

# Minutes of the Recreation and Parks Advisory Board Meeting

## **April 11, 2019 Regular Meeting**

The April 11, 2019 meeting of the Recreation and Parks Advisory Board was convened at 7:02 pm in the Craft Room of the Oak Ridge Civic Center with Brad Spears, Chair, presiding.

### **Roll Call**

Present: Ray Garrett, David Kitzmiller, Melissa McMahan, Dan Robbins, Brad Spears,

Absent: Naomi Asher, Mark Cantrell, Ken Rueter, Jerry Williams

### **Approval of the March 14, 2019 Regular Meeting Minutes**

Motion to approve: Ray; second: David. The March 14, 2019 meeting minutes were approved unanimously.

### **Appearance and Citizen Comments**

- John Jaruzel introduced himself as the new observer from the League of Women Voters. He replaces Mary Lou Daughtery.

### **Unfinished Business**

- Brad updated the Board on last month's proposal to support a multi-use trail system in the greenbelt east of California Ave. A survey was distributed to area residents. About 100 were returned, 2 were unfavorable. Colin is reaching out to those residents to discuss their concerns with the proposal. Colin also presented information to the City Council about the proposal at the April 8<sup>th</sup> Council meeting. Ken has submitted suggested revisions to the letter of support; a vote on the letter was postponed to allow incorporation of those comments.

### **New Business**

- None.

### **Board Work Plan**

#### **Rails to Trails:**

- Staff reported that NEPA work is nearing completion, including surveying and geotechnical testing.

#### **Trail Development:**

- Brad reported that CVTA has signed an agreement with CROET and they are working on an agreement with Anderson County (more information coming). CVTA also continues to work on the Haw Ridge Skills Area, having raised about \$7K so far.
- East Fork Poplar Creek Trail has been renamed East Fork Riparian Trail. Ray continues to work on easement agreements to improve the trail corridor. There will be a trail build day Saturday; about 30 volunteers are expected. Bridges will still need to be built; Ray is working on fundraising for materials.
- Brad shared information about the WDVX Conservation Corner broadcast from AMSE on the 12<sup>th</sup>, featuring Brad & Ken interviewing Carol Evans of Legacy Parks Foundation.

**Blueprint Integration into Long Range CIP Planning:**

- The Board discussed re-prioritization of the CIP based on input from the Blueprint.

**Community Events:**

- David provided an update on the Secret City Festival. Headliners 38 Special and Loverboy have been announced. There will be new entertainment offerings on the pavilion stage. He noted the need for volunteers for the event, to be held June 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup>.
- Dan reported that the League of Women Voters will meet at the Civic Center on April 22<sup>nd</sup>.
- Staff reported that the City Egg Hunt was coming up this Saturday, April 13<sup>th</sup> and Graduation Celebration on May 30<sup>th</sup>.

**Recreation & Parks Integrated Natural Asset Development:**

- There will be a media event to kick off the Natural Asset Study on April 17<sup>th</sup> at Melton Lake Park.

**Communication Integration with Explore Oak Ridge:**

- Naomi emailed an update to the Board on April 5<sup>th</sup>.

**Exploratory Objectives:**

- Rec & Park Staffing - Staff reported that they had received approval to fund a second Crew Chief position. Two strong candidates had been interviewed to fill the open position and both will be hired. It is hoped that the Board can help to build a case to fund additional technicians in the FY2021 fiscal year.
- After School Programs & Events for Pre-teens & Youth – Melissa continues to investigate options.
- Integrated Youth Sports Strategy – No report.

**Updates and Observations (Non Action Items):**

- Dan reported that he has treated 11 fire ant mounds so far this year and bluebirds are nesting and laying eggs in the bluebird houses along the greenways. Four volunteers from Breakfast Rotary turned out for the river cleanup. The Board discussed the need for volunteer recruitment for cleanup activities. Brad talked about the Haw Ridge Trash Race he organized in the past. Over 2,800 pounds of trash were removed from the park over three years.

**Director's Report:**

- Blankenship Field turf installation is complete; moving on to the next stages of the project.
- The Senior Center and PreK/Scarboro Park projects continue to move forward, aided by improving weather.

**Future Agenda Items:**

- A vote on the letter of support for a trail system in the Greenbelt east of California Avenue.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:47 pm.

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Brad Spears  
Chairperson

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