

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

**November 8, 2018 Regular Meeting**

The November 8, 2018 Regular Meeting of the Recreation and Parks Advisory Board was convened at 7:07 pm in the Social Room of the Oak Ridge Civic Center with Alan Tatum, Chair, presiding.

## **Roll Call**

Present: Naomi Asher, Mark Cantrell, Ray Garrett, Melissa McMahan, Dan Robbins, Ken Rueter and Alan Tatum

Absent: David Kitzmiller, Brad Spears

## **Approval of the October 11, 2018 Regular Meeting Minutes**

Ray made a motion to approve the October 11, 2018 meeting minutes and Ken seconded the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously.

## **Appearance and Citizen Comments**

- Doug Colclasure shared an idea to construct a pump rack on an area of unused asphalt at Jefferson Middle School.

## **Unfinished Business**

- Tree Lighting Ceremony – Melissa discussed a meeting she and David had with department staff in which a program for the ceremony was agreed upon. The program and a draft press release were presented to the Board for review. Weather permitting, the ceremony will begin on the pavilion stage behind the Civic Center, with comments provided by staff and the Mayor and music by the Community Band and the Linden Choir. The presentation of Park Board awards to volunteers will also be included in the ceremony. The Board will also provide refreshments to attendees, sponsored by UCOR. Following the presentations those in attendance will proceed to the tree for the lighting ceremony. The Board agreed that it was a good plan.

## **New Business**

- None

## **Board Work Plan**

### Bell Update:

- Alan reported that work continues at the site. Panels of concrete have been stained, sealant has been applied to the concrete and precast benches. The installation of the gravel paths and additional lighting remains to be completed.
- The Bell Committee has been working with Robert Smiddy, a landscape designer with Willow Ridge Garden Center on the landscape design. They hope to install some trees this fall and the rock garden in January, with additional landscaping in the spring.
- Alan is also working to address some issues with the donor plaques. A few names were omitted and the material used appears to be too thin.
- Staff reported that the electrical panel has been ordered and will be installed after it is delivered.
- UT will replace three carbon fiber beams that have manufacturing defects and have a professional painter apply sealant to all of the beams.

### Rails to Trails:

- The City is still waiting for a finalized access agreement with CSX for surveying and geotechnical analysis.

### Trail Development:

- Ken reported that CVTA is making progress on developing a trail system at Happy Valley; they are working with Roane County Executive Ron Woody and the property owner.
- CVTA has continued to have discussions about trail development on his property on Tuskegee Dr.
- CVTA is also continuing to work with the Hollingsworth Foundation on trail development on a parcel they are developing as a public park in Clinton.
- CVTA now has about 80 members and they are meeting on the second Tuesday of each month at 7 pm in the restaurant area at Crafters Brew.

### Long Range Planning:

- No report.

### Promotion and Marketing/Branding:

- Naomi reported that she is chairing the hiring committee at Explore oak Ridge, which is close to hiring a new president following the departure of Marc DeRose.
- Explore Oak Ridge is working on a webpage redesign to improve its promotion and marketing.
- Ken reported on coordination between CVTA, Explore Oak Ridge, and the Anderson and Roane County visitor's bureaus to provide links to maps and other information.

#### Community Events:

- Dan reported that the League of Women Voters forums were well attended.
- Staff reported that, in addition to the tree Lighting Ceremony, the department will be hosting Breakfast With Santa on November 31<sup>st</sup>. The event is provided at no cost, but reservations are required. All 200 available spots were reserved in four days.
- Dan mentioned the upcoming Bill Wilcox bowtie fundraiser event for ADFAC.

#### Natural Asset Strategy:

- Ken continues to work with DOE stakeholders on the strategy. They have been meeting with the three municipal leaders (Anderson & Roane Counties and the City of Oak Ridge) and plan to report on those meetings December 3<sup>rd</sup>. They hope to develop a plan similar to that done in south Knoxville. Anderson and Roane County have indicated they are on board; the group will meet with Oak Ridge Mayor Gooch tomorrow.
- Ken noted that the Park Board's inclusion of the strategy development in its work plan has been helpful, as the work plan has already been approved by Oak Ridge City Counsel.

#### R&P Recognition Program:

- Alan began with a discussion about the name for the award. He then made a motion to call it the City of Oak Ridge Recreation & Parks Achievement Award. Ken seconded the motion, which was then approved unanimously.
- Alan then followed up with a list of the nominations and the explanations provided with each nomination. Nominees included: Doug Colclasure, Larry Creech, Tom Dunigan, Fay Martin, Dan Robbins, UCOR, Ken Rueter and Joe Mason.
- Dan recused himself from the vote.
- Ken requested that he and UCOR be withdrawn from consideration, which the Board agreed to unanimously.
- Each Board member then voted for three nominees:
  - Ken – Doug, Larry, Tom
  - Ray – Doug, Larry, Tom
  - Melissa – Tom, Fay, Doug
  - Mark – Doug, Larry, Joe
  - Naomi – Doug, Larry, Fay
  - Alan – Doug, Tom, Dan
- With the most votes, Doug (6), Larry (4) and Tom (4) were elected as the inaugural recipients of the award.
- Melissa is researching plaques for the awards. She will determine the style and wording. Jon will order and pay for the awards.

#### Velodrome:

- Ken reported that Brad has formed a working group that is meeting monthly. The group is making significant progress and includes a member who has designed tracks internationally

**Updates and Observations (Non Action Items):**

- Dan requested signage at the Cedar Hill Greenway trailhead by Blankenship Field. Jon reported that trailhead improvements, including signage, are included in the Blankenship Field Revitalization project.
- He has treated 133 fire ant hills along Melton Lake Greenway this year.
- Doug reported that he believes ORUD will move from their current maintenance facility at the intersection of Scarboro Rd and Union Valley Rd in the next few years. This location is adjacent to the terminus of the rails to trails project currently under way.
- Alan noted that both he and Melissa's seats were up for election at the end of the year.

**Director's Report:**

- The Blankenship Field project will be getting under way soon, as the football team is wrapping up their season.
- Jenkins & Stiles Construction has broken ground on the Prekindergarten and Senior Center projects.

**Future Agenda Items:**

- A velodrome presentation by Brad.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:14 pm.

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Alan Tatum