

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

### **November 12, 2015 Regular Meeting**

The November 12, 2015 Regular Meeting of the Recreation and Parks Advisory Board was convened at 7:00 pm in the Social Room of the Oak Ridge Civic Center with Alan Tatum, Chair, presiding.

#### **Roll Call**

Present: Naomi Asher, John Clayton, Steve Dittner, Ray Garrett, David Kitzmiller, Fay Martin, Dan Robbins and Alan Tatum.

Absent: Ken Rueter.

#### **Approval of the October 15, 2015 Regular Meeting Minutes**

A motion to approve the minutes for the October 15, 2015 regular meeting was made by Dan and seconded by Ray. The minutes were approved unanimously.

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

Doug Colclasure gave an update on the Sinkhole trail, noting that the trail was constructed during a volunteer work day on October 17<sup>th</sup>, with over 50 volunteer trail builders participating. Doug also expressed appreciation for the letter of support from the Board for inclusion of cultural landscapes in the development of the Manhattan Project National Historical Park.

#### **Committee Reports**

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

- Alan reported that the Bell Committee met the week before and decided to move forward with the cantilever design, after discussion of possibly scaling the project back to save some cost. The committee is still considering design details and the role of the Bell in the development of the National Historical Park. Alan mentioned that the committee had a display at the National Park signing ceremony earlier that day at the Oak Ridge High School. He also reported that the fundraising committee would begin a more focused effort after the first of the year.

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

- Ray is considering changing the plan for North Ridge Trail parking at Illinois Ave to a simple pull-off on the shoulder.
- East Fork Poplar Creek – Ray will schedule a walk of the proposed trail route after the leaves have finished falling from the trees.
- Sinkhole Trail: Ray commented on the tremendous progress made in the one day trail build, then asked about possibly blazing the trail. Steve mentioned the McKinney Ridge trail as an example of a trail “going

back to nature” as a result of lack of use, at least in part due to the bike ban in the conservation easement. He suggested that a trail with bike traffic and closer to residential areas, like Sinkhole, would receive enough use that blazing would not be necessary.

- North Ridge trail maintenance – Ray suggested the rerouting of some sections to make the trail more user-friendly and to allow it to become a multi-use trail, including bike traffic. He noted that the mountain bike clubs were very good at producing volunteers for trail work. He has spoken to Sandra Goss, with Tennessee Citizens for Wilderness Planning (TCWP) about the proposal. TCWP originally conceived and built the trail as a pedestrian-only trail. She agreed that the trail should be realigned where it has been identified as leaving City property onto private property and where it is extremely steep. She said she would bring up the proposal to allow mountain bikes on the trail to the TCWP Board.

#### Community Funding Opportunities Committee:

- Looking forward to brochure distribution.
- Next step – a separate brochure/program for local businesses & corporate donors. Naomi suggested that be postponed until after fundraising for the Bell project was complete.
- The Board discussed setting up a PayPal account for donations. Jon said he would check with the Finance Department to see how that would work within the City financial system. Naomi offered to set up the account once it had been approved.

#### Long Term Strategy/Needs Assessment:

- Jon gave an overview of the Planning Commission meeting where the draft CIP was reviewed. He noted that the changes were generally well received. At the suggestion of the Planning Commission, the draft would be revised to better reflect the cost of the Bell project and to move the Bell project from a maintenance to a capital project.

#### Trail Stewardship:

- Nothing to report beyond the earlier trail discussions.

#### Grants:

- No report.

#### Programming:

- No report.

#### Unfinished Business:

- None

#### New Business:

- None

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

- Steve asked who on the Park Board was up for reelection. He was informed that it was Alan and John. Both have applied to be reelected to their seats. A discussion followed about making recommendations to Council (as individuals) about candidates for open Board seats. Dan recommended that the Board members not do so.
- Dan reported a vehicle lost on Melton Lake Greenway during the Hill of Truth race. Jon noted that there had not been coordination between the City and race organizers to manage the traffic flow as there has been in years past.
- Dan also mentioned horses using the Haw Ridge trails, which appears to be a regular occurrence at this time of year despite signage indicating horses are not allowed in Haw Ridge.
- Dan requested additional posts for bluebird houses along Melton Lake Greenway.
- Dan invited everyone to the Greenways Oak Ridge Christmas Part at his home on December 9<sup>th</sup>.
- Convention and Visitor's Bureau: Steve was unable to attend the last meeting, but reported that the CVB Director had received his evaluation at that meeting. Naomi reported that he had a received a favorable review.
- Fay expressed appreciation to the Oak Ridge Garden Club for their work at Emma Lee Spray Garden in Jackson Square. She also mentioned that the tennis courts at Jackson Square are in need of pressure washing.
- David reported that Missy Kane would be doing all of her Covenant Health Walks associated with the Roane County branch on Oak Ridge greenways.

#### Director's Report:

- Jon reported that the Parks Division was working with the IT Department, Police & Fire on a plan to install trail markers every 10<sup>th</sup> of a mile on Melton Lake Greenway. The trails will be linked to the emergency dispatch system with GPS coordinates to allow first responders to reach the site of emergencies on the greenway as quickly as possible. The trail markers were donated to the City with funds raised during a 5K race.
- Jon also mentioned the National Park Service signing ceremony and ribbon cutting for the Jackson Square fountain that occurred earlier in the day. Both events were very successful.

#### Future Agenda Items:

- Alan proposed that the Board review its work plan for the upcoming year at the January meeting and that Board members creatively consider new ideas for the plan.

Fay made a motion to adjourn and Ray seconded the motion. The motion to adjourn was approved unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 7:58 pm.

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