

APPROVED

Minutes of the Recreation and Parks Advisory Board Meeting

January 10, 2013 Regular Meeting

The January 10, 2013 Regular Meeting of the Recreation and Parks Advisory Board was convened at 7:00pm in the Social Room of the Recreation Center with Gerry Palau, Board Chair presiding.

Roll Call

Alan Tatum was welcomed to the Board and introductions were made.

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

Approval of the December 13, 2012 Meeting Minutes

A motion to approve the minutes for December 13, 2012 was made by Cathy Toth and seconded by Bridgette Ellis. The minutes were approved by a 5-0 vote.

Unfinished Business

Discussion on the 69kv Line Extension in Horizon Center

Chairman Palau gave a brief overview of past Board discussion on the 69kv power line proposed to run along the gravel patrol road/greenway on the northern boundary of the Horizon Center. Total distance of the proposed power line is approximately 1.4 miles. This item was added to the agenda at the request of Dan Robbins.

Jack Suggs, City of Oak Ridge Electrical Director, made a presentation on the history of the Horizon Center and the challenges associated with supplying electrical service to the industrial park. When Horizon Center was being built, there were no detailed plans for providing adequate electricity to heavy demand customers in the northern sections of the Park. Although underground service was available to each lot, designers did not anticipate current electrical demand requirements. When the property was transferred by DOE, several hundred acres of "sensitive natural areas/wetlands" were designated along Popular Creek and throughout the park. Restrictions prevented any intrusion of utilities into these areas.

After DOE transferred approximately 3,000 acres to the State of Tennessee as part of the Watts Bar Mitigation Project, the area north of Horizon Center was designated the Black Oak Ridge Conservation Easement. This action placed additional restrictions on how adjacent DOE property could be used and eliminated several utility service options.

Jack discussed projected power requirements for lots 5, 6 and 7, service options and potential economic impact on the Oak Ridge economy if the lots are sold and developed. He distributed a diagram that outlined electrical service options for Horizon Center. He discussed the environmental impact between clearing a corridor for an overhead power line and trenching down the middle of the gravel road/greenway for multiple underground conduits. The issue has been a topic for debate for over a year and focuses on several key issues:

- Overhead vs underground power lines along the gravel road/greenway.
- Can electrical demand be satisfied with an underground service?
- What are the projected costs for both options?
- What is the economic development impact for Oak Ridge if the electrical demand for Horizon Center cannot be met?
- What is the impact of an overhead power line on recreational opportunities?

The final decision on electrical service options will be made by City Council and its Industrial Development Board. The Board asked numerous questions regarding service options and projected costs. Actual cost estimates will not be available until a service plan is developed. Currently, the initial phase of the power line installation has been approved by DOE and IDB. The 1,960' extension has not been approved by DOE.

Appearance and Citizen Comments

Elizabeth Smith from the Oak Ridge Observer requested information about Board activities, committees and plans for the waterfront.

Committee Reports

Bike/Ped Committee- Sherith Colverson

Sherith asked about efforts to move forward with the recommendations from the Bike/Ped Committee. Chairman Palau briefly outlined his steps to bring the recommendations before the Planning Commission at an upcoming meeting. Currently, the Commission is dealing with the City's Capital Improvements program and several zoning issues. He plans to discuss the steps with Planning Commission Chair Terry Domm.

Dog Park Committee- Bridgette Ellis

Bridgette plans to present proposed Dog Park Guidelines for Board review at the February meeting. She also plans to review ordinances that may need amending to allow a dog park in Oak Ridge.

Work Plan Deliverables

Chairman Palau reviewed the 2012 Work Plan and the Elephant List that was developed in May 2011. He outlined Board accomplishments over the last 18 months and briefly discussed the upcoming Board Retreat on February 2nd. He asked members to look at ways to recapture the high level of participation, engagement, and enthusiasm exhibited by the Board during its first year. The planned retreat will give members a chance to develop the frame work for the 2013 Work Plan.

New Business

Election of Chair and Vice Chair

Chairman Palau opened the floor for nominations for Board Chair. Bridgette Ellis nominated Gerry Palau for a second term as Board Chair. Cathy Toth seconded the motion. Gerry was elected by a vote of 7-0.

Chairman Palau opened the floor for nominations for Vice Chair. After receiving no nomination for Vice Chair, Laurel Patrick requested the election be deferred to the February meeting. The Board agreed.

Scheduling 2013 Quarterly Open House- Style Public Meetings

After a brief review of the 2012 Open House Schedule and topics, the Board decided to discuss the 2013 Schedule at the Retreat. Bridgette suggested the Board look for ways to feed the meeting information back to the public.

Director's Report

Pavilion Update

The pavilion is approximately 98% complete. Once the contractor is finished, the City will complete the planned site work. Dedication is planned for spring.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:56 pm.

Elephant List (May 2011)

Recreation and Parks Board Submitted Priorities

Bike & Ped Plan

Rails to Trails

Route to Y-12/ORNL

Greenbelt Connections

Connecting Bikeways

Continued Greenway Development

Trails from Hotels/Restaurants to Greenways

Trails from residential areas to Parks

More Bike Paths

Becoming a Bike/Ped Friendly City

Waterfront Development

A Publicly Endorsed Waterfront Plan

Amphitheater

Human Powered Sports Capital

Evaluate Additional Rowing Lane

Sprinkler Park

Kayak Rentals

Consider Moving the Marina to Edgemoor Road

Free Boat Ramps

Exceptional Waterfront Destination

Dog Park

Naming Rights for Recreation and Parks Facilities (Jackson Sq. Tennis Courts)

Senior Center Face Lift

Mini Golf Facility

Multi Sport Facilities

Competitive Long Course Pool

New School Recreation Areas

Outdoor Gathering Areas near Retail

More Sports Venues/Fields

Recreation Activities as Revenue Generators

Face Lift for Entry Signs/Areas

Updated School Playgrounds with Basketball Goals

Activities to Encourage Physical Health of all ages

Review Haw Ridge Uses

Better Traffic Plan for all Events

More Covered Pavilions

More Family Friendly Activities to Attract people to O.R.

Picnic Tables at all Parks

Sports Authority

Conservation Lands in locations that make sense

Engage the 52 Citizens that were not elected