

APPROVED

Minutes of the Recreation and Parks Advisory Board Meeting

April 11, 2013, Regular Meeting

The April 11, 2013, regular meeting of the Recreation and Parks Advisory Board was convened at 7:00 pm in the Social Room of the Recreation Center with Gerry Palau, Board Chair presiding.

Roll Call

Members present included at roll call: Frank Chmielewicz, Bridgette Ellis, Gerry Palau, Laurel Patrick, Dan Robbins and Alan Tatum. Late: Allen Eubanks and Cathy Toth. Absent was Sherith Colverson.

Approval of the March 21, 2013, Meeting Minutes

A motion to approve the minutes for March 21, 2013, was made by Bridgette Ellis and seconded by Alan Tatum. Dan Robbins offered several amendments to the minutes that included correction of two typos and a statement by Ellen Smith. One typo was found under the dog park discussion and the second under new business. The amended statement reads "Ellen Smith agreed that zoning rules need to be consistent across all zoning districts in a particular zoning classification. Overlay zones could be used to establish different provisions in certain defined areas. It is possible to establish minimum distances between a particular use and a certain other specific uses (in this case suggesting a minimum distance between certain kinds of signs and a single family residential zone)." Dan Robbins made a motion to amend the minutes as indicated and Frank Chmielewicz seconded the motion. The amended minutes were approved by a 6-0 vote.

Appearance and Citizen Comments

No one addressed the Board.

Committee Reports

Dog Park Committee- Bridgette Ellis

Bridgette Ellis summarized dog park comments received from the public and from other Board members. Comments included the need for more volunteers to monitor the dog park and assist with maintenance. Alan Tatum mentioned the Sewer Treatment Plant smell and the concern about mosquitoes. Bridgette discussed the draft ordinance and the proposed rules that were sent to Board members with the agenda (see attached). The proposed minimum age was changed from under 12 and to under 16. This change was suggested by ORPD Animal Control. Josh Collins advised that only the subset of rules specifically called out in the ordinance would subject a violator to a potential citation; others would be enforced through other administrative means. Bridgette also suggested the following wording: "Failure to obey the rules may result in a Citation". The ordinance is scheduled for the May City Council meeting. Cathy Toth made a motion to approve the Rules and Ordinance with the noted changes. Dan Robbins seconded the motion. The Rules were approved by a 7-0 vote.

Bike/Ped Committee – Sherith Colverson

In Sherith's absence, Chairman Palau discussed the City Staff Working Committee with representatives from Rec and Parks, Community Development and Public Works along with Board members Frank Chmielewicz, Gerry Palau and Sherith Colverson. After one meeting, City Staff has decided to postpone additional meetings until the property has been transferred and a funding source identified. Once this takes place, Staff will pull together a working group to begin the planning process.

Waterfront Redevelopment Master Planning Committee – Allen Eubanks

No report.

Community Funding Opportunities Committee – Laurel Patrick

Laurel Patrick presented a draft charter (attached) for the recently established Community Funding Opportunities Committee that included a Mission Statement, Scope/Deliverables and suggested committee members (see attached). Cathy Toth asked how the committee would recognize donors and the amount donated? Signage/plaques/public recognition? She also asked about Committee goals. Laurel expressed a desire to establish a process that insures the money is handled properly and full accounting is done. Dan Robbins suggested using the O.R. Educational Foundation as a model for the new committee. A motion to approve the proposed charted was made by Dan Robbins and seconded by Bridgette Ellis. The Charter was approved by a 7-0 vote.

Long-term Strategy/Needs Assessment Committee - Gerry Palau

Gerry Palau distributed a draft of the committee charter for Board review and discussed changes suggested after the March meeting (see attached). Alan Tatum's motion to approve the draft charter was seconded by Dan Robbins. Laurel Patrick commented on the need for a proactive approach, identify needs/solutions and move forward. Bridgette Ellis commented on having a process that determines/documents needs and makes recommendations based on those needs: 1) Develop a good needs assessment process early; 2) Determine how we communicate the process and the results to support future development; 3) Establish a baseline and reevaluate as needed. Cathy Toth asked about "benchmarking like cities". She asked about benchmarking full service cities in order to get a fair comparison. Who are our "like "cities? Gerry commented that "like cities" are those with reasonably comparable budgets and demographics; we are looking for those cities that follow best practices. Board suggested changes were incorporated into the draft document. The Board approved the proposed committee charter by a vote of 7-0.

