

Minutes of the Recreation and Parks Advisory Board Meeting

September 8, 2016 Regular Meeting

The September 8, 2016 Regular Meeting of the Recreation and Parks Advisory Board was convened at 7:05 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, Fay Martin and Alan Tatum.

Absent: Steve Dittner, Dan Robbins and Ken Rueter

Approval of the August 11, 2016 Regular Meeting Minutes

A motion to approve the minutes for the August 11, 2016 regular meeting was made by David and seconded by Ray. The minutes were approved unanimously.

Appearance and Citizen Comments

Citizens present: Mary Lou Daughtery, Doug Colclasure, and Shelley Ren.

Doug noted that the National Park Service has appointed a permanent superintendent for the Manhattan Project National Historical Park. He suggested the Board invite her to a meeting to discuss potential collaborations.

Shelley attended to meet a requirement of the Leadership Oak Ridge program.

Unfinished Business

None.

New Business

- Community Bike Rides – Naomi suggested the Board work on conducting community bike rides. She has discussed a collaboration with Mike Brown to brand them under the Secret City Celebration umbrella. Brainstorming ideas include run/kayak/bike events and other events to promote and fundraise for Oak Ridge parks. She would like to promote both trail and road riding and cited the efforts by Bike Knox to promote road riding in Knoxville as an example of what could be done. Alan asked about potential scheduling of rides. Naomi suggested starting with back to back weekend rides, or a Halloween themed or Easter themed ride (similar to the Christmas ride in Knoxville). The board continued to discuss various possibilities. Alan asked who would lead the effort. Naomi suggested that the rides be collaboratively sponsored by the Park Board and Secret City Celebration Board. The Park Board would handle logistics and the SCC Board would handle promotion. Naomi also suggested that they start small for easy success.

Board Work Plan

Bell Update:

- The Bell Committee is moving forward with the plan to move the Peace Pavilion within Bissell Park. Architect Ziad Demian is now under contract with the City to update the concept plans to conform to the new site.
- Public fundraising will begin in November. The Bell committee expects to have approximately \$400,000 from major donors in hand or committed at that time.
- The Japan Expo Grant application will be submitted this month.
- November 10th and 17th are being considered for the fundraising kickoff event. If it takes place on the 10th it will conflict with the scheduled Park Board meeting.
- There will be a Girl Scout celebration at the Peace Bell on September 21st.

Community and Corporate Donations Guide:

- Naomi is making progress on editing the document. She will email it to the Board for review when complete.

Trail Development:

- Jon reported that the Regional Transportation Planning Organization (TPO) is recommending award of a \$1.2 million TDOT grant for acquisition of the CSX rail line for the rails to trails project. Having this funding in place will allow City staff to move ahead with negotiations with CSX for the property.

Clark Center Park:

- No report.

Grant Proposals and Opportunities:

- No report

Long Term Strategy/Needs Assessment:

- No report.

Programming Promotion:

- No report

National Park Service Collaboration:

- Jon reported that the Energy Communities Alliance Peer Exchange on National Park development was a success, with many interesting ideas exchanged between the Manhattan Project National Historical Park communities.

UT Arboretum/City Trails Integration:

- Kevin reported that the plan for a 5K fun run at the Arboretum should work, assuming permission is granted to use the adjoining City-owned parcel adjacent to the Arboretum for parking and a start/finish area. Jon will arrange a meeting with the City Manager to discuss the proposal.

Updates and Observations (Non Action Items):

- None

Director's Report:

- Jon reported on the award of the 8th Lane project to First Place Finish, Inc. of Oak Ridge. Work will start in October and will require the closure of the greenway in that area for approximately three to four months.
- He also reported on a proposal by the National Park Service and the American Museum of Science and Energy (AMSE) to partner with the City on a 5K fun run on March 14, 2017 called the Pi Run. The run would be used to promote education, the Park Service and AMSE. The greatest challenge will be the logistics of holding the race on a weeknight because the proposed route will require lane closures on several roads, including the Oak Ridge Turnpike, Rutgers Avenue and South Illinois Avenue during rush hour. Jon will work with the Police Department and other City staff to determine if this can be done safely.

Future Agenda Items:

- Due to scheduling conflicts on October 13th, Jon will email the group to see if the 6th of October would be an acceptable meeting date.

Fay made a motion to adjourn, with Naomi seconding the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Alan Tatum