

Minutes of the Recreation and Parks Advisory Board Meeting

December 13, 2018 Regular Meeting

The December 13, 2018 Regular Meeting of the Recreation and Parks Advisory Board was convened at 7:05 pm in the Social Room of the Oak Ridge Civic Center with Alan Tatum, Chair, presiding.

Roll Call

Present: Ray Garrett, David Kitzmiller, Dan Robbins, Ken Rueter, Brad Spears and Alan Tatum

Absent: Naomi Asher, Mark Cantrell, Melissa McMahan

Approval of the November 8, 2018 Regular Meeting Minutes

Motion to approve: Brad; second: Ken. The November 8, 2018 meeting minutes were approved unanimously.

Appearance and Citizen Comments

- None

Unfinished Business

- None

New Business

- Pat Postma provided a presentation on the proposed Karesansui Gardens at the Peace Bell Pavilion site.

Board Work Plan

Bell Update:

- Alan reported that most work at the site has been completed. The contractor lacks about forty feet of path material, which should be completed next week.
- The power pedestal for the site electrical service has been ordered. It should arrive in a few weeks.
- The contractor is working with the architect and committee on the final design of the concrete arcs at the triangle on the northeast side of the structure.
- The committee is developing plans to add larger interpretative markers to the site.
- The committee is still waiting on an update from UT on the replacement carbon fiber beams, connecting rods and sealant for the beams.
- City staff are working on the Japan Expo grant report.
- City staff and Alan will meet to update financial accounting for the project.

- The brass plaques on the bollards will be replaced. Some errors and omissions of donor names will be corrected and the new plaques will be made out of thicker material, as flexing has been an issue.

Rails to Trails:

- The City is still waiting for a finalized access agreement with CSX for surveying and geotechnical analysis.
- Alan referenced the recent SOM study on the downtown area and noted that he had received many comments about the importance of the Rails to Trails project to the City.

Trail Development:

- Ray is working on easement agreements with apartment complexes along the East Fork Poplar Creek Trail to provide access to the Jefferson Ave. trail segment.
- Ray said there would be a need for three bridges along the trail, to be built with CVTA assistance. Brad noted that funding would be needed for bridge materials.
- Brad reported on CVTA plans for 2019, including a skills park at Haw Ridge. The organization hopes to have full plans in place by March, including a pump track. The Windrock bike trail crew has agreed to assist with construction and UCOR has agreed to fund paving of the pump track to minimize maintenance. CVTA would also like to do a bike rodeo as part of the Secret City Festival.
- The Board discussed an IMBA grant program that could provide support for design of the skills area. The grant would require that the City apply, but UCOR will provide the required grant match.
- As a result of the recent letter from TWRA Legal Counsel with regard to BORCE trail development, Ken has entered into discussions with DOE about the interpretation of the BORCE management plan. He hopes to be able to work with DOE to restore the original management plan and intent.

Long Range Planning:

- No report.

Promotion and Marketing/Branding:

- No report.

Community Events:

- Alan reported that the Tree Lighting Ceremony went very well and offered kudo's to all involved, especially Melissa, David and Ken.
- Staff reviewed recent events, including the Tree Lighting Ceremony, Breakfast with Santa, Senior Holiday events at both the Senior Center and Scarboro Center and a Sweets with Santa event at Centennial Golf Course. Staff are now looking forward to a break from events while they work on maintenance projects.
- There will be a 10 mile race sponsored by Calhoun's on January 10th, utilizing Emory Valley and Melton Lake Greenways.
- Dan mentioned the upcoming Bill Wilcox bowtie fundraiser event for ADFAC.

Natural Asset Strategy:

- The DOE Contractor Forum has approved a Natural Asset Strategy Study to be performed by Legacy Parks Foundation. They have currently committed \$75K to the study, with the expectation of an additional \$30K in funding to be committed. The study will be regional in nature, covering all of Roane County and Anderson County to the east side of the City of Clinton.
- The study will be used, in part, to leverage larger grants for further development.

R&P Recognition Program:

- The inaugural recognition program awards were a great success, with the awards presented during the Tree Lighting ceremony to three very deserving individuals.
- City staff to pursue follow-up publicity to promote the award program and inaugural recipients.
- City staff to follow up with Melissa to reimburse her for the cost of the plaques.
- Alan requested the City consider a plaque at the Rec Center to recognize the award winners now and in the future.

Velodrome:

- Brad – A working group consisting of regional cyclists and experienced velodrome builders continues to develop plans for a velodrome in Oak Ridge. Their goal is to identify an appropriate City-owned parcel for construction of the track and lease that space, then construct a steel truss-framed track. The steel truss design will allow the initial construction of a 166 m track that can later be expanded to a 250 m track. It can also be easily removed in the event the project does not work out long-term. A 250 m track could be built for an estimated \$300K to \$400K. A local paracycling group has expressed interest in the project, though they typically require a 270 m track.
- The group has identified the former driving range on Union Valley Rd., located on the site of a former landfill, as an ideal location. The proximity to Rogers Group and the UT Arboretum are potential assets, along with the proximity to hotels and restaurants in Oak Ridge. The nature of the track design could also lend itself to other activities, such as concerts.
- The next step is to develop a robust non-profit to further develop the plan and implement it.

Updates and Observations (Non Action Items):

- Dan has treated two more fire ant hills, for a total of 137 fire ant hills this year.
- Alan suggested the Board discuss availability for a work session in January or February. Among those present, it appeared February 2nd might be the best option.

Director's Report:

- The Blankenship Field, Senior Center and Pre-K/Scarboro Park projects are all well underway.
- Jon thanked the Board for their service this year, noting it has been a very productive year of service to the community.

Future Agenda Items:

- A more in-depth velodrome presentation, possibly in February.
- A report on the Natural Asset plan, possibly in March.
- Department staff presentations, beginning in February.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:38 pm.

Alan Tatum

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