Work Plan Deliverables

Gerry Palau will update the Work Plan deliverables as the new committees organize and begin meeting.

Unfinished Business

Waterfront Signage- Dan Robbins

Dan has been unable to discuss the Waterfront Signage issue with Planning Commission Chair Terry Domm. Dan will continue the effort to contact Mr. Domm.

Update on 69kv Line/Horizon Center- Dan Robbins

Chairman Palau detailed the history of the Park Board's review of the 69kv line proposed for the Horizon Center. Gerry presented a timeline that showed the Park Board had discussed the power line on six different occasions starting in December 2011. These included two presentations by Doug Colclasure/Dan Robbins and one presentation by Electrical Director Jack Suggs.

Dan presented a document prepared by Doug Colclasure that outlined Greenways Oak Ridge's position on the proposed power line (see attached). Dan offered the following a motion, seconded by Cathy Toth to be considered by the Board:

On behalf of the Greenways Oak Ridge committee we would like for the Rec & Pks Adv. Board to endorse , sign, and formally submit the following or similar to the Oak Ridge City Manager & City Council :

Attn: Oak Ridge City Manager Mr. Mark Watson, Oak Ridge City Council

The Oak Ridge Recreation and Parks Advisory Board respectfully asks the City to pursue a solution to bringing additional electrical service to Horizon Center that fully protects from development the adjacent Greenways and connected Natural Areas including the Black Oak Ridge Conservation Easement (BORCE) located on the perimeter of Horizon Center. These areas have great environmental, wildlife habitat, and recreational values to the community that will be jeopardized by this proposed R.O.W. As we understand it, there are alternatives that would leave these sensitive areas undisturbed.

Laurel Patrick questioned whether the Board should be taking a position on the power line issue since DOE has already given the City permission to install overhead lines along a portion of the gravel road. She also referenced Jack Sugg's presentation before the Board at the January meeting. The recreational opportunity will not be lost if the power line is installed. Although there will be an impact and the experience could be diminished, the trail will still be there. Frank Chmielewicz questioned several points in the presentation regarding lost recreational

opportunities. Bridgette Ellis made the point that the greenway was licensed along an old patrol road/utility road. The industrial park must have power and the lots will not sell until the power is available. You can't provide utilities and fully protect all of the natural areas and greenways. Bridgette asked Josh Collins about the license agreement with DOE and the timeline for the greenway.

Josh Collins reviewed a timeline for the development and licensing of the North Boundary Greenway (see attached). Significant dates included: initial approval of the northern section of the trail from the guard house on the east end to the Turnpike on the west end, the transfer of a portion of the trail to CROET in 2004, the meeting between CROET, DOE, Greenways Oak Ridge and the City to discuss the gravel road and the licensing of the full loop trail in 2005. The main question was how to get adequate power to lots 5, 6 and 7. Several potential prospects are looking at these areas.

Cathy Toth encouraged the Board to take a position as an advocate for the recreational values of the trail and to make these values a priority for the Board. The overhead power line will have a long term effect on the greenway experience. Environmental and recreational experience is important and should be considered in this matter and in the future.

Several Board members questioned whether recreational opportunities would be lost or merely diminished as a result of the proposed power line construction. Other members questioned having an industrial park and not providing adequate utilities to potential prospects. Alan Tatum stated the proposed motion could eliminate the option of using the gravel road for the utility corridor.

Gerry Palau commented that in his view, the Board's advocacy of recreational opportunity is not limited to one piece of infrastructure – but should consider the overall recreational impacts of any action on the City; in this case, the power line installation may allow a business to bring jobs to the City that result in additional tax revenue that allow expenditures on other City recreational infrastructure – and that while the 68lv line could impair the recreational value of this particular trail, the net recreational improvement opportunity for the City may actually be positive because of the additional tax revenues that would become available.

