

Minutes of the Recreation and Parks Advisory Board Meeting

February 20, 2020 Regular Meeting

The February 20, 2020 meeting of the Recreation and Parks Advisory Board was convened at 7:00 pm in the Social Room of the Oak Ridge Civic Center.

Roll Call

Present: Jake Greear, Melissa McMahan, Chris Melhorn, Dan Robbins, Ken Rueter, Brad Spears, Michele Thornton

Absent: Mark Cantrell, David Kitzmiller

Approval of the January 9, 2020 Regular Meeting Minutes

Motion to approve: Ken; second: Melissa. The January 9, 2020 meeting minutes were approved unanimously.

Appearance and Citizen Comments

- Attending: John Jaruzel, Doug Colclasure, Ben Pounds, Virginia Dale. Doug commented on the need for improved parking at the North Boundary Greenway access points.

Updates and Observations (Non Action Items):

- Natural Asset Guidebook – Legacy Parks Foundation Executive Director Carol Evans provided an overview of the recently-completed Natural Asset Guidebook for the City of Oak Ridge.

New Business

- Vote on a recommendation to City Council to endorse the Natural Asset Guidebook.
 - Board members discussed postponing the vote until March to allow new members more time to review the plan. Ken Rueter made a motion to approve the recommendation, seconded by Dan Robbins. After further discussion of allowing more time for review, Michele Thornton made a motion to amend the wording to have the Board accept (rather than recommend endorsement of) the guidebook and thank Carol Evans. Lacking a second, the motion failed.
 - The Board then voted on the motion, which passed 5 – 1. In favor were Jake Greear, Melissa McMahan, Chris Melhorn, Dan Robbins and Ken Rueter. Voting against was Michele Thornton.

Unfinished Business

- Continued discussion on the Horizon Center and Black Oak Ridge Conservation Easement (BORCE) management as they relate to the North Boundary Greenway.
 - Brad provided an overview of the proposal to provide additional electrical power to the Horizon Center Business Park, using a portion of the North Boundary Greenway for a power line into the business park.
 - Ken provided additional background information, including concerns about the potential loss of a portion of the greenway if Horizon Center parcel's 6 & 7 were sold. The greenway crosses the parcels, so that section could be lost if the property is transferred.
 - Ken then introduced a draft position letter for the Board's review. The letter supports the proposed power line and advocates for a re-routing of the greenway that would move it away from the power line and remove it from the Horizon Center Development parcels, mitigating the greenway impacts of both issues. This would place the greenway on the BORCE, in conflict with current management plans.
 - After much discussion both for and against the proposed letter, Brad suggested the item be considered for inclusion in the Board work plan. The board generally agreed it was worthy of consideration.

Director's Report:

- The Utility Business Office has moved back to their newly-renovated offices from their temporary location in the Recreation Center. Staff are working on plans to return portions of the space to Department offices and the rest to public use, as in the past.

Future Agenda Items:

- Board elections – Chair & Vice Chair
- Board Work Plan Approval

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 PM.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be "B. S. S.", written over a horizontal line. To the right of the signature, the date "8/20/20" is written in the same ink.

Chairperson