

Minutes of the Recreation and Parks Advisory Board Meeting

July 20, 2017 Regular Meeting

The July 20, 2017 Regular Meeting of the Recreation and Parks Advisory Board was convened at 7:03 pm in the Social Room of the Oak Ridge Civic Center with Alan Tatum, Chair, presiding.

Roll Call

Present: Mark Cantrell, Ray Garrett, Kevin Hoyt, David Kitzmiller, Dan Robbins and Alan Tatum

Absent: Naomi Asher, Ken Rueter, Brad Spears

Approval of the May 18, 2017 Regular Meeting Minutes

A motion to approve the minutes for the May 18, 2017 regular meeting was made by Dan and seconded by Ray. The minutes were approved unanimously.

Appearance and Citizen Comments

None

Unfinished Business

None.

New Business

None

Board Work Plan

Bell Update:

- Alan reported that construction documents have been received and the project has been advertised for bid. An optional pre-bid meeting was held July 19th, with seven (7) firms in attendance. Bid submittals are due August 14th. Once a recommendation for award is made a special-called meeting of City Council will take place for contract approval.
- The plan is to break ground on the project in September, with an official groundbreaking ceremony planned for the International Day of Peace on September 21st.
- Fundraising has exceeded \$700,000.
- The timeline for the project was discussed, with completion scheduled for late March of 2018.

Rails to Trails:

- Jon reported that the grant contract with TDOT has been completed. The City received a Notice to Proceed for preliminary engineering from TDOT today.

Trail Development:

- Ray held a celebration at his house for North Boundary Trail volunteers on National Trails Day after a work day on the trail.
- Ray reported that he is still working on the second easement agreement for East Fork Poplar Creek Trail.
- Jon reported that Brad has sent an email indicating that the Boulder Trail on the ED-6 parcel has been approved by DOE. A trail build “prep” day will be held August 19th to prepare for a full-on trail build later in the fall.

Long Range Planning:

- David distributed an updated version of the spreadsheet created by John Clayton, with updates to reflect completed and funded projects. The list of projects was reviewed. Alan will distribute the spreadsheet electronically so that the rankings can be updated prior to the August Park Board meeting.

Promotion Collaboration Opportunities:

- No report.

Events:

- Kevin reported on a number of upcoming events at the Arboretum:
 - A program about solar eclipses with Janet Ivey on August 10th.
 - An eclipse viewing event on August 21st.
 - An Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) workshop on August 29th, planned in collaboration with the city Electric Department.
 - The Butterfly Festival on July 29th.
- Jon mentioned a Fire Prevention Awareness Festival hosted by the ORFD, to be held in AK Bissell Park on October 7th.

Updates and Observations (Non Action Items):

- Both scheduled presentations were postponed due to the absence of presenters.
- Dan reported that he has treated about 50 fire ant mounds, an increase over last year.
- Bluebird houses are well occupied.
- Dan mentioned that Parks has done a good job trimming the edges of the greenway, but requested brush thinning also. Jon said it would be winter before that work would be scheduled.
- Dan asked for an update on the installation of delineators between the road and the trail at the 8th Lane project location. Jon reported that the work was scheduled to be completed prior to the Masters Regatta in August.

Director's Report:

- Jon updated the Board on staffing changes within the Department.
- Jon reported on the approved Capital Improvements Program for the department for FY2018. Funding has increased substantially compared to a few years ago, when almost no funding was received. Jon credited the Board's reevaluation of the CIP two years ago for helping the raise awareness of the need for funding, especially for capital maintenance.
- Jon also mentioned a press release that went out today detailing extended outdoor pool hours into the third week in August.

Future Agenda Items:

- Reevaluation of the CIP.
- Rescheduling of the update on the National Park History Center at ETPP.
- Rescheduling of a report on a potential project to build a Velodrome in East TN.

Ray made a motion to adjourn at 8:20 pm., with Mark seconding the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Alan Tatum