Frank reviewed the Board's mission and its role in maintaining the quality of life in the City.

After considerable discussion, Dan amended his motion to the following:

The Oak Ridge Recreation and Parks Advisory Board respectfully asks the City to use its influence in areas within its purview when bringing additional electrical service to Horizon Center to attempt to protect the recreational quality of the adjacent Greenways and connected Natural Areas including the Black Oak Ridge Conservation Easement (BORCE).

Cathy seconded Dan's amended motion. The amended motion failed by a 5-2-1 vote. Voting for the motion were Robbins and Toth; voting against were Chmielewicz, Ellis, Palau, Patrick and Tatum; Eubanks abstained.

New Business

No new business

Director's Report

New China Palace Restaurant Update

City staff did a walk-through of the NCP Restaurant on April 3rd to determine what equipment would be removed from the building and what would remain. The current owner plans to close in early June and reopen at the new location in early July. Announcements have already been posted at the restaurant by the owner.

Recreational Equipment Rentals

The recreational equipment operation is gearing up for a mid- April opening. Paperwork is being completed and equipment is arriving on site. Once the restaurant moves out, renovation of the bar area will begin. This area will be used for equipment storage.

Everyone was invited to the April 23rd presentation by the UT MBA class in the Municipal Building Court Room at 4:30.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:47 pm.

Doug Colclasure/Dan Robbins Presentation

On behalf of the Greenays Oak Ridge committee we would like for the Rec & Pks Adv. Board to endorse , sign, and formally submit the following or similar to the Oak Ridge City Manager & City Council :

Attn: Oak Ridge City Manager Mr. Mark Watson,

Oak Ridge City Council

The Oak Ridge Recreation and Parks Advisory Board respectfully asks the City to pursue a solution to bringing additional electrical service to Horizon Center that fully protects from development the adjacent Greenways and connected Natural Areas including the Black Oak Ridge Conservation Easement (BORCE) located on the perimeter of Horizon Center. These areas have great environmental, wildlife habitat, and recreational values to the community that will be jeopardized by this proposed R.O.W. As we

understand it, there are alternatives that would leave these sensitive areas undisturbed.

Many of these facts regarding the uniqueness and value of this beautiful and fragile area have been brought to the Boards attention in the past but I will summarize them as follows:

First I can think of three instances when the community has worked with the City & the IDB or its predecessors to find alternatives to specific developments that would have negatively impacted some of our most beautiful and valuable natural resources:

1. The coal barge loading terminal that was proposed across from Melton Lake Drive approximately opposite the Marina Area. Now we have the Melton Lake Greenway and Nationally recognized rowing/ regatta course.
2. Proposal for an Airport atop the ridge at the UT Arboretum. Now we have the Pellissippi Parkway.
3. Rezoning of a portion of Haw Ridge Park for location of a factory to manufacture rowing shells. Now we have Melton Lake Phase IV Greenway and the Haw Ridge Park for trail runners, Hikers, & Mt. Bikes with some 25 miles of greenways.

To consider negative impacts to the Greenway and fracturing the BORCE and adjoining Natural Areas barely 5 years into the agreement (Watts Bar Damage Mitigation), appears inconsistent considering the alternatives.

A. There appear to be several practicable alternatives and other issues as noted below, along with overriding environmental and economic concerns.

B. Cutting a power line ROW through the perimeter greenbelt is inconsistent with the fundamental Horizon Center Development, i.e. ***"this park features a careful preservation of the area's natural resources integrated with modern telecommunications and infrastructure"***. This aspect of the Horizon Center is a major marketing attribute that can be found in many Internet descriptions of the site.

C. Within a few dozen yards of the proposed power-line-cut is the sign commemorating the November 18th, 2010 conveyance of an additional of 52 acres to perpetual protection, bordering the East Fork Natural area on 3 sides and the EBORCE on the west side." This is valuable wildlife habitat, for which the sensitivity of the ecology is well documented. As the attached pictures show, the sign specifically addresses the integral value of the roadways/greenways. This proposed project location seems contrary to this Natural Area agreement.

