

## **Approved**

### Minutes of the Recreation and Parks Advisory Board Meeting

December 8, 2011 Regular Meeting

The December 8, 2011 Regular Meeting of the Recreation and Parks Advisory Board was convened at 7:03pm in the Social Room of the Recreation Center with Gerry Palau, Board Chair presiding.

#### Roll Call

Members present included: Sherith Colverson, Bob Cushman, Bridgette Ellis, Allen Eubanks, Gerry Palau, Laurel Patrick, Lou Rabinowitz, Dan Robbins and Cathy Toth.

#### Approval of the November 10, 2011 Meeting Minutes

A motion to approve the November 10th minutes was made by Laurel Patrick and seconded by Cathy Toth. Motion was approved by 9-0 vote.

#### Appearance and Citizen Comments

Doug Colclasure appeared before the Board to discuss the proposed 69kv line for the Horizon Center and its impact on North Boundary Greenway users. Since several citizens wished to comment on the issue, Dan Robbins requested the item be moved forward in the agenda from New Business. The Board agreed to the request. Mr. Colclasure outlined his concerns regarding the proposed 69kv line construction and the ¾ mile 50 foot cleared easement that would result. He reviewed several conversations that he had with DOE. His primary concern focused on lost recreational value to North Boundary Greenway users if a power line was constructed along the existing gravel roadway. DOE restrictions on the Black Oak Ridge Conservation Easement (BORCE) and the conservation easements within the Horizon Center were discussed. Mr. Colclasure also expressed concern for an "environmentally sensitive" area that would be impacted by the proposed construction.

Josh Collins gave a brief overview of some of the constraints under which the City/Electric Department were operating when attempting to provide utility service to the area. When Horizon Center was being proposed, the design did not take into account a utility service plan to provide expanded electrical capacity as demand grew. Since no utility easements were planned across the conservation areas, providing additional power for heavy electrical users was going to be costly and could impact some of the environmentally sensitive areas. There was a brief discussion regarding other routes or options considered by the City. Mr. Collins mentioned an alternate route that followed the roadway. It was a longer and believed to be a more costly route. Increased electrical capacity in Horizon Center was a requirement for several industrial prospects that were interested in relocating to Oak Ridge. If a service line could be extended to parcel # 5, the IDB would be able to offer a more attractive parcel for development. If Oak Ridge was successful in its marketing effort, the new businesses would bring jobs and revenue to the City.

Don Hurtubise mentioned the Board's charter and its role in the areas of recreation and conservation. He encouraged the Board to take a position.

Councilmember Ellen Smith mentioned that City Council had not taken a formal position on the proposed construction.

Lou Rabinowitz recused himself from the discussion due to his position on the CROET Board.

After a great deal of discussion, Bob Cushman made the following motion and Laurel Patrick provided a second. The motion was approved by an 8-0-1 vote. Mr. Rabinowitz abstained.

*"In reviewing the environmental study for the proposed action, the Recreation and Parks Advisory Board noted that the limited number of alternatives considered in the analysis of this proposal did not directly address the recreational impacts of the action on the greenway system. The board would be supportive of more rigorous evaluation of the recreational impacts of various options—both in this proposed action, and in other future studies where an action could affect the recreational value of natural assets within the City."*

### Committee Reports

#### Bike/Ped Committee- Sherith Colverson

Sherith Colverson briefly discussed the committee's work plan and a proposed schedule of target dates to complete various actions.

Cathy Toth asked if the bike lane extended passed the guard shack into the phase II of the Turnpike Widening Project. A general comment was made regarding an expanded paved shoulder rather than a designated bike lane. Staff would check with Steve Byrd, City Engineer, regarding the inclusion of a bike lane in phase II.

Laurel Patrick asked about having bike racks installed in the park areas before August. Josh Collins read an e-mail from Kelly Segars, Planner with the Knoxville Regional Transportation Planning Organization, regarding the status of the 40 bike racks ordered by the City. The City will be invoiced \$931 to cover shipping and production costs. Delivery is expected in 4-6 weeks. The City is preparing to bid the concrete pads with installation scheduled for early spring.

#### Dog Park – Bridgette Ellis

Bridgette Ellis briefly reviewed the history of the Dog Park discussion and where the issue currently stood. She outlined the Proposed Vision and Scope for the Dog Park Committee focusing on the planning process, community involvement and budget/approval. The committee will be tasked with data collection to evaluate the efforts of other successful dog parks. The committee plans to conduct user needs survey and hold public meetings to supply the following information:

1. Level of community support
2. Approach to park management and monitoring
3. Frequency of expected park usage
4. Important dog park amenities or features
5. Citizen concerns

Dan Robbins made a motion to approve the formation of a Dog Park Working Group with the proposed Vision and Scope as presented. Lou Rabinowitz provided the second. The motion was approved by a 9-0 vote.

