Minutes of the Recreation and Parks Advisory Board Meeting

October 13, 2011 Regular Meeting

The October 13, 2011 Regular Meeting of the Recreation and Parks Advisory Board was convened at 7:05pm in the Social Room of the Recreation Center with Gerry Palau, Board Chair presiding.

Roll Call

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

Approval of the September 8, 2011 Meeting Minutes

A motion to approve the September 13th minutes was made by Bob Cushman and seconded by Laurel Patrick. Motion was approved by 6-0 vote.

Appearance and Citizen Comments

Tom Burns appeared before the Board to introduce himself and thank the members for their service. He also encouraged the Board to continue involving the public in their decision making.

Mark Watson, City Manager, discussed the City Council assigned Goals for the Board and the City Manager’s Goals and Objectives for 2011-2012. The Manager acknowledged that it was the preference of City Council and the Manager that the Board’s near term focus is in four primary areas: Waterfront, Bike & Pedestrian Plan, Dog Park consideration, and Playful City. He noted that more strategic considerations related to looking at the recreation and parks system holistically were longer-term considerations. He also presented a Concept Plan for an Interpretative History Center as part of the Library Expansion Project.

Committee Reports

Sherith Colverson reported on the activities of the Bike/Ped Working Committee. She discussed Committee progress on the Bike Rack Project and support for the Secret City Fall Community Bike Ride scheduled for November 5th. Josh Collins mentioned that the list of locations and the accompanying photos had been forwarded to Kelly Segars with the Knoxville Regional Transportation Organization for review. The bike rack request included 25 sites and 50 racks.

Unfinished Business

Pavilion Options/ Design/Waterfront Planning

The Board reviewed three Pavilion concepts developed by Alan Eubanks that included stacked stone wraps at the base of the supports and a low stone wall at the end of the structure. The wall could have electrical receptacles added to the design. Sherith Colverson made a motion to place the three pavilion
options prepared by Alan Eubanks on the City’s web page and solicit comments/input from the public. The motion was seconded by Lou Rabinowitz and approved by a 6-0 vote.

Public Input Process on the Pavilion

The public input process centered on the use of the City’s web and what material should be posted for public review/comment. A short survey with 8-10 questions was proposed and discussed. The Board will finalize the information for the web page and submit for City staff review. In addition to the web page, postings on Facebook and twitter were also suggested. Sherith Colverson made a motion to approve the web page postings, survey information and use of the new e-mail address (recandparksboard@cortn.org) for public input/comments. Alan Eubanks seconded the motion and the Board approved the process by a 6-0 vote.

Meet the Board

The Board continued its discussions regarding the proposed “Meet the Board” event scheduled for November 3 from 6-8pm in the Social Room of the Recreation Center. The event had been originally proposed at the September 22 Board Work session. Bridgette Ellis had drafted a format/agenda for the event. Pavilion Options, Bike Rack locations and the Waterfront Concept Plan could be displayed. Lou Rabinowitz made a motion to approve the “Meet the Board” event on November 3. Bob Cushman seconded the motion. The Board approved the motion on a 6-0 vote.

New Business

2012 Work Plan

The Board deferred action on the 2012 Work Plan until the November 10th Board Meeting. Copies of the City Council Advisory Board Goals and the City Manager’s Goals and Objectives for 2011-2012 have been reviewed and discussed by the Board. Chairman Palau will develop a draft of the 2012 Work Plan for Board review.

The Board also discussed the possibility of having a ½-day planning retreat. It was informally agreed that January would be a reasonable time frame, with details to be worked out over the next two Board meetings.

Director’s Report

Josh Collins, Recreation and Parks Director, briefed the Board on the Senior Center Needs Assessment.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:55pm.