D. As a weekly visitor to the area I can confirm the precise path for the proposed power line/cut is a most sensitive wildlife zone of all the user roads/greenways in the entire forested area from the Wets End Guard House to Rt.58-95 & Popular Creek. On essentially every visit, in the half mile stretch on each side of the East Fork bridge, there are sightings of turkeys, rabbits, deer, coyotes, and in the creek - wood ducks, Canada Geese, Beaver, & Great Blue Herons not to mention many songbirds. Frequently this wildlife is moving back and forth between the drier forest on the one side and the riparian, wetland, floodplain on the opposite. And the over-canopy of trees completely covering the East Fork Road, gives the wildlife the sense of security they require.

E. The negative impact (cost to "human use services") is not considered to East Fork Poplar Creek section of the Greenway, the primary corridor for users gaining the benefits of the BORCE & Natural Areas which are specifically established to mitigate Watts Bar losses. The BORCE agreement places a 6.6 million dollar value on user benefits but the ROW consideration does not assign any costs to losses of wildlife habitat or losses to BORCE visitor benefits.

F. There is little immediate justification for the necessity of the proposed power line. The Horizon Center Industrial Park was first designated 16 years ago and after roughly \$12,000,000 invested there is as yet no identified need for more electricity. Pursuing a power line routing following an existing roadway would likely have little additional incremental cost especially if negative impacts are valued and compared to the investment to date.

G. No documentation or referenced engineering drawing is provided for the stated 50' width of the corridor which if constructed, may in fact end up being greater than 50' should a potential developer question the risk of tall trees being within 25' of the lines.

And in fact The TVA recommends a 75' ROW for 69kV power line.. See this TVA specification for details.
<http://www.tva.gov/power/rightofway/faq.htm>

H. One detail in the proposal to route along the Greenway leaves the wrong impression, i.e. "route has already been cleared". While a ~ 20' wide vehicle corridor exists, it is completely covered by a closed hardwood tree canopy. Opening & widening this canopy by cutting down trees or removing all tree limbs will cause well documented detrimental impacts to the songbirds (Cerulean Warbler, Wood Thrush, Prothonotary Warbler to name a few) and other wildlife habitat and thus a negative cost impact to the "human use services" value assigned to BORCE. Not to mention the ecological value of the trees and the shade value to Greenway visitors during hot summer days.

I. On inspection of the proposed power line path there does not look to be sufficient width for a 50' ROW along the BORCE boundary and the East Fork Poplar Creek. At one point about 1/4 mile from East Fork and Poplar Creek roads junction the distance between the blue BORCE boundary survey stake and EFPC is about 45'. And this includes the ~20' road bed.

J. It may be reasonable to wait to address additional electrical requirements and installation options once an industry need is identified. And it could result that the power needs of an industry would be met by supplies already existing within Horizon Center.

K. Routing the additional power along existing roadways for example, extending the line from Southwood Lane to and within Horizon Center, is an option that may be a viable choice. Even if slightly more expensive it would be minimal compared to the overall investment thus far and losses to the Natural Areas the proposed ROW would cause. The IDB recently reported that the Transformer Substation on Blair Road will need equipment requiring a one year lead time and that the Transformer Substation at Wiltshire location has adequate components.

L. Leaving the woodland, riparian, and floodplain undisturbed clearly has economic and ecological benefits and that, when quantified, likely would show this projected ROW as the least preferable alternative.

M. Alternatives also might include following the existing ROW from the Blair Road substation that crosses the front of Horizon Center.

Fully addressing all of the above will result in a more environmentally and economically justifiable alternative or perhaps no action at this time.

By working together we can minimize further fracturing and impact to the remaining intact areas of our Oak Ridge Reservation green spaces. And when there are other options, as there appear to be in this instance, we should look at them as the first alternative.

