to grow FoHR, which has a small membership at this time, and to change the charter and MOU with the City. FoHR needs to become a more formalized and active organization.

Long Range Planning:

- No report.

Promotion collaboration opportunities:

- Ken reported that Ashley Hartman, with UCOR, is ready to assist Naomi with promotion activities.
- Brad discussed a conversation he had with a DOE Human Resources recruiter about the need for a comprehensive guide to outdoor activities to attract new residents, along with visitors. David mentioned a pending Chamber of Commerce report on housing that highlights community recreation.
- Jon noted that the compilation of comments from the City Blueprint meeting has not yet been completed.

Events:

- Community Bike Rides – The Butterfly’s for Hope ride will take place again this spring.
- Mark asked for an update on the Secret City Festival. Jon reported that he has met with Chyna Brackeen of Attack Monkey Productions, who has been hired by the Celebrate Oak Ridge Board to plan the Festival, and a couple of the Board members. They provided few concrete details about their plans.
- David reported that he, as a citizen rather than Board member, would be contacting the City’s Athletics Supervisor, John Harris, about scheduling a potential baseball tournament.

Updates and Observations (Non Action Items):

- None

Director’s Report:

- 8th Lane – nearing completion. The greenway should be reopened soon; the rowing lane is complete and ready to be used. The project should be completed on time and within the estimated budget.
- Blankenship Foundation project: Jon, along the City Manager, Mayor Pro Tem, a representative of the Finance Department and the Schools facility manager, attended a grant workshop in Nashville for the LPRF Grant awarded to the City for the project.

Future Agenda Items:

- Alan proposed the Board have a pizza lunch with department staff to provide an opportunity to engage the staff and Board in a relaxed atmosphere. After discussion it was decided Jon should check calendars and confirm a good date in late March or early April.

Brad made a motion to adjourn at 8:08 pm., with Mark seconding the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Alan Tatum