

Minutes of the Recreation and Parks Advisory Board Meeting

December 14, 2017 Regular Meeting

The December 14, 2017 Regular Meeting of the Recreation and Parks Advisory Board was convened at 7:03 pm in the Social Room of the Oak Ridge Civic Center with Alan Tatum, Chair, presiding.

Roll Call

Present: Naomi Asher, Mark Cantrell, Dan Robbins, Brad Spears and Alan Tatum

Absent: Ray Garrett, Kevin Hoyt, David Kitzmiller, Ken Rueter

Approval of the October 12 and November 9, 2017 Regular Meeting Minutes

The October 12, 2017 meeting minutes were approved unanimously. The November 9, 2017 meeting minutes were also approved unanimously, with the clarification that Rotary wants to plant 99 trees.

Appearance and Citizen Comments

Present: Mary Lou Daugherty, Doug Colclasure

- Doug thanked the Rec & Parks staff for their hard work. He also noted another successful trail work day on the Boulder trail, which is now essentially complete.

Unfinished Business

- None

New Business

- None

Board Work Plan

Bell Update:

- Alan provided an update on the project schedule. The contractor has provided submittals to the architect for approval. Once all approvals are complete the contractor will move forward with ordering materials and then move on to the mobilization stage.
- Work continues on securing the carbon fiber trellis beams & bench backs.
- Fundraising remains at approximately \$760K.

Rails to Trails:

- The Design & Engineering selection committee has narrowed the submittals to a short list of four firms. Interviews will be held next week. Contract negotiations will take place in January. If successful, a contract will be taken to the February City Council meeting for approval.

Trail Development:

- Brad reported on a meeting to develop a new trail steward organization. The group will collaborate with Legacy Parks on trails in the Anderson/Roane County area and with the City on trails under Recreation & Parks management. The group currently sees opportunities for eight new projects on over 1,000 acres of land in different areas. These projects could support up to 100 miles of new trails. The group has a commitment for a \$10K donation to get started, along with approximately \$5K from the Friends of Haw Ridge when that group is dissolved as this organization absorbs their responsibilities.

Long Range Planning:

- Still waiting on a few spreadsheet submittals for compilation.

Promotion Collaboration Opportunities:

- Naomi met with Marc DeRose (Explore Oak Ridge) today. He has agreed to put a Rec & Parks page on their website.
- Alan mentioned that there was an opportunity for a tourism grant for the Bell Project, possibly for signage.

Events:

- Naomi will attend the Tour De Lights bicycle event in downtown Knoxville tomorrow evening. She will be looking for ideas for a Halloween ride in Oak Ridge next year.

Updates and Observations (Non Action Items):

- Dan presented the 25th Anniversary report for Greenways Oak Ridge.
- City Council will hold Board elections at the January 8th meeting. The next Park Board meeting will be January 11th.
- The Park Board will hold a work session to develop the work plan for 2018 on Saturday, January 27, 2018. The meeting is tentatively scheduled to be held at the UT Arboretum Auditorium.

Director's Report:

- Jon provided project updates.

- The State has sent the contract for the Blankenship Field project grant, which has been signed by the Mayor and returned. It now awaits signatures from State officials. The contract start date is listed as January 1, 2018.
- The City continues the transition to management of Centennial Golf Course from Billy Casper Golf. Interviews were held for the General Manager position on Tuesday and the top two candidates will interview with the City Manager tomorrow.
- Work is progressing on the project to construct an overflow parking lot for Energy Solutions soccer field at the corner of Laboratory and Administration. The parking lot will be built in partnership with Oak Ridge Surgeons, who will fund construction in exchange for the opportunity to use the lot to supplement parking for their new surgery center during regular business hours, when demand for field parking is low.

Future Agenda Items:

- None

The meeting was adjourned at 8:03 pm.

Alan Tatum