

Minutes of the Recreation and Parks Advisory Board

January 28, 2017 Work Session

The January 28 2017 Recreation and Parks Advisory Board Work Session was convened at 9:05 am in the UT Arboretum Auditorium with Alan Tatum, Chair, presiding.

Roll Call

Present: Naomi Asher, Mark Cantrell, Kevin Hoyt, David Kitzmiller, Dan Robbins, Ken Rueter, Brad Spears and Alan Tatum

Absent: Ray Garrett

Appearance of Citizens

Citizens present: Mayor Warren Gooch, City Manager Mark Watson

New Business

- Alan began the discussion of the 2017 Park Board Work Plan with a review of the City organizational structure and the stated purpose of the Recreation & Parks Advisory Board. The Rec & Parks Department organizational chart was also discussed. Jon Hetrick mentioned that due to the pending retirement of the Centers, Camps & Programs Manager he is looking at a potential reorganization of the Recreation Division. Alan asked what the Board could do to assist with staffing. Jon replied that the greatest help would be advocacy for increased staffing in the Parks Maintenance Division.
- The Board also discussed the economic development value of Recreation & Parks and opportunities for the Board to promote that value, including developing further its partnership with the Legacy Parks Foundation. David suggested that promotional guides, similar to the donation guides, be created and distributed.
- The Board then reviewed the 2016 Work Plan and evaluated updates for the 2017 Work Plan. A draft 2017 Work Plan was developed (attached) and will be distributed by Alan to the board for review prior to a vote for approval at the February regular Park Board meeting.

Future Agenda Items:

- Mayor Gooch offered his support for a proposal to rename the Oak Ridge Baseball Complex after community volunteer Joe Mason. The proposal will be presented to the Board at the February meeting.
- Board officer elections.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:15 am.

Alan Tatum

Recreation & Parks Advisory Board 2017 Work Plan

High Priority Activities and Goals

- 1) International Friendship Bell Peace Pavilion (Alan Tatum)
 - a) Continue fundraising
 - b) Finalize engineering design package
 - c) Support initiation of construction activities
 - d) Work in conjunction with, and report progress to, the City Manager, City Council, and Parks Director

- 2) Rails to Trails Project (Ray Garrett, David Kitzmiller, Dan Robbins)
 - a) Participate in Citizens Advisory Committee for master planning
 - b) Acquisition support
 - c) Support public input sessions

- 3) Trail Development
 - a) East Fork Poplar Creek Trail development (Ray Garrett)
 - b) North Ridge Trail multi-use planning and development (Ken Rueter)
 - c) Continue to support the development of multi-use trails (run, hike, bike) at Gallagher point/bend in partnership with DOE and Legacy Parks Foundation as an expansion to the Gallagher Greenway (Brad Spears)
 - d) Assist in the North Boundary greenway and associated trails effort to address with DOE, TDEC, and TWRA the establishment of a multi-use (Run, Hike, Bike) designation for the Black Oak Ridge Conservation Easement (BORCE) and a majority of the existing trails (McKinney Ridge, Gallagher) (Brad Spears)
 - e) Pursue grant opportunities (Ken Rueter)
 - f) Evaluate the possibility of integrating the U.T. Arboretum trail system with City trails (Kevin Hoyt)
 - g) Coordinate various trail groups (Brad Spears)

- 4) Long Range Planning (David Kitzmiller, Alan Tatum, Kevin Hoyt)
 - a) Review, update, and prioritize the Capital Improvement Plan including capital maintenance and amenities
 - b) Submit an annual report

- 5) Pursue Recreation and Parks Promotion Opportunities in conjunction with Explore Oak Ridge
 - a) Create a comprehensive, integrated marketing plan (Naomi Asher)
 - i) Develop a concise 20-minute promotional PowerPoint presentation

- ii) Prepare promotional video
 - iii) Prepare promotional brochure
 - iv) Update and distribute (via print, web, social media) Community and Corporate Donation Guides
- b) Work with the National Park Service on matters pertaining to Recreation and Parks (Dan Robbins)

6) Participate in the City Blueprint Process (Alan Tatum)

7) Events

- a) Community Bike Rides (Naomi Asher)
- b) Explore the feasibility of implementing a free kids fishing day 2nd Saturday in June (Kevin Hoyt)
- c) Oak Ridge Velo Classic (Ken Rueter)
- d) Explore/establish new events (David Kitzmiller)
- e) Support Butterfly Festival at UT Arboretum (Kevin Hoyt)