

Minutes of the Recreation and Parks Advisory Board Meeting

October 12, 2017 Regular Meeting

The October 12, 2017 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, Mark Cantrell, Ray Garrett, Kevin Hoyt, David Kitzmiller, Dan Robbins, Ken Rueter and Alan Tatum

Absent: Brad Spears

Approval of the September 14, 2017 Regular Meeting Minutes

A motion to approve the minutes for the September 14, 2017 regular meeting was made by Ray and seconded by Kevin. The minutes were approved unanimously.

Appearance and Citizen Comments

Mary Lou Daughtery shared information about the Dreambikes Youth Program in Knoxville, which provides jobs & training to disadvantaged youth, teaching them to repair old bicycles.

Unfinished Business

- Letter of support for trail development on the Black Oak Ridge Conservation Easement (BORCE): The Board reviewed a draft of the letter with suggested corrections by Alan. Dan made a motion to approve the letter as corrected and Ray seconded the motion. The Board approved the letter unanimously.

New Business

- None

Board Work Plan

Bell Update:

- The groundbreaking ceremony on Thursday, September 21st at the site of the new Peace Bell Pavilion was a great success. Attendance was strong and there was a lot of positive feedback.
- There will be a donor recognition event on Thursday, November 2nd from 6 – 8 pm at Enrichment federal Credit Union.
- The construction contract is still under negotiation, but it is expected to be completed soon.

Rails to Trails:

- Nine submittals were received for the RFQ for design & engineering services. Most appear to be from highly qualified firms, so narrowing the list for more detailed submittals will be challenging.

Trail Development:

- There is still no approval of the trail easement Ray has been working in for several months. He is considering ending the trail at that property line and tying the trail back to the Turnpike sidewalk if an agreement can't be reached.
- Ken reported that there will be a work day on the Boulder this Saturday, the 14th, from 7:30 am to 12 pm. The trail is already getting a lot of use.
- Ken is planning to talk to DOE about formalizing an unofficial trail built for hunter access. The trail is pretty well designed and lies entirely on the ED-6 parcel. He does not foresee a problem with getting approval.

Long Range Planning:

- Still waiting on most of the spreadsheet submittals for compilation.

Promotion Collaboration Opportunities:

- Naomi reported that she and Marc DeRose plan to develop a "really cool" page on the Explore Oak Ridge website that will link to the Rec & Park website.

Events:

- Naomi is hoping to schedule a biking event around Halloween of 2018.
- Kevin reported that the Arboretum will host a Bioenergy Day on the 18th from 2 - 5 pm, the Fall Plant Sale on the 21st and author Catherine Alto at Roane State on October 17th from 6 – 8 pm.
- Ken reported that there will be a site tour at the planned History Center at ETP on October 19th and a Legacy Parks luncheon at Seven Islands State Birding Park on October 13th.

Updates and Observations (Non Action Items):

- Dan made note of the upcoming quota hunts, which will close some greenway segments and Haw Ridge Park. He praised the efforts of the Parks Maintenance crew to remove hazardous ash trees along the greenways. He also noted the shoreline cleanup in the wetland area around the Melton Lake Greenway boardwalk by the Public Works Storm Water team. Work included the installation of an interpretive sign at the wetland.
- Dan also noted that there were several hatchlings of bluebirds and other bird species in the bluebird houses along the greenway. In addition, he has treated 165 fire ant mounds this year, a large increase over last year.
- Alan thanked Ken for UCOR's sponsorship of the luncheon with Recreation & Parks staff in September.

- David noted that non-resident fees for athletic programs will be removed next year in the hope of increasing league participation.
- David also noted that 3 current Board members, Dan, Ken & David, would be rolling off this year. They will need to reapply if they wish to serve another term, but the City Clerk's office is not accepting applications yet. David was told it would probably be January before applications would be accepted.
- Kevin the reported that he will be resigning from the Board at the end of the year due ton increase in his work commitments and difficulty in making Board meetings.

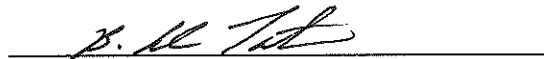
Director's Report:

The Recreation & Parks Department has hired a new Administrative Assistant, Julie Lee, who will replace Naomi Thompson after 16 years of service.

Future Agenda Items:

- Brad – to bring a group to present a velodrome proposal.
- Ken – Consideration of an event at the ED-6 trail system, which now has a loop approximating a 5K course.

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



Alan Tatum