

Minutes of the Recreation and Parks Advisory Board Meeting

January 10, 2019 Regular Meeting

The January 10, 2019 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 Brad Spears, Vice-Chairman, presiding.

Roll Call

Present: Mark Cantrell, Ray Garrett, David Kitzmiller, Melissa McMahan, Ken Rueter and Brad Spears

Absent: Naomi Asher, Dan Robbins and Alan Tatum

Approval of the December 13, 2018 Regular Meeting Minutes

Motion to approve: Ray; second: David. The December 13, 2018 meeting minutes were approved unanimously.

Appearance and Citizen Comments

- Doug Colclasure expressed his appreciation for his Recreation & Parks Achievement Award. He then commented on the need for parking improvements at the bar gate entry to North Boundary west of Wisconsin Ave. Following a brief discussion of ways to address the situation, staff agreed to reach out to DOE Reservation Management to see what options might be available.

Unfinished Business

- Work session scheduling – after a brief discussion, the Ray made a motion to move the regular February meeting to Tuesday the 12th, with a second from David. The Board voted to do so. Brad then made a motion to have the work session on Thursday, February 28th, with a second from David. The Board voted to approve the motion.

New Business

- None.

Board Work Plan

Bell Update:

- Jon reported that the binder in the paths has not cured and the paths have not compacted. The contractor has asserted that they will improve with warm, dry weather, but that seems questionable.
- Jon reminded the Board that there will be a talk on dry landscaping related to the Bell project at the UT Arboretum on Thursday the 24th, with training in caring for the sand gardens scheduled on the 26th.

Rails to Trails:

- The City is still waiting for one subcontractor to provide proof of liability insurance for the access agreement with CSX.

Trail Development:

- Ray reported that CVTA would hold a trail build day on East Fork Poplar Creek in March.
- Brad reported a lot of momentum on planning for the skills park at Haw Ridge. Mapping is underway and they are working with an Eagle Scout candidate to construct a kiosk for the project. CVTA is working on a grant from the Jeff Roth Foundation and other fundraisers are planned.
- A group called Ninja Mountain Bike Skills is interested in holding their riding clinics at the new skills area.
- The group plans to request City assistance with revegetating bare ground and possibly supplying some topsoil for that. They would also like access to “scrap” materials the parks Division has at the Central Services Complex that might be reused for the project.

Long Range Planning:

- David is working on a future report.

Promotion and Marketing/Branding:

- No report.

Community Events:

- Upcoming events include a Skills Park fundraiser at Crafters Brew on February 22nd, Spring Break Camp at the Rec Center in March and the Egg Hunt at AK Bissell Park in April.

Natural Asset Strategy:

- Ken reported that the DOE Contractor Forum, in cooperation with the City of Oak Ridge and Roane and Anderson Counties, is moving forward with the Natural Asset Strategy Study to be performed by Legacy Parks Foundation. The Legacy Parks Foundation Board unanimously approved participation.
- A kickoff meeting will be held in early February with a steering committee consisting of representatives from each of the seven organizations and Don Parnell from Legacy Parks Foundation.
- Ken also observed that the Natural Asset study integrates with the recent SOM study.

R&P Recognition Program:

- It was noted that it's not too early to begin thinking about nominees for 2019.
- The Board is looking forward to a plaque at the Rec Center to recognize the award winners now and in the future.

Velodrome:

- Brad is working on a presentation for the February meeting. He expects a large crowd to attend.

Updates and Observations (Non Action Items):

- Brad reported that he has observed an increase in break-ins at the Haw Ridge parking lot. The Board discussed various way to address the problem, possibly including cameras, additional signage and increased police patrols.
- David reported that there are also issues at Elza Gate.

Director's Report:

- The Blankenship Field, Senior Center and Pre-K/Scarboro Park projects are all impacted by rainy weather, but progress continues.

Future Agenda Items:

- Board officer elections.
- A more in-depth velodrome presentation in February.
- A report on the Natural Asset plan, possibly in March.
- Department staff presentations, beginning in March.
- A discussion of the City Blueprint Plan and SOM Study.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:05 pm.

Brad Spears