

Minutes of the Recreation and Parks Advisory Board Meeting

November 11, 2019 Regular Meeting

The November 11, 2019 meeting of the Recreation and Parks Advisory Board was convened at 7:00 pm in the Social Room of the Oak Ridge Civic Center with Brad Spears, Chair, presiding.

Roll Call

Present: Mark Cantrell, Ray Garrett, David Kitzmiller, Melissa McMahan, Dan Robbins, Ken Rueter, Brad Spears

Absent: Naomi Asher

Approval of the September 12, 2019 Regular Meeting Minutes

Motion to approve: Ray; second: Dan. The September 12, 2019 meeting minutes were approved unanimously.

Appearance and Citizen Comments

- Attending: John Jaruzel, Ellen Smith, Jenna Watson

Updates and Observations (Non Action Items):

- Horizon Center Power Overview (Mark Watson, City Manager & Ardo Ba, Electric Department Operations). Mr. Watson and Mr. Ba presented a proposal to provide additional power to the parcels on the back side of the Horizon Center utilizing a power line along a portion of the North Boundary Greenway. Development at the business park is limited by insufficient power availability. This proposal is considered the most cost-effective way of delivering the power needs of potential tenants.
- Dan requested that a statement from Greenways Oak Ridge be included in the meeting minutes:

"Greenways Oak Ridge is very supportive of maximizing the use of Horizon Center, including providing the necessary electrical power to provide for manufacturing facilities.

The Oak Ridge Blueprint identified green space and greenways as one of the Cities most positive assets. The City has spent millions of dollars acquiring and maintaining our greenways. The proposal to degrade one of our most beautiful greenways because it is somewhat cheaper to run a 69 kv power line down this greenway rather than bringing the necessary power in from the turnpike side makes no sense, especially when the cost benefit analysis values this greenway at zero value.

Greenways Oak Ridge strongly recommends that nothing be done to degrade this valuable City asset."

- Dan reported that he has treated 190 fire ant mounds so far this year.

Unfinished Business

- Elections - Recreation & Parks Achievement Awards
 - Nominees: Danny Palmer, Steve Dittner, Alan Tatum, Dan Robbins, Ray Garrett and Carol Evans
 - After discussion, the Board agreed to only consider former Board members, not current members. Dan Robbins and Ray Garrett were removed from consideration as a result.
 - Alan Tatum and Carol Evans were elected in the first round of voting, Danny Palmer was elected in a tie-breaking second round vote.
 - Awards will be presented at the Holiday Tree Lighting Ceremony on Friday, December 6th.

New Business

- None

Board Work Plan

Rails to Trails:

- The Knoxville Regional Transportation Planning Organization (TPO) passed an updated Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) in October that includes construction funding for the project. Pending City Council acceptance of the grant funds and approval of the required matching funds, construction could begin immediately following the design and right-of-way acquisition phase of the project.

Trail Development:

- Brad reported that approval of a third trail on the DOE ED6 Parcel, west of Wisconsin Avenue, is expected soon. Construction of the Sinking Creek trail will take place once approval is received, possibly in December.
- Brad also reported that good progress is being made on the pump track at the Haw Ridge skills park. The Clinch Valley Trail Alliance will coordinate with City staff on a grand opening ceremony for the skills area soon.
- East Fork Riparian Trail – Ray reported that 22 people attended a recent ribbon cutting ceremony for the trail. Dan has agreed to fund an additional bridge to enhance the trail.

Blueprint Integration into Long Range CIP Planning:

- No report.

Community Events:

- Ken reported that the 12 Hours of the Hill of Truth mountain bike race at Haw Ridge was a great success. The Clinch Valley Trail Alliance (CVTA) put on the event for the first time this year. The club did a great job planning and managing the event.
- Dan reported that Ellen Smith and Pat Postma would be giving ORICLE presentations at upcoming meetings of the group.

Recreation & Parks Integrated Natural Asset Development:

- Ken reported that the Natural Asset study is coming to a conclusion; Legacy Parks hopes to have the report completed in January.

- One of the proposals in the report will be a blueway on Poplar Creek, which is now being planned by Roane County as part of the Tennessee Riverline 652 initiative.

Communication Integration with Explore Oak Ridge:

- No report.

Exploratory Objectives:

- Melissa will coordinate with Rec & Parks staff on planning.

Director's Report:

- Board elections will be delayed as new software is implemented to manage the application & election process. Applications are expected to be available some time in December. Board members will be elected at the February 2020 City Council meeting. As a result, current Board members whose terms are expiring will continue to serve through January, 2020.

Future Agenda Items:

- Ken requested further discussion of the Horizon Center & Black Oak Ridge Conservation Easement (BORCE) management as they relate to the North Boundary Greenway.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 PM.

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

Brad Spears
Chairman