

Minutes of the Recreation and Parks Advisory Board Meeting

November 9, 2017 Regular Meeting

The November 9, 2017 Regular Meeting of the Recreation and Parks Advisory Board was convened at 7:04 pm in the Social Room of the Oak Ridge Civic Center with Alan Tatum, Chair, presiding.

Roll Call

Present: Kevin Hoyt, Dan Robbins, Brad Spears and Alan Tatum

Absent: Naomi Asher, Mark Cantrell, Ray Garrett, David Kitzmiller, Ken Rueter

Approval of the October 12, 2017 Regular Meeting Minutes

There was no quorum, so approval of the minutes was postponed.

Appearance and Citizen Comments

Jim Dodson, Oak Ridge City Council, expressed his appreciation for the work of the Board.

Doug Colclasure thanked the Board for their support of the trail development on the Black Oak Ridge Conservation Easement (BORCE). He reported that the Hill of Truth 12 hour mountain bike race at Haw Ridge Park in October was very successful, with a very large turnout. He also reported that the O'Conner senior Center held its weekly hike the previous week at the North Boundary trails and the Knoxville Ornithological Society hosted a hike at the ETP Greenway.

Unfinished Business

- Brad reported that he was still working on the velodrome proposal as his schedule allows. He has had contact with US Cycling about the proposal.

New Business

- None

Board Work Plan

Bell Update:

- Fundraising has reached approximately \$760K. Local credit unions donated \$60K at the recent donor recognition event on Thursday, November 2nd at Enrichment federal Credit Union.
- The Notice to Proceed has been issued to First Place Finish. They are working on approval of submittals and scheduling of surveying.

- The biggest challenge currently is the carbon fiber work – negotiations are moving slowly.
- Landscaping and light fixtures have been delayed to phase II of the project, pending additional fundraising.

Rails to Trails:

- The selection committee is reviewing submittals, ranking them to reach a short list of firms that will be interviewed for final selection.

Trail Development:

- Brad reported that there have been two small work days on the Boulder trail and a larger work day is being scheduled. The group has run into delays with DOE approval of some trail building plans, but still expect to move forward with the work day.
- Dan reported that the long-awaited easement for the East Fork Poplar Creek trail has finally been signed.
- Brad reported that he is moving forward with the creation of a new trails entity, which is expected to become a chapter of the Southern Off-Road Bicycle Association (SORBA).

Long Range Planning:

- Still waiting on a few spreadsheet submittals for compilation.

Promotion Collaboration Opportunities:

- No report.

Events:

- Kevin reported that the Arboretum has finished its programming for the year and is working on scheduling for next year.
- Dan reported that Greenways oak Ridge will have a display at the library soon.

Updates and Observations (Non Action Items):

- Dan made note of the mess left behind after the Hill of Truth Race at Haw Ridge, including marking ribbon and water bottles. He also reported that Rotary wants to plant trees and plans to contact the Public Works Stormwater Team about ~~250K Tree Day~~. *99 TREES. JULY*
- Dan also invited the Board to the Greenways oak Ridge Christmas Party, to be held at his home on December 13th.

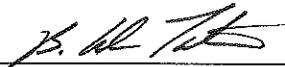
Director's Report:

- Jon reported on the Great Smoky Mountain Regional Greenway Council Meeting, held earlier in the day at the offices of Barge Waggoner Sumner & Cannon in Knoxville. Items of interest included a presentation on the completion of the most recent section of the Chattanooga River Walk greenway, a very challenging trail project through current and former industrial properties. Also, Bob Parker, Parks & Recreation Director for the City of Sevierville, reported on a recent survey in his town in which residents were asked to rank recreational priorities. Much to his surprise, greenways ranked #1 in the survey, while ballfields ranked #15. He felt that represents a huge shift in priorities reflecting the value of greenways to the community.

Future Agenda Items:

- Brad – still hoping to bring a group to present a velodrome proposal.
- Ken again offered to host the next Board work session at the Arboretum Auditorium.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 pm.



Alan Tatum