

APPROVED

Minutes of the Recreation and Parks Advisory Board Meeting

September 13, 2012 Regular Meeting

The September 13, 2012 Regular Meeting of the Recreation and Parks Advisory Board was convened at 7:02pm in the Social Room of the Recreation Center with Gerry Palau, Board Chair presiding.

Roll Call

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

Approval of the August 9, 2012 Meeting Minutes

A motion to approve the August 9, 2012 minutes was made by Dan Robbins and seconded by Cathy Toth. The minutes were approved by a 5-0 vote.

Appearance and Citizen Comments

Since several citizens were attending the meeting to comment on the North Boundary Greenway surface, Chairman Palau moved the item from Unfinished Business to receive citizen input. Kerry Trummell expressed concern over the new surface material recently added to the trail by a DOE contractor. The texture and depth of the material makes it difficult for runners and bikers. In recent days, Mr. Trummell has noticed some improvement to the trail in areas where the material has been rolled.

Dan Robbins asked Doug Culclasure to show the Board a collection of large rocks that he had taken off the trail. Doug related a conversation that he had with a representative from Rogers Group regarding the type of material normally sold for trail resurfacing. The Rogers employee told Doug that screenings and manufactured sand are generally used on this type trail. Several time during his comments, Doug referred to the DOE Remediation Report and the provisions for greenways in the document. As a result of the rock issue, greenway usage appears to be down. The trail serves as a greenway as well as a patrol road and wild land fire road. City staff will work with DOE to coordinate future road maintenance efforts.

Committee Reports

Bike/Ped Committee- Bob Cushman

In Sherith Colverson's absence, Bob Cushman presented the Bike/Ped Committee's draft plan that outlines the "Heart of Oak Ridge" corridor and spot location recommendations and the "Top 10" list of Potential Funding Sources (see attached). The list includes corridors, sidewalks and spot location in and around the center City area. He also briefly discussed potential funding options available for these projects. Although the Committee used the original Bike/ Ped Plan as a guide, they discussed additional projects and revisited the priority list. The Committee's first priority is the Rails to Trails project from Elza Park to Scarboro Road. Bob discussed Committee concerns involving the intersection Lafayette/Illinois and the Illinois Avenue rail crossing.

The Committee also included linkage between Roane State Community College and Jackson Square along Administration Road and a connector between the Emory Valley Greenway and the Briarcliff Shopping Center as high priority projects. The sidewalk along Donner Place is part of the Greenway and serves as the connector between Emory Valley Road and the shopping center. Several Board members commented on the draft recommendations and thanked the group for their effort.

Dog Park Committee- Bridgette Ellis

No report from the Dog Park Committee.

Work Plan Deliverables

Chairman Palau distributed an updated copy of "Recreation and Parks Advisory Board Work Plan Dashboard" and discussed key elements of the document (see attached). Gerry would like to reconvene the Waterfront Planning Committee to establish priorities, develop cost estimates and prepare a list of Waterfront projects for the City's Capital Improvements Program. He provided a progress report on the Ten Action items in the Board's Work Plan.

Unfinished Business

North Boundary Greenway was addressed under Appearance and Citizen Comments

New Business

Recreation and Parks Foundation

Bob Cushman discussed the Pigeon Forge Forever Parks Foundation and the Legacy Parks Knoxville Foundation. Both were setup by the respective Cities but operate independently from the host City. A key to a successful Foundation is finding the right people for the Board of Directors. You need impartial well rounded individuals that can help raise money and want to support the Parks. Both Foundations received seed money from the City to get them started. The Foundation fills a void and does things the City cannot do themselves.

Chairman Palau asked Kerry Trummell to discuss his experience in setting up the Senior Center Foundation. Kerry discussed the process and the importance in finding the right people for the Board. Although establishing a 501c3 organization is time consuming, it is not a difficult process.

Board Governance

Since three Board members were absent, Chairman Palau delayed discussions on Board Governance until the October meeting.

Director's Report

Ban on Horses on Haw Ridge

Josh Collins discussed the Board recommended and City Manager approved ban of Horses on Haw Ridge Park that took effect on September 1<sup>st</sup>. During the last few weeks of August, City staff monitored the parking area at Haw Ridge and attempted to make contact with horse owners using the Park. Business cards with contact info and a brief note were left on over a dozen windshields of tow vehicles with trailers. Six owners called back to discuss the ban. Several face to face meeting between staff and horse owners were held on site in the days preceding the ban. Although most horse owners expressed displeasure over the action taken, all of the owner understood the reasons for the banning of horses.

#### Railroad Museum

Dan Robbins asked about the Enhancement Grant for the Railroad Museum and what the City intended to do. Josh gave an overview of the history of the Grant and the issues facing the City as they evaluate the path forward. The recently awarded Enhancement Grant for Jackson Square will be delayed until the status of Railroad Museum Grant is resolved.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:27pm.

