

Minutes of the Recreation and Parks Advisory Board Meeting

September 11, 2018 Regular Meeting

The September 11, 2018 Regular Meeting of the Recreation and Parks Advisory Board was convened at 7:06 pm in the Social Room of the Oak Ridge Civic Center with Alan Tatum, Chair, presiding.

Roll Call

Present: Ray Garrett, Melissa McMahan, Dan Robbins, Brad Spears and Alan Tatum

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

Approval of the August 9, 2018 Regular Meeting Minutes

Ray made a motion to approve the August 9, 2018 meeting minutes and Brad seconded the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously.

Appearance and Citizen Comments

City Council member Ellen Smith requested that the Board evaluate public/private partnership opportunities for the Recreation & Parks Department.

Unfinished Business

None

New Business

None

Board Work Plan

Bell Update:

- Alan reminded the Board that the ribbon cutting ceremony will be taking place September 20th and noted that the Bell has been hung and the carbon fiber beam installation has started, but there is still a lot of work to do.
- Alan requested that all Park Board members attend the 6:30 PM event.
- Staff provided an overview of the first day of carbon fiber beam installation by the Parks Division crew.

Rails to Trails:

- Still working on the access agreement with CSX. Once completed, AMT is ready to begin surveying and NEPA work immediately.

- Brad repeated his offer to assist with environmental work, including NEPA.

Trail Development:

- Ray reported that he has an easement agreement in principal with AmVets, awaiting approval of their Board. He has not had luck with one additional easement he has been pursuing.
- Brad reported on a planned CVTA work day at Haw Ridge to reroute Low Gap trail on Saturday, September 15th. He expects about 50 to 60 volunteers.
- Brad also reported that CVTA has been in discussions with the owners of several large private tracts about multi-use trail development and that the club now has about 78 members.
- Dan reported that he and Doug Colclasure met with the Tom Tuck of TN Bank, which owns the Pine Ridge parcel along Illinois Ave. They requested an easement across the ridge for a greenway trail connecting from Scarboro Rd to Illinois Ave, with the intent of getting an easement from UT to continue the trail through the Forest Resources Research Center to the lake. Mr. Tuck agreed to present a proposal to the banks Board of Directors to encourage developers purchasing the property to provide an easement.

Long Range Planning:

- No report.

Promotion and Marketing/Branding:

- No report.

Community Events:

- The Rec & Parks Department will be hosting a scrapbooking event, a fall camp for the first week of fall break, and the Halloween Party in October. The department will also assist with hosting the Tennessee Recreation & Parks Association (TRPA) annual conference, which will be held in Knoxville in October.
- Dan has an upcoming talk at the Library on Greenways Oak Ridge.

Natural Asset Strategy:

- Brad reported that Ken continues to work on the strategy.

R&P Recognition Program:

- Dan suggested that nominations be made to those who have made life-long contributions to the City's recreational resources. He also suggested nominations be opened up to the public. Other Board members expressed concerns that it would make the nominee pool unmanageable and pointed out that the Board members were appointed to represent the community.
- Brad expressed the need for the Board to create a unique and recognizable identity for the award, much like the Muddy Boot award.

Velodrome:

- Brad has determined that there is a need to establish a non-profit organization to make the velodrome happen. He knows someone with a cycling non-profit who may take over the project, as Brad is fully engaged now with CVTA.
- Brad provided an overview of the benefits of having a velodrome, including economic benefits. City Council member Ellen Smith then reported on a tour she took of the velodrome in Rock Hill, SC. She stated that, despite revenue generated by the facility, 80% of costs are taxpayer funded. Brad pointed out that Rock Hill is the premier facility on the East Coast and a velodrome can be operated much more simply at less expense. Most of the expense at Rock Hill is associated with staffing.

Updates and Observations (Non Action Items):

- None

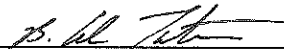
Director's Report:

- None

Future Agenda Items:

- Ray requested a resolution to remove a number of trees in AK Bissell Park to maintain an atmosphere similar to that of the Mall in Washington DC.
- Melissa requested that there be a discussion of the Boards role in the Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:59 pm.



Alan Tatum