

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

### **March 12, 2015 Regular Meeting**

The March 12, 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 at roll call: Naomi Asher, John Clayton, Steve Dittner, Ray Garrett, David Kitzmiller, Dan Robbins, Ken Rueter and Alan Tatum. Members absent at roll call: Fay Martin.

#### **Approval of the February 12, 2015 Meeting Minutes**

A motion to approve the minutes for the February 12, 2015 meeting was made by Dan and seconded by Steve. The minutes were approved unanimously.

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

None

**Presentation:** Carol Evans, Executive Director of the Legacy Parks Foundation, provided an overview of the work of Legacy Parks in recreational development and land conservation. She also expressed an interest in broadening the scope of the Foundations work to possibly include collaborations in Oak Ridge and other communities in the region. John asked if Legacy Parks could potentially assist in the acquisition of Clark Center Park, which Carol indicated could be a possibility.

#### **Committee Reports**

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

- Alan reported that Barge, Waggoner, Sumner & Cannon Inc. (BWSC), a local engineering firm had agreed to perform an engineering analysis of the cantilever Bell pavilion design provided by architect Ziad Demian at the November 2014 Park Board meeting. The analysis will also include more specific cost estimates for construction which will be used to help determine the feasibility of pursuing this design.
- Alan also reported that the city of Naka, Japan has raised approximately \$10,000 to assist with the Bell project.
- Current fundraising projections indicate that a \$500,000 budget appears to be feasible.

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

- Rails-to-Trails: Still 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 for the North Illinois lot, drawn by Steve Byrd, and the TDOT application to the City Manager's office.

- Proposed East Fork Poplar Creek Trail: Royce Hills LLC property owners have not yet approved the request to establish an easement through their property for the trail. Ray suggested there may be an opportunity to do a “bypass” around the property using Royce Circle. Ray also mentioned the possibility of a donation of land to the city by owner Wayne Clark. The property is located along East Fork Poplar Creek adjacent to a City greenbelt and may be suitable for trail development.

#### Community Funding Opportunities Committee:

- Naomi reported that the brochure is complete and she will email it out. Jon indicated the Recreation & Parks Department would handle printing of the brochures and Naomi agreed to handle distribution to posting locations.
- The Board discussed various methods of distributing the brochures, including distribution with utility bills, installing holders on park kiosks, Secret City Festival, community organizations and a QR code on park kiosks to link to an electronic copy of the brochure.

#### Long Term Strategy/Needs Assessment:

- Jon will request that Department Managers provide a list of Capital Maintenance needs for their respective areas of responsibility. Once Jon compiles this information it will be passed on to the Board for review.

#### Trail Stewardship:

- Steve reported that the Friends of Haw Ridge (FoHR) is considering changing its charter and name to include all “unimproved” trails in Oak Ridge. The Board of the club appears to support this change.
- The club would like to use QR codes at trailheads for donations to support trail work.
- The Board discussed a concern expressed by Dan that all trails would be designated as mountain bike trails as a result of the formation of this group. Steve assured Dan that, while mountain bikers are very active in trail work for FoHR, the club is not exclusive to mountain biking and the group had no intention of converting all trails to mountain biking.

#### Grants:

- Steve reported on the Local Parks and Recreation Fund (LPRF) Federal grant program, which provides grants ranging from \$34,000 to \$250,000 for park development.
- It was noted that the new National Historical Park designation for the City may open additional grant opportunities.
- Steve suggested the Board support the hiring of a grant writer by the City. Naomi mentioned that former Park Board member Sherith Colverson has been contracting with the City to do some grant writing.

#### Unfinished Business:

- Doug Colclasure provided an overview of the proposed Sinkhole Trail on Parcel 405, which appears to be moving through the DOE approval process. The Legacy Parks Foundation is assisting with negotiations to get permission to build the trail.

- - Ken updated the Board on the new process in place by DOE to review these types of requests. He reported that a decision was expected in the next 2 – 3 months.
  - The Board unanimously agreed to provide a letter of support for the trail to DOE. Ken will draft the letter.
- Bocce – Jon recommended the Board provide a letter of support to the Oak Ridge Bocce organization, rather than a proclamation.

New Business:

- There was discussion of the new museum development at the K25 site. Ken explained the project and artist renderings from the Oak Ridge Today website were referenced.
- Board Work Plan – Ken requested that he be moved from the Grants committee to the Bike/Ped Committee.
- Shoreline cleanup – Dan reported on the upcoming shoreline cleanup during the annual lowering of the lake by TVA.
- Alan asked if the Board could develop a letterhead for its letters of support.

Updates and Observations (Non Action Items):

- Convention and Visitor's Bureau: The meeting was cancelled due to snow
- The City Council Special Events Task Force is scheduled to meet for the first time on Monday, March 30<sup>th</sup> at 6 pm in the Civic Center Club Room.

Director's Report:

- No report

Future Agenda Items:

- None

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

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