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Oak Ridge Recreation & Parks Advisory Board (RPAB) - Bike & Pedestrian Working Committee  
(BPWC)  
**September 2012**

The Oak Ridge Bicycle and Pedestrian Working Committee has met on the third Thursday of every month for the past eight months to discuss ways to promote their mission: *To improve the quality of life for the people in Oak Ridge through attaining recognition as a bike and pedestrian friendly community.* The committee has shared in the past the importance of focusing on projects in or near the "Heart of Oak Ridge," and the top project priorities reflect that sentiment. The committee sees that through these prioritized projects, our Oak Ridge Community can indeed become recognized as a bike and pedestrian friendly place to live, work and play.

Depending upon the action that the Recreation and Parks Advisory Board would like to take in making a recommendation to the City of Oak Ridge City Council for bike and pedestrian priority project(s), it will directly impact the recommendation for potential sources of funding for the projects.

### **Top Project/Funding Priorities**

#### **Project Prioritization:**

The committee worked to prioritize projects using a similar process to the one employed in the Oak Ridge Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan (ORBPP), however, the committee did not use the ranking criteria identified in the ORBPP, as the relative location to schools, parks,

employers, etc. did not seem the optimal metric for ranking prioritized projects for the current demand for Oak Ridge bicycle and pedestrian experiences.

Instead, the committee ranked each project priority based on where resources are most urgently needed near the “heart of Oak Ridge” (highly visible and easily accessed locations) and where improvements would have the greatest impact on improving the bicycle and pedestrian experience. The committee strongly felt that the Melton Lake to Y-12 rail line, currently held by CSX, is the top priority for project funding and execution in the near term. The priority projects listed below are based on the premise that a “phased” implementation of an Oak Ridge Rails to Trails line (from north of Elza Gate Park to the intersection of Scarboro Road and Bear Creek Road) is the main priority for recommendation and current funding efforts (aside from any imminent safety concerns).

### **Project Priorities for Bike Lanes/Sidewalks**

1. Connecting Emory Valley to S. Illinois Ave.
  - Potential CSX line or along road (TBD)
  - If along Lafayette - between ORTP & near Hendrix Dr. – bike lane(s) needed – (4<sup>th</sup> Corridor project priority in approved ORBP Plan)
2. Emory Valley Road
  - Connecting Greenway to Food Lion shopping Center – then onto potential Emory Valley/Illinois Ave. connection
3. Administration Road(s) at ORTP to Laboratory Road – add connecting sidewalks
4. Connect the current gaps of sidewalk along Oak Ridge Turnpike between Illinois Ave. and Florida Ave. (1<sup>st</sup> Corridor project priority in approved ORBP Plan)
5. Bike Lane connection along Scarboro Rd. to Bethel Valley Rd (just past Bear Creek Road)
6. Safe crossing for bikers on the Illinois & Lafayette intersection (potential over pass as part of long-term Rails to Trails Phasing)
7. Expand bike lanes on Bethel Valley Rd - west to existing bike lanes near ORNL gate
8. Continued maintenance/support for greenways, sidewalks and bike lanes as prioritized in the approved Oak Ridge Bike and Pedestrian Plan  
([http://www.knoxtrans.org/plans/OR\\_BikePed\\_2011.pdf](http://www.knoxtrans.org/plans/OR_BikePed_2011.pdf))

### **Funding Source Prioritization:**

The committee worked to identify those funding streams that seemed reasonable and attainable, while focusing on the prudence of expending resources towards unsuccessful efforts. The list below focuses on those potential sources of funding that the committee believes are attainable, available and reasonable to anticipate receipt of through working with other stakeholders. The committee strongly believes that the best and most reliable source of funding is through the US DOT Surface Transportation Program.

Additionally, the committee highly recommends referencing (as the approved ORBP Plan lists) the Nashville Area Metropolitan Planning Organization list of funding sources printed in the ORBPP.

## Funding Source Priorities

1. **DOT Surface Transportation Program** - \$ 222,621,794 Estimated FY 2013 Funding for Tennessee Under the Conference Report for the Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act (MAP-21)\* (<http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/map21/table2013.cfm>)
2. **DOT - Transportation Alternatives Funding** - \$18,119,645 Estimated FY 2013 Funding for Tennessee Under the Conference Report for the Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act (MAP-21) – ([http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/transportation\\_enhancements/legislation/map21.cfm](http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/transportation_enhancements/legislation/map21.cfm))
3. **DOT - Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement Program CMAQ Funding** - \$ 35,570,454 Estimated FY 2013 Funding for Tennessee Under the Conference Report for the Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act (MAP-21) – ([http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/air\\_quality/cmaq/](http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/air_quality/cmaq/))
4. **Transportation Community and System Preservation** - <http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/tcsp/index.html>
5. **Local Convention & Visitors Bureau (CVB) Partnerships** – potential partnership between the City of Oak Ridge CVB & private investors to ensure the Rails to Trails Corridor is designed in a fiscally feasible, phased approach until a bike and pedestrian connection (a “Rails to Trails”) is completed between Elza Gate and Scarboro Rd. Discussions have not yet begun between with the CVB.
6. **Funds from salvaging materials from railroad line** – need to generate discussions with City of Oak Ridge and potential buyers of the materials and ensure that a percentage of any profits from the purchase of the old rail road materials go toward the remodeling of the line for a Rails to Trails Corridor.
7. **Volunteer help from local Boy & Girl Scouts** (as well as other local organizations interested in bike/pedestrian projects) – ex: building benches, clearing railroad trails, etc.