

Minutes of the Recreation and Parks Advisory Board Meeting

October 11, 2018 Regular Meeting

The October 11, 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, Dan Robbins and Alan Tatum

Absent: Naomi Asher, Ken Rueter, Brad Spears

Approval of the September 11, 2018 Regular Meeting Minutes

Dan made a motion to approve the September 11, 2018 meeting minutes and Ray seconded the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously.

Appearance and Citizen Comments

- Doug Colclasure reported that he had attended the Wheat Community reunion last weekend and learned that a historical association plans to install a plaque in front of the church, adjacent to the Wheat Greenway.

Unfinished Business

- None

New Business

- Ray made a motion to approve a resolution to remove three trees in Bissell Park. Lacking a second, the motion was not adopted.
- The Board reviewed the agenda from last year's Tree Lighting Ceremony and discussed possibilities for this year's ceremony. Department staff have been trying to coordinate with volunteers from the recently disbanded Woman's Club, which had previously cosponsored the event. Jon Hetrick will coordinate a meeting between Department staff, David, Melissa and any other interested volunteers to finalize planning. This is expected to include an award ceremony for the volunteer recognition program initiated by the Board this year.

Board Work Plan

Bell Update:

- Alan reported that the ribbon cutting ceremony on September 20th was very successful, with about 400 people in attendance. There was a great last-minute push to achieve an acceptable degree of completion.
- Benches are set and conduit has been installed. Chips in the benches will be repaired and the benches caulked, cleaned and sealed. Once the bench work is complete the paths will be built and final grading completed.
- Alan is working with UT to replace two to four carbon fiber beams that have manufacturing defects.
- The next phase of the project will be landscaping.

Rails to Trails:

- AMT has been evaluating major street crossings and parking lot/trailhead options.
- The City has applied for an access agreement with CSX for surveying and geotechnical analysis; still waiting on a response.

Trail Development:

- Ray reported that the AmVet easement has been signed. He has been unable to acquire another easement, so he is now looking at easements through adjacent apartments to take the trail out to the sidewalk on Jefferson Ave.
- Ray also reported that Legacy Parks has assisted with an easement for a portion of the North Boundary Trail that will alleviate the need for a trail reroute.
- Brad was unable to attend, but provided a written update (attached).

Long Range Planning:

- No report.

Promotion and Marketing/Branding:

- No report.

Community Events:

- The Rec & Parks Department will be hosting the Halloween Party in October and the Tree Lighting Ceremony in November.
- Dan reported that the Public Works Stormwater Team will be sponsoring a cleanup of the Clinch River this Saturday, the 13th.
- Dan also reported that the League of Women Voters has scheduled candidate forums for the upcoming elections.

Natural Asset Strategy:

- No report.

R&P Recognition Program:

- Alan reported that he had received six nominations – five for individuals and one corporation. The Board discussed again what the right number of awards would be, again agreeing that three was a good number. The Board will vote on nominees and a name for the award at the next Board meeting.

Velodrome:

- Brad was unable to attend, but provided a written update on the project (attached).

Updates and Observations (Non Action Items):

- Dan reported that the thirteen bluebird houses produced ten bluebird fledglings and a number of other species.
- He has also treated 109 fire ant hills along Melton Lake Greenway this year.
- Greenways Oak Ridge received a Proclamation at the October 8th City Council meeting celebrating its 25th anniversary. Dan accepted on behalf of the organization.
- Dan recently had a discussion with Community Development Director Wayne Blasius to request that greenway easements be included in new development plans.

Director's Report:

- The Scarboro Community Center has acquired additional display cases for its history wall, essentially doubling the amount of display area. Much of the new displays will be devoted to notable athletes with ties to the Scarboro Community.
- Earlier today, City Council awarded construction contracts to Jenkins & Styles Construction for the Prekindergarten and Senior Center projects. Groundbreaking should begin soon after the contracts are signed by all parties.

Future Agenda Items:

- A vote on the nominees for the volunteer recognition award and a vote on the naming of the award.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:24 pm.

Alan Tatum

Oak Ridge Recreation and Parks Board

October 11, 2018 - 7:00pm

TRAILS AND VELODROME STATUS REPORT – Brad Spears

Trail Development

- Clinch Valley Trail Alliance completed a successful work day in Haw Ridge last month. Over 30 volunteers showed up to build a safer and more ride able route up the old low gap trail. Community feedback on the new trail has been outstanding.
- Myself (CVTA President) and Jeff Bale (Vice President) will attend the annual IMBA SORBA Conference in Florida on Nov. 8th – 12th. I will have the opportunity to present and share a little about Oak Ridge and our outdoor rec opportunities to the entire conference. May also miss the next meeting because of it.
- Next Haw Ridge Work Day – November 3rd (tentatively)
- Would like to present a conceptual design for a skills course on some available land in the Haw Ridge park area. The concept is that a small area could be built that would allow for 1) new riders a place to get comfortable riding features that may be found in the park, and 2) offer a venue for mountain bike instruction to kids and new riders.

Oak Ridge Velodrome Project

- The project team has been established and will host its first meeting October 22. The team includes Bernie Clicke out of Murfreesboro who has successfully built and managed similar projects along side Dale Hughes (google him) who is arguably one of the best Velodrome builders in the world. Both Dale and Bernie are informed about our project and have offered their support.
- A general concept has been established that Dale Hughes has been successful in executing in Ohio and Michigan. The concept is as follows:
 - 100% funding from donations and sponsors for the materials, labor and construction of the wooden velodrome. \$300- \$400K would be needed, state wide interest, fundraising will not be an issue.
 - Project would hinge on attaining city land for free. Tracks can be easily removed, so the land could simply be “borrowed” from the city. 5 acres are needed.
 - 220 Meter track would allow for national level events.
 - Track would be ran and operated by a non-profit org.
- The Cleveland Velodrome will be our model. It was \$300K and fully fudned by donations and sponsorships with the city contributing the land. As you will see on their website, they are having a tremendous impact on the region, including providing programs for kids and junior development. <http://clevelandvelodrome.org/>