

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

### **May 18, 2017 Regular Meeting**

The May 18, 2017 Regular Meeting of the Recreation and Parks Advisory Board was convened at 7:03 pm in the D Room of the Oak Ridge Civic Center with Alan Tatum, Chair, presiding.

#### **Roll Call**

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

Absent: Ken Rueter

#### **Approval of the April 13, 2017 Regular Meeting Minutes**

A motion to approve the minutes for the April 13, 2017 regular meeting was made by Ray and seconded by Brad. 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 are expected to be completed by the end of the month. 60% completion documents are expected tomorrow for initial review.
- Alan then reviewed the tentative schedule for the project. Once complete construction documents are received the bid package will be prepared and issued. There will be a pre-bid meeting for potential bidders to review the project, then a bid opening in mid-July. The contract is expected to go to City Council for approval in August with a ground breaking ceremony in late August or early September and construction through the fall.
- The Bell Committee will use the quantities for major materials like concrete, steel and stone to reach out to vendors for discounts or donations that can be incorporated into the bid documents.
- Alan also reported that Ziad Demian and Bell Committee members had reviewed landscape designs produced by a landscape architecture class led by LA Garry Menendez in April. The designs were creative and thought provoking.

- Fundraising is approaching \$700,000. The committee is now making a push for donations for local businesses.
- Mary Lou Daughtery asked how donations could be made. Alana reviewed donation options, including through the Bell website ( [www.friendshipbell.com](http://www.friendshipbell.com) ) and mailing checks to the address provided on the website.
- Alan attended a photo-op this morning with Ken Rueter to publicize a \$15K donation from UCOR.
- The Board discussed what types of firms might be potential bidders for the project.

#### Rails to Trails:

- Jon reviewed a teleconference he and Kathryn Baldwin, Community Development Director, had with a CSX representative. The discussion was positive and laid out a potential path forward.
- A new planner with the Community Development Department has been assigned to assist with the TDOT contract.
- It is hoped that there will be a resolution on the July City Council agenda to accept the TDOT contract.

#### Trail Development:

- Ray reported that he is still working on the second easement agreement for East Fork Poplar Creek Trail.
- Ray also noted that he is working with TCWP and Larry Creech to reroute sections of the North Ridge trail that were built outside the greenbelt.
- Brad reported on a recent Haw Ridge work day with about 40 – 45 volunteers. They worked to reroute a section of Pond/Isthmus Trail and haul lumber from the top of Washing Machine for a bridge handrail lower down.
- Brad also reported on the recent trash run. 484 pounds of trash was collected, despite a poor turnout due to bad weather. Over two tons have been removed over the last four years, primarily from Red Shore Trail.
- Brad also stated that the trail design for the proposed Boulder Trail on the ED-6 Parcel will be submitted to DOE for review the following day. Approval of the trail is expected.
- Kevin reported on a new trail at the Arboretum connecting the parking lot and the new auditorium. There will be a ribbon cutting in the fall. There are also plans to add a new trail around a sinkhole next year working with Boy Scouts.

#### Long Range Planning:

- David will take the lead on a CIP review for FY2019. He will distribute the previous spreadsheet for review, with updates to reflect completed projects. Alan requested the item be added to the July agenda.
- Jon gave an update on filter work at the outdoor pool.
- City Blueprint - No Board members attended the Woodland neighborhood Blueprint meeting. The Board discussed processes for selecting Rec & Park related comments from the first meeting and ranking them using a spreadsheet similar to that used for the CIP review to rank them.

#### Promotion Collaboration Opportunities:

- Naomi has developed a plan for website linkage and social media development with Marc DeRose of Explore Oak Ridge, pending approval of the Explore Oak Ridge strategic plan by their Board of Directors.
- Naomi also reported that Explore Oak Ridge is rolling out six (6) new promotional videos. They are not focused solely on recreation, but it is incorporated into each.

#### Events:

- Bike rides – no report.
- Kids Fishing Day – Kevin is waiting for a response from TWRA, but has determined the inaugural event will not happen this year.
- Brad noted that planning continues for this year's Velo Classic.
- David will look into planning Board-sponsored athletic tournaments. He noted that the main cost would be for referees.

#### **Updates and Observations (Non Action Items):**

- Alan spoke to Ken recently; the planning for the Park Construction at ETPP is moving along well. Ken will postpone his presentation on the project to the July meeting.

#### **Director's Report:**

- Jon attended a design charrette at Studio 4 to work on the layout of recreational amenities on the Scarboro parcel that will be used for the new Preschool building.
- The west section of the ORHS Tennis courts will be resurfaced in June, after the high school tennis season. Four of the eight courts will have lines added for pickleball.
- The Parks Division is working with the disc golf club to develop a plan for permanent tee pads at Groves Park, utilizing artificial turf instead of concrete.
- Jon reminded that the Secret City Festival would be taking place from June 2<sup>nd</sup> to June 10<sup>th</sup> under the direction of the new non-profit organization Celebrate Oak Ridge.

#### **Future Agenda Items:**

- Ken will provide an update on the National Park project at ETPP.
- Brad will report on a planned meeting with a large cycling club in Knoxville that is looking into building a velodrome in the Knoxville area – possibly Oak Ridge. They are interested in [resenting a proposal to the Board seeking their support for the project. There are presently none in TN.

Dan made a motion to adjourn at 8:15 pm., with Ray seconding the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

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Alan Tatum