

Minutes of the Recreation and Parks Advisory Board Meeting

July 11, 2019 Regular Meeting

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

Roll Call

Present: Naomi Asher, Mark Cantrell, Ray Garrett, David Kitzmiller, Dan Robbins, Brad Spears

Absent: Melissa McMahan, Ken Rueter

Approval of the June 27, 2019 Regular Meeting Minutes

Motion to approve: Ray; second: Mark. The June 27, 2019 meeting minutes were approved unanimously.

Appearance and Citizen Comments

- John Jaruzel reported that he volunteered at the US Cycling Time Trials National Championship on June 27th. He heard many great comments about Oak Ridge at the event.
- Doug Colclasure commented on the back patio at the new Senior Center, noting that it is a very nice setting, looking out on Bissell Park.

Unfinished Business

- The Board reviewed a revised letter of support for the construction of multi-use trails in the greenbelt east of California Avenue. David made a motion to approve the letter as revised; Ray provided a second. The letter was approved unanimously. Organizers plan to hold a public forum on the proposal in August.

New Business

- David made a motion to remove "Integrated Youth Sports Authority" from the agenda in light of the resignation of Jerry Williams, who originally proposed it. Ray provided a second and the motion passed unanimously.

Board Work Plan

Rails to Trails:

- Staff reported that the NEPA work documents submitted to TDOT and are still awaiting approval, pending an additional corridor study requested by the State Historical Commission. Staff have received approval for revised allocations of project funding, to better align estimates with actual costs.

Trail Development:

- Brad reported that work continues on the Haw Ridge Skills Area. Funding has been secured for the construction of a pump track, to be built by a professional crew at a reduced cost to assist the park development.

- Members of the CVTA met with the Hollingsworth Foundation to review plans for the park being built by the foundation in Clinton. The park will include many trails along with other major park features.
- Ray reported that construction of the East Fork Riparian Trail is complete. Trail signs, to be funded by CVTA, have been put out to bid. Organizers are planning a grand opening soon. Ray did request some gravel to be used to harden some sections of trail. Staff will look into making that available.
- Brad reported that CVTA has received DOE approval to build a third trail on the ED-6 parcel. They are also planning a work day in two weeks to replace bridges in Haw Ridge.

Blueprint Integration into Long Range CIP Planning:

- The board requested that the current CIP list be distributed for their review.

Community Events:

- The second Summer Series concert, produced by WDVX and sponsored by ORNL FCU, will be held this coming Saturday.
- The Hill of Truth mountain Bike race has been scheduled for October 5th.
- Dan reported that gravel has washed away where it was placed along the edges of the Melton Lake Greenway parking lot, near the Edgemoor Rd. bridge. He asked if additional paving is an option. Staff will look into it.
- Naomi reported that Leadership Anderson County will hold a Tourism Day August 20th. The group will take a tour, including sites such as the Peace Bell Pavilion, Melton Lake Park, Windrock Off-Road Park and Norris Dam.
- Dan is enlisting speakers for the ORICLE fall semester, beginning in September.
- Brad Spears and Rebecca Crow will travel to Nashville next Tuesday to deliver a presentation to the TVA Economic Development Council on the livability of Oak Ridge.
- David requested a meeting with staff to begin planning the Tree Lighting Ceremony.

Recreation & Parks Integrated Natural Asset Development:

- Brad reported that the study is in the interview stage and still on track for completion this year.

Communication Integration with Explore Oak Ridge:

- A review of the Explore Oak Ridge social media shows an average of 15 posts per month specific to Recreation & Parks. Views range from 300 to 1,000.
- Explore Oak Ridge will be adding specific links to the department web page. They would also like to add links to downloadable trail maps. Brad noted that current maps are outdated; Crafters Brew has offered to sponsor updated maps.
- The Board then discussed the challenges of gathering accurate trail usage data for promotional purposes.

Exploratory Objectives:

- After School Programs & Events for Pre-teens & Youth – No report.

Updates and Observations (Non Action Items):

- Dan reported that he has treated 2 fire ant mounds this week, bringing the annual total to 92.

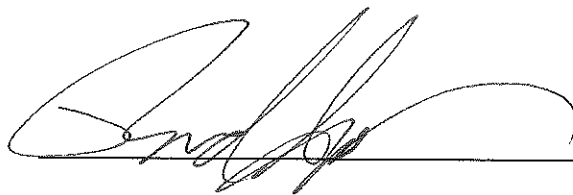
Director's Report:

- Jon provided project updates on the Senior Center and Pre-Kindergarten/Scarboro Park Improvements.

Future Agenda Items:

- Brad requested a discussion on succession planning, noting that the Board currently has one vacancy and four positions rolling over in December.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:44 pm.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Brad Spears', is written over a horizontal line.

Brad Spears
Chairperson