

Minutes of the Recreation and Parks Advisory Board Meeting

September 14, 2017 Regular Meeting

The September 14, 2017 Regular Meeting of the Recreation and Parks Advisory Board was convened at 7:12 pm in the Social Room of the Oak Ridge Civic Center with Alan Tatum, Chair, presiding.

Roll Call

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

Absent: Mark Cantrell, Dan Robbins, Ken Rueter

Approval of the August 10, 2017 Regular Meeting Minutes

A motion to approve the minutes for the August 10, 2017 regular meeting was made by David and seconded by Ray. The minutes were approved unanimously.

Appearance and Citizen Comments

Present: Doug Colclasure

Unfinished Business

None

New Business

- Brad provided a summary handout of a proposal to build a velodrome in Oak Ridge. He requested that the Board members review the proposal and provide comments by email in about a week. He will compile the comments for the proposers and then request an opportunity for them to make a presentation to the Board once they have more fully developed the proposal.

Board Work Plan

Bell Update:

- A groundbreaking ceremony has been scheduled for Thursday, September 21st at 5:00 pm. at the site of the new Peace Bell Pavilion. The ceremony will be followed by an International Day of Peace Celebration at the old Bell site.
- City Council has approved the construction contract with First Place Finish, Inc. of Oak Ridge, pending a reduction in the scope of work to lower the contract to a cost not to exceed \$440,000. The low bid on the project was \$698,900.
- The goal is to break ground as soon as possible and have substantial completion by the end of March 2018.

Rails to Trails:

- Jon reported that the RFQ for preliminary engineering was released on September 13th, following City Council approval of the TDOT Consultant Selection Policy on the 11th. Interested firms will submit a letter of interest and statement of qualifications by Tuesday, October 10th. Those submittals will be evaluated by a Selection Committee comprised of City Staff from Community Development, Public Works and Recreation & Parks. The Committee will develop a short list of the firms deemed to be most qualified, who will then be asked to submit a detailed proposal for evaluation.

Trail Development:

- Ray held a trail maintenance day with his North Ridge Trail volunteers.
- Ray has submitted the fifth revision of the easement agreement for a portion of the East Fork Poplar Creek trail, which he anticipates will be signed next week.
- Brad reported on groundbreaking work on the Boulder Trail. The trail is mostly built. A trail building day in collaboration with the AMBC is scheduled for November to complete the project. They are collaborating with Explore Oak Ridge to promote the work day, in part to try to get more Oak Ridge residents involved.

Long Range Planning:

- David has distributed the CIP spreadsheet update. He requested that Board members complete and submit it to him in the next couple of weeks. He asked that the Board reply to all when submitting.

Promotion Collaboration Opportunities:

- Naomi reported that work on this has been “placed on the back burner” while she works on the City’s 75th Anniversary Celebration. She would like to add Recreation & Parks events to the celebration.
- In the long term she would like to work on aligning the Department and Explore Oak Ridge marketing plans.

Events:

- Kevin reported on the Emerald Ash Borer workshop held at the UT Arboretum Auditorium on Tuesday, August 29th from 6 – 8 pm. The workshop, hosted by the Arboretum, the Environmental Quality Advisory Board and the City of Oak Ridge Electric Department, was well attended.
- The Arboretum also hosted two eclipse viewing events, and a very successful Butterfly Festival in July, with over 1,000 attendees. He also reported that the Owl Prowl scheduled for October has been cancelled, but the Fall Plant Sale will take place October 21st.

Updates and Observations (Non Action Items):

- Doug Colclasure made a presentation to the Board about proposed new trails within the Black Oak Ridge Conservation Easement (BORCE). There is currently no support from the four stakeholders in the BORCE (DOE, TDEC, TWRA and TVA) for further trail development. He requested support from the Board for a

motion to permit construction of the new trails. Alan recommended that Doug work with Brad to draft a letter of support for the Board to review and potentially approve at a future meeting.

Director's Report:

- Jon provided updates on the Blankenship Field renovation project, the Preschool project, Senior Center planning, and the City's new compensation plan.

Future Agenda Items:

- A letter of support for trail development on the BORCE.

Ray made a motion to adjourn at 8:32 pm., with David seconding the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Alan Tatum