#### Playful City USA – Allen Eubanks

Allen has met with City staff member, Matt Reedy, to discuss the Playful City USA program and to formulate a plan of action. The City is preparing to update its facility inventory that would include park amenities, features, location maps, and parking. Allan has begun work on a vision and scope for the proposed Playful City USA Committee.

Councilmembers Ellen Smith and David Mosby expressed support for the Playful City USA initiative.

#### Committee Input on 2012 Work Plan/ Deliverables/Dates

Committee Chairs were tasked with developing a work plan for their respective committees. The Board was encouraged to take into account the City Council/ City Manager Goal and Objectives when proposing their 2012 Work Plan. The Board's Work Plan will be discussed in more detail at the February Board Retreat.

Councilwomen Smith asked whether the Board intended that the work plan be submitted and approved by City Council. Chairman Palau advised that the Board's initial intention in preparing the work plan was as an 'internal' document to ensure the Board had a discrete set of objectives, deliverables and target dates. The Board objective is to stay focused on reaching meaningful conclusion points on various topics under consideration in a timely manner. Palau noted that if it pleased the Council, the Board would be happy to submit the work plan for Council's review. It was also noted that the work plan would not prevent the Board from taking up new items throughout the course of the year as were deemed appropriate.

#### Unfinished Business

##### Recommendations on Pavilion Design

Chairman Palau reviewed the presentation at the City Council Work Session on November 28 and discussed comments/questions from Council members. Two pavilion designs were presented that could seat up to 240 visitors. It was noted that approximately 100 people responded to the electronic citizen survey regarding the pavilion development, providing constructive feedback on design style and preferred amenities. Of those survey participants expressing a preference, the hexagonal design was preferred by more than a 2:1 ratio.

Allen Eubanks expressed concern over the overall size and height of the hex shaped option that could measure 60'-65' in diameter and exceed 30' in height. Allen was worried about blocking the view of the lake from residential properties along Melton Lake Drive. Gerry suggested a diameter closer to 55' with a square footage around 2,400. Allen preferred the rectangle design over the hex.

Sherith Colverson spoke in support of a “signature facility” and indicated a preference for a multi-sided design over the rectangle. She also noted that the memo to Council should emphasize the Board’s expectation that the pavilion would help define the overall architectural theme of future waterfront redevelopment.

A visitor questioned removal of the existing pavilion and could it be reused? The existing pavilion would be removed to make room for the new pavilion. Staff plans to refurbish this smaller structure and reinstall it elsewhere in the park.

Council member Ellen Smith questioned the list of amenities included in the survey and how would the Board use the public input on the amenities. Gerry responded by saying the Board plans to include the stone wraps around the supports, two low walls with electrical outlets and an expanded apron additional bid items. If the pricing on the pavilion is under budget, some or all could be included in the construction. The pavilion bid will not include picnic tables.

Council member David Mosby questioned the Board about its considerations regarding whether the City should delay a decision in order to generate additional funds for a “truly signature facility. What could you do with another \$50,000? Would you do something different?” Chairman Palau commented that the pavilion was just the first project of several possible waterfront projects that would potentially need capital funding in coming years, including other facilities such as the playground, restrooms, splash pad and expanded parking. It was noted that Board felt that the current pavilion options would provide a high-quality facility without severely jeopardizing the City’s ability to consider funding the several other potential waterfront projects in the future. Laurel Patrick and Cathy Toth spoke in support of moving forward with the current plan.

Don Hurtubise questioned placing the restrooms in an old restaurant. Chairman Palau spoke in support of a professionally prepared Master Plan for the park that takes into account the utility lines and future park development.

Cathy Toth made a motion to recommend a 6-8 sided pavilion design seating up to 240 visitors located approximately where the existing pavilion stands. Dan Robbins provided the second. The motion was approved by an 8-1 vote.

#### Discussion on Waterfront Master Planning Process

Chairman Palau reviewed key elements of a Waterfront master Plan that included general site layout with utilities, playground, splash pad, restrooms, expanded parking, bridge across the embayment, lighting, landscaping and cost estimates for park features/amenities/dock removal. Gerry expressed a need for a professionally prepared plan. The Board’s ability to provide sound advice to Council and staff will be handicapped without professional consultation related to utility planning and costs, safe and code-compliant traffic and parking management, and technical/architectural details related to rehabilitation of the existing City-owned structures.

Lou Rabinowitz mentioned a change in his work schedule that may force him to miss at least three meetings after the first of the year. Several Board members discussed the possibility of changing the meeting dates for a portion of the year and going back to the current schedule later in the year. Since the Board had approved the 2012 meeting schedule at an earlier meeting, no action was taken on amending the approved schedule.

A concerned Anderson County resident addressed the Board regarding homosexual behavior on the North Ridge Trail. The matter was referred to staff for review.

#### New Business

Discussion on the 69kv Line at Horizon Center

Item was addressed under Appearance and Citizen Comments

#### Director's Report

Bike Rack Update

Item was addressed under Bike/Ped Committee Report

The meeting was adjourned at 9:16pm.

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