As has been discussed on many occasions, the value of these shaded woodland corridor greenways adjacent to Horizon Center is a valuable marketing attribute that is unique.

North Boundary Greenway Timeline

- April 5, 1999: City Council Approval of DOE license agreement for designating the gravel patrol road as North Boundary Greenway (map1).
- April 5, 2002: Greenways OR requested the inclusion of Quarry Road to the license agreement for North Boundary Greenway(map2)
- January 23, 2004: Portion of previously licensed North Boundary Greenway transferred to CROET and removed for license agreement (map3)
- August 11, 2004: Meeting between DOE, COR, CROET and Greenways OR to discuss the Quarry Road and its possible inclusion into the license agreement for North Boundary Greenway (map4).
- August 10, 2005: License agreement between DOE and COR with approval from CROET and Greenways OR for previously licensed area plus Quarry Road and Hunley Road (map5).
- January 17,2012: License agreement amended to include connector trail as shown on map6.
- October 30,2012: Greenways OR requested an additional amendment to North Boundary Greenway license agreement(map6). Request denied by DOE. Trail deemed too dangerous for users due to remote location.

DOG PARK RULES – April 5, 2013

Dogs must be leashed when entering and exiting the park and dog owners must have a leash in possession at all times inside the park.

- The City of Oak Ridge is not responsible for injuries to dogs, their owners/handlers, or others that use the park. This area is for dogs and their handlers only.
- Limit of 3 dogs per adult.
- No smoking, food, or beverages within the park.
- **DOG WASTE MUST BE CLEANED UP IMMEDIATELY BY THE DOG OWNERS AND PLACED IN THE TRASH RECEPTACLES PROVIDED.**
- Dogs must be current with all vaccinations, healthy, and wearing a collar with identification and current rabies tag at all times.
- Dogs in heat and puppies under 4 months of age are prohibited.
- Pets other than dogs are prohibited from entering the park.
- Dog owners are responsible for ensuring that their dogs do not escape from the fenced area.
- Children under 16 must be supervised by an adult.
- Dogs showing aggression toward people or other animals must be removed from the park.
- Dog owners must be in the park with their dogs at all times.
- Dog owners are responsible for filling holes and repairing damage caused by their dogs.
- Weapons are not allowed in the Park including handguns by carry permit holders.

Hours of Operation—The park is open from sunrise to sunset seven days per week.

Closings—The park may need to be closed for periodic maintenance or for any other purpose determined by the City.

Reporting—Any incident, problem, violation, emergency, etc. must be reported immediately to the Oak Ridge Police Department at 425-4399. Call Oak Ridge Recreation and Parks Department at 425-3450 for maintenance or operational concerns. Violation of **ORDINANCE HERE may result in a citation.....**

Responsibility—Any person bringing a dog into this facility assumes the legal responsibility, jointly and severally, with the owner of the dog for any damage, disease or injury to persons, other dogs or property, caused by the dog. All persons using the facility, by entering it, agree to indemnify the City of Oak Ridge and hold Oak Ridge harmless for any harm resulting from the use of this facility.

For the benefit of everyone in our community, please remember to
leave our dog park nicer than you found it!



Recreation & Parks Advisory Board

Charter for the Community Funding Opportunities Committee

Mission Statement

Produce & Publish opportunities & procedures for monetary donations that will be used for the enhancement of the City's Park & Recreation outlets.

Scope & Deliverables

- Compile a list of tangible items that could be quantified with a dollar amount.
 - Sub categorize with dollar amount: <\$500, \$1K, \$5K, \$10K, \$29K, \$50K, \$100K, +...
- Document step-by-step procedures of "how to donate" & prepare procedures within City's Parks & Recreation Department to track in order to ensure timely delivery.
- Verify tax deductible status
- Prioritize List of items
- Set a yearly goal within the Recreation and Parks Advisory Board to achieve items or monetary goal.

Suggested Committee Members

- Laurel Patrick, COR Parks & Recreation Advisory Board
- Parks & Recreation Department City Staff Member
- "Sports Authority" ORCCVB
- Greenways Committee member
-