

APPROVED

Minutes of the Recreation and Parks Advisory Board Meeting

December 13, 2012 Regular Meeting

The December 13, 2012 Regular Meeting of the Recreation and Parks Advisory Board was convened at 7:00pm in the Social Room of the Recreation Center with Gerry Palau, Board Chair presiding.

Roll Call

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

Approval of the November 8, 2012 Meeting Minutes

Sherith Colverson requested an amendment to the minutes that deleted a sentence under the Bike/Ped Committee report. A motion to approve the amended minutes for November 8, 2012 was made by Bob Cushman and seconded by Bridgette Ellis. The minutes were approved by a 6-0 vote.

Appearance and Citizen Comments

Doug Colclasure appeared before the Board to discuss a proposed extension to the 69kv power line in Horizon Center. Doug mentioned the extension could be as much as a mile long and reviewed a conversation that he had with City Council member Charlie Hensley. He referenced an e-mail by Councilman Hensley sent to Mark Watson, City Manager regarding the proposed extension. The e-mail suggested placing the power line underground. Josh Collins, Recreation and Parks Director, discussed the Board's action 12 months ago regarding the initial .74 mile easement request and the extension measuring 1,960 additional feet. At that time, the Board requested City Staff review of other service option that may have less adverse impact on recreational trail users. Mr. Collins urged the Board to gather the facts regarding the service line before making a recommendation on the extension request. Dan Robbins requested that the 69kv line discussion be added to the January agenda and that Jack Suggs, City Electrical Director be invited to the meeting to brief the Board.

Committee Reports

Bike/Ped Committee- Sherith Colverson

Chairman Palau briefly discussed the Goals Report requested by the City Manager and the status of the letter that conveys the Board's recommendation on Bike/Ped Committee activities. Although Gerry still plans to submit the recommendation to the City Manager, he would like to meet with the Planning Commission to discuss the Bike/Ped concepts and explain the basis for the recommendations. He also plans to meet with EQAB to discuss the Board's ideas. Gerry would prefer sharing ideas/concepts, and getting feedback from other Boards and Commissions, as a means of building consensus opinions amongst all the boards that provide advice to City Council (rather than risking having other boards undermine Park Board positions because they haven't had an opportunity to understand and appreciate the Parks Board perspectives on matters.

Dog Park Committee- Bridgette Ellis

No Report.

Work Plan Deliverables

Chairman Palau hopes to schedule a Saturday morning planning session in February to discuss the work plan and Board Goals for 2013. He encouraged Board members to begin thinking about priorities for 2013.

Unfinished Business

No unfinished Business.

New Business

Dan Robbins discussed the recent newspaper articles regarding the City's Sign Ordinance, the sign at Total Car Care and the sign along Melton Lake Drive. He expressed his concern over the adverse impact the sign along Melton Lake Drive might have on greenway trail users. He encouraged the Board to take a formal position on signage along the waterfront and greenway trails. Josh Collins discussed the ongoing discussion regarding signage in Oak Ridge and the sign ordinance changes that are being considered by the Planning Commission. The Community Development staff is working to clarify portions of the sign ordinance and fine tune several of the sections dealing with reader board signs.

There was also a discussion of exploring the possibility of creating the equivalent of 'parks and greenway overlay districts'(not unlike historic overlay districts, or the medical center signage district. The idea would be to consider a set of guidelines or ordinances that would improve the recreational value of park areas by managing things like signage around them. It was proposed that this be discussed as a possible work plan/standing committee idea for 2013.

Chairman Palau also offered to explore the idea of signage issues along the Waterfront when he meets with the Planning Commission.

Director's Report

Pavilion Update

- Work continues on the Melton Lake Park Pavilion
- Stone wall w/electrical has been installed
- Apron around the pad is complete
- Seed/Straw adjacent to pavilion is complete
- Work on sidewalks by City Staff will begin once facility is complete
- No picnic tables yet
- Contractor should be finished by end of December

Playful City events for fiscal year 2013 include:

- City Egg Hunt
- Annual Play Day at the Secret City Festival
- Tennis Play Day
- City Halloween Party
- Turkey Bowl Disc Golf
- National Night Out
- Earth Day
- Deadline to apply for 2013 designation: March 15, 2013 (February 1st is the early-bird deadline)
- Will apply for a \$750 maintenance/spruce grant through KaBOOM/Playful City

Updated Greenway Map

- Staff is finalizing updates to foldout Greenways map
- Phase IV of Melton Lake has been added
- Corrected a few notes on parking, routes and names
- Staff plans to put individual greenway maps on web page
- Web page maps will have smart phone mapping opportunities
- Partner w/CVB

RFP Recreation Equipment Rentals

- Prepared draft for a RFP for Equipment Rental at Melton Lake Park
- Use existing marina dock
- General approval for the concept from TVA

The meeting was adjourned at 8:09 pm.
