

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

### **June 4, 2015 Regular Meeting**

The June 4, 2015 Regular Meeting of the Recreation and Parks Advisory Board was convened at 7:04 pm in the Social Room of the Oak Ridge Civic Center with Alan Tatum, Chair, presiding.

#### **Roll Call**

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

#### **Approval of the May 7, 2015 Meeting Minutes**

A motion to approve the minutes for the May 7, 2015 meeting was made by Ray and seconded by Fay. The minutes were approved unanimously.

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

None.

#### **Committee Reports**

##### **Bell Update:**

- Alan provided a PowerPoint presentation to the Board on the International Friendship Bell Peace Pavilion Project. The presentation described the International Friendship Bell (IFB) Ad Hoc Advisory Committee and provided a status update of the project. This included the work of the Ad Hoc Committee, including public presentations and the formation of Fundraising and Public Relations Committees. The presentation then went on to cover the scope of work for BWSC and the results of their analysis and cost estimation of the two designs concepts. Cost estimates for both concepts were compared to the original estimates provided by the architect, Ziad Demian. Opportunities for cost reductions were presented along with items that could increase costs. Challenges for the project were listed, including recommended fundraising goals and a projected timeline for the project including fundraising milestones. Fundraising projections were also provided. The Advisory Committee then submitted three recommendations to the Park Board for consideration:
  1. Advance the two current architectural designs prepared by Demian and Associates to the public input stage.
  2. Schedule two community input sessions to be held prior to September 1, 2015.
  3. Support revisions to the architectural designs in response to community input including the option to expend up to \$25,000 in City of Oak Ridge funds.
- Jon noted that he had confirmed that the \$25,000 included in the City CIP budget for FY2016 was additional funding above the original \$50,000 commitment made by City Council to the project.
- Ray made a motion to accept the recommendations. Dave seconded the motion. ADA access to the site was then briefly discussed. The Board then voted unanimously to accept the recommendations of the Advisory Committee.

### Long Term Strategy/Needs Assessment:

- John provided an evaluation of the combined scores of the spreadsheets he prepared for the Board's CIP work session.
- Alan recommended an evaluation of the top 27 scoring projects to determine which projects to include in the CIP, and that cost estimates be revised as needed.
- Alan and Ray recommended that funding for Clark Center Park, which ranked fairly high, be removed from consideration because acquisition of the park has not yet occurred.

### Bike/Ped Committee:

- Rails-to-Trails: Jon reported that he and Kathryn had a conference call with a representative of CSX who provided the results of the appraisal from CSX. The appraisal lists the value of the rail line at a little more than \$15M. This is considerably higher than expected. Kathryn and Jon are exploring options for negotiating a more favorable acquisition price.
- Proposed North Ridge Parking Lot: No action from the City.
- Proposed parking lot on West Outer Dr.: Ray has finished grooming the single car pull-off parking space. He noted that National Trails Day is Saturday, June 6<sup>th</sup>.
- Proposed East Fork Poplar Creek Trail: Oak Ridge Kennel Club has reconsidered and granted permission for the trail to cross their property. This provides 100% verbal approval for the first phase of the trail. Ray also reported that he had visited the Chattanooga pump track event and received advice there on how to establish the tracks.
- Sinkhole Trail: No update on final agreement with DOE.
- National Trails Day: November 6<sup>th</sup> maintenance work day on the North Ridge Trail by TCWP, starting from Ray and Jo Ann Garrett's home.

### Community Funding Opportunities Committee:

- No report.

### Trail Stewardship:

- Steve reported that the Friends of Haw Ridge are working on revising their bylaws to include the expanded scope of all single track trails in Oak Ridge.

### Grants:

- Discussion of the \$100,000 Bell Helmets grant that the Knoxville Urban Wilderness (Dirty South) is competing for.
- Alan recommended the Board approach Sherith Colverson to assist with looking for grant opportunities.

### Programming:

- David requested that the discussion of the committees goals be postponed another month..

Unfinished Business:

- None

New Business:

- Doug Colclasure informed the Board that AFORR had discussed the idea of adding Clark Center Park to the National Park Service list of cultural landscape sites.
- He also requested that the Board endorse the idea that cultural landscapes be included in the list of sites. The Board agreed to add that item to the July agenda.

Updates and Observations (Non Action Items):

- Convention and Visitor's Bureau: No report.
- The City Council Special Events Task Force: David provided a description of the three resolutions passed by the task force at their most recent meeting.

Director's Report:

- Secret City Festival – Jon provided an update on Festival planning. Alan also brought up Graduation Celebration, which was a great success.

Future Agenda Items:

- National Park Service and Clark Center Park.

Fay made a motion to adjourn and David seconded the motion. The motion to adjourn was approved unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 8:52 pm.

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