DRAFT

Minutes of the Recreation and Parks Advisory Board Meeting

September 12, 2013 Regular Meeting

The September 12, 2013 Regular Meeting of the Recreation and Parks Advisory Board was convened at 7:05pm in the Social Room of the Recreation Center with Gerry Palau, Board Chair presiding.

Roll Call

Members present at roll call: Bridgette Ellis, Gerry Palau, Laurel Patrick, Dan Robbins, Alan Tatum and Cathy Toth. Members late: Sherith Colverson. Members absent: Frank Chmielewicz.

Approval of the July 11, 2013 Meeting Minutes

A motion to approve the minutes for July 11, 2013 was made by Cathy Toth and seconded by Bridgette Ellis. The minutes were approved by a 6-0 vote.

Appearance and Citizen Comments

No one appeared before the Board

Committee Reports

Dog Park Committee- Bridgette Ellis

Bridgette Ellis updated the Board on the completion of the concrete work, continued work on the entrance sign, completion of the waterline installation and City Council approval of the fencing bid. The Dog Park is generating a great deal of interest on Social Media. Dan asked about any negative reaction from the community regarding a recent article from a veterinarian. Bridgette indicated the feedback from the community was positive. Responsible pet owners will help make the park successful.

Bike/Ped Committee- Sherith Colverson

No Report.

Community Funding Opportunities Committee – Laurel Patrick

Laurel Patrick distributed a revised draft of the funding opportunities brochure and reviewed key additions for the Board. The document had been revised as a result of a recent meeting with a Department staff member. Laurel requested Board review and comments prior to the next meeting.

Long-term Strategy/Needs Assessment Committee – Alan Tatum

Alan discussed two documents regarding benchmarking of Recreation and Parks programs, budgets and facilities. One document was prepared by the National Recreation and Parks Association and the second was

prepared by the Recreation Services Division of the State of Tennessee. Josh Collins will forward copies of the material to the Board. The committee has identified capital maintenance of facilities as a critical need for the Department in the future. Don't build new facilities; maintain what we have with available resources.

Waterfront Redevelopment Master Planning Committee – Gerry Palau

No Report

Unfinished Business

Dan Robbins reported on a recent hike on the North Boundary Greenway sponsored by AFOR and Greenways Oak Ridge. At the Greenways meeting on September 11, the group discussed the Horizon Center covenants that required underground utilities and the cost difference between overhead and underground. The installation of the proposed 69kv line was the focus of the discussion.

Dan discussed a recent walk on the Melton Lake Greenway and his concern for vehicle break ins at the Edgemoor Road parking area. He suggested a security camera. City staff will install warning signs regarding items left in plain sight in cars. He also observed that 90% of the vehicles parked in the new parking lot at the end of Phase IV were from Knox County.

Dan discussed City Council approval on first reading of the revised Sign Ordinance regarding Electronic Reader Boards.

Dan expressed concern about the speed of bikers on the Melton Lake Greenway and suggested signage to separate bikers and walkers on the trail. A line down the middle of the trail with walkers using the right side of the trail could be an option.

New Business

None

Director's Report

Activity Updates

Neon Vibe

Josh Collins discussed the upcoming Neon Vibe event on September 21st at 8pm in the Center City area. The race will begin and end at the Pavilion in Bissell Park. The race course will follow ORU Way across O.R. Turnpike onto Robertsville Road, a right turn onto Providence Road, a right turn onto North Tulane across Turnpike to Tulane Avenue, a right turn onto Tulane Place, a right turn onto Badger Avenue, a right turn onto ORU Way and another right turn back into the Park.

Adventure Outdoors

Josh gave a status report on the recreational equipment rental operation offered by Adventure Outdoors. The contractor has developed a following and is attracting several large groups to the waterfront. By contract, the City will evaluate the rental operation in early December and make a determination regarding the 2014 season.

New China Palace Restaurant

The restaurant has been given notice of lease termination effective October 30. The City plans to move forward with the demolition of the kitchen area in early November to make way for public restrooms.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:58 pm.

_____