

Minutes of the Recreation and Parks Advisory Board Meeting

July 12, 2018 Regular Meeting

The July 12, 2018 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: Mark Cantrell, Ray Garrett, David Kitzmiller, Melissa McMahan, Ken Rueter and Alan Tatum

Absent: Naomi Asher, Dan Robbins, Brad Spears

Approval of the May 10, 2018 Regular Meeting Minutes

The May 10, 2018 meeting minutes were approved unanimously.

Appearance and Citizen Comments

Doug Colclasure provided an update on efforts to develop more trails on the Black Oak Ridge Conservation Easement (BORCE).

Unfinished Business

- None

New Business

- Alan followed up on an informal discussion at the June Board meeting (for which there was no quorum) about the Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony. Jon explained that the ceremony had been a collaborative effort of the Oak Ridge Women's Club and the Rec & Park Department for many years. In June of this year the Women's Club disbanded due to declining membership, donating the balance of their funds to the department for maintenance of the Commemorative Walk. Department staff have committed to continuing the tree lighting ceremony. After a brief discussion, the Board agreed to support the department's efforts on the ceremony.
- Alan also followed up on a June discussion about the proposed recognition program. After some discussion, the Board agreed to recognize three to four individuals, once each year, for their efforts on behalf of Recreation & Parks in Oak Ridge. The recognition ceremony will be integrated into the Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony. Alan asked that Board members email him nominations for individuals or groups worthy of recognition.
- At the request of the City Manager, the discussion of management proposals for the Oak Ridge Farmers Market has been tabled, possibly to be revisited at a later date.

Board Work Plan

Bell Update:

- Complications with the contract for the carbon fibers beams have further delayed the project. A contract has been negotiated between the Rotary International Community Fund, UT and IACMI, so the project is now back on track. The delay has caused the ribbon cutting ceremony to be pushed back to September 20th.
- There are two more concrete pours needed to complete the cantilever structure.
- Precast bollards and benches are due to be delivered any time now. Footers for them will be poured after their arrival.
- Staff confirmed that sleeves have been installed for the irrigation system.

Rails to Trails:

- Staff reported that they are working with AMT, CSX and TDOT on an access agreement to allow the NEPA phase of the project to proceed.

Trail Development:

- Ray provided an update on development of the East Fork poplar Creek Trail. Scouts have begun trail work along the section of trail adjacent to Robertsville Middle School. Ray has also been working on the west end of the trail in the floodplain, experimenting to see the effects of flooding on the trail construction.
- There is only one hold-out on granting a trail easement and Ray expects to receive approval soon.
- There are tentative plans for a trail build day with CVTA in the fall.
- A question was raised about directional signage to help trail users find their way where the trail follows Jefferson Ave. Staff will contact Community Development to look into the possibilities for wayfaring signage and possibly pavement stencils compliant with city ordinances.
- Ray discussed parking options for potential trail users.
- Alan followed up on a previous discussion about removal of tires in the creek. Use of a grapple hook and rope is considered the best option; this may be integrated into the CVTA work day.
- Ken reported that CVTA has a work day planned at Haw Ridge on Saturday, July 14th. The group has acquired a trailer and trail building/maintenance tools that they will bring. Work will focus on erosion control and vegetation management in several areas of the park.

Natural Asset Strategy:

- Ken reported that Legacy Parks and DOE held a recent meeting on the future of Clark Center Park. They are exploring the possibility of a public/private conveyance of the park. A meeting is planned July 17th between Legacy Parks, DOE, and the mayors of Oak Ridge and Anderson County. The federal government has become very interested in divesting itself of excess federal property and DOE hopes to transfer Clark Center Park to another entity soon.
- Ken provided an update on CROET environmental efforts, including the identification of parcels appropriate for conservation easement status. The next step will be to determine the appropriate

organization for transfer of those parcels – potentially the Legacy Parks Foundation or Foothills Land Conservancy, among others.

- Ken has recommended to a forum of DOE prime contractors (CNS, UCOR, UTB, ORAU) and other major DOE contractors that they develop a natural asset strategy for DOE lands in Oak Ridge. The group may engage Legacy Parks to develop the natural asset strategy, as they have done this for others in the past.

Long Range Planning:

- None

Promotion Collaboration Opportunities:

- None

Events:

- Staff are working to determine the August outdoor pool schedule based on availability of staffing.
- WDVX will hold four more concerts in AK Bissell Park this summer, one each month in July, August, September and October.
- Jon noted that summer camp has been very successful, and will be wrapping up in a few weeks as the campers return to school.
- The next big department event will be the Halloween Party in October.

Velodrome:

- Mark reported that he went by the velodrome in Asheville, NC on a recent trip and found it very well-used.

Updates and Observations (Non Action Items):

- None

Director's Report:

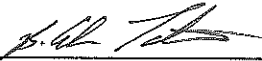
- The USA Cycling National Time Trial Championships, held in Oak Ridge for the first time in June, was a success. Despite challenges associated with closing Melton Lake Dr. for about ten hours on a Thursday, the event went well and it appears likely we will be asked to host again next year.
- The City received permission from TDEC to issue a Notice to Proceed on the installation of the artificial turf at Blankenship Field, after review of the purchasing agreement and subcontract with the selected vendor, Field Turf USA. After much discussion, it was determined that starting now would require the rescheduling of at least the first three home games. This was considered an unacceptable loss, especially for senior members of the football team, marching band and cheerleaders, along with their families and others impacted by the loss of home games. The decision was made to postpone groundbreaking until after the final game of the season.
- The property at the intersection of Laboratory Rd. and Administration Rd. acquired by the City from DOE in 2016 is being developed as overflow parking for the Energy Solutions Soccer Field in a collaborative

effort with Oak Ridge Surgeons. In exchange for permission to use the parking lot for their new surgery center adjacent to the property, Oak Ridge Surgeons funded the construction of the lot. This will provide additional parking needed on game days and for tournaments. A sidewalk will also be constructed to the field from the parking lot to provide an accessible route to the field. A biennial report was submitted to the National Park Service earlier in the week, confirming that the parcel is being developed as proposed in the request for transfer.

Future Agenda Items:

- The August meeting will be held at the Scarboro Community Center after a public open house to review the development of recreational amenities in conjunction with preschool construction. Park Board members are encouraged to attend the open house prior to the Board meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:19 pm.



Alan Tatum