

Minutes of the Recreation and Parks Advisory Board Meeting

February 19, 2019 Regular Meeting

The February 19, 2019 meeting of the Recreation and Parks Advisory Board was convened at 7:08 pm in the Craft Room of the Oak Ridge Civic Center with Brad Spears, Vice-Chairman, presiding.

Roll Call

Present: Mark Cantrell, David Kitzmiller, Melissa McMahan, Dan Robbins, Ken Rueter, Brad Spears, Jerry Williams

Absent: Naomi Asher, Ray Garrett

Approval of the January 10, 2019 Regular Meeting Minutes

Motion to approve: David; second: Mark. The January 10, 2019 meeting minutes were approved unanimously.

Unfinished Business

- None

New Business

- Election of 2019 Board officers. David nominated Brad to serve as Chair, second: Mark. Brad nominated David to serve as vice chair, second: Ken. Both were unanimously approved. (Ballot attached)

Board Work Plan

- David made a motion to move the Velodrome to the beginning of the work plan report for the benefit of the many visitors in attendance for the presentation; second: Brad. Unanimously approved.

Velodrome:

- Introduction of the velodrome presentation by Brad, beginning with an overview of Park Board's role in the City government as an advisory board to City Council, the City Manager and the Recreation & Parks Department.
- Brad then explained how the velodrome project became a part of the Park Board work plan in 2018, how the project team was developed. He then followed with a PowerPoint presentation of the conceptual plan for a velodrome in Oak Ridge.
- The presentation introduced key members of the project team, discussed why Oak Ridge was a good location to develop the facility, why now was the time to move the project forward and what the City's role in the project would be.
- A question and answer period followed the presentation. Dan asked how a motion to support the project might be worded. Brad suggested that the project team be allowed a few months to more fully develop the concept.
- Dan then made a motion that the Board agree to review a more detailed plan when ready. Second: Brad. The Board unanimously approved the motion.

Bell Update:

- Staff reported that the contractor has been provided a punch list for close-out of the project, but wet weather has prevented completion of the list.
- Staff reported that work continues on the landscape design and plans for installation.

Rails to Trails:

- Staff reported that a Right of Entry agreement has been finalized with CSX, allowing AMT to move forward with NEPA work, including surveying and geotechnical testing.
- AMT anticipates completion of the NEPA phase by August, after which TDOT is expected to issue a notice to proceed for the design phase.

Trail Development:

- Brad reported that work continues on the skills park at Haw Ridge. After evaluating plans it has been determined that the project will need to be broken up into phases. CVTA is now working to prioritize those phases. Fundraising is ongoing.
- Brad reported that CVTA is working with Ray to schedule a trail build day on East Fork Poplar Creek. It now looks like it may be in April.

Long Range Planning:

- No report.

Promotion and Marketing/Branding:

- No report.

Community Events:

- David reported that he has accepted the volunteer coordinator role for the Secret City Festival.
- Dan reported that the League of Women Voters will be hosting a Breakfast with the Legislators at the Civic Center on Monday, February 25th.
- Ken reported that the Run Under the Stars will be returning to AK Bissell Park in May.

Natural Asset Strategy:

- Ken reported that the member organizations of the DOE Contractor Forum and the municipalities have appointed representatives to the committee.
- UCOR is facilitating the study through their representative, Sherry Browder. Parks Director Jon Hetrick will represent the City of Oak Ridge.
- Legacy Parks has organized a team to lead the study, with an anticipated 3 - 4 month window for the deliverable.

R&P Recognition Program:

- Brad provided an overview of the program for new Board member Jerry Williams.

Appearance and Citizen Comments

- Colin Colverson presented an overview of a proposal for a multi-use trail system in the greenbelt east of California Avenue. He requested the opportunity to make a presentation at the March Park Board meeting. The Board agreed to add him to the agenda.
- Larry Creech expressed his support for the project, which he is helping to design. He also expressed support the use of some Land Bank-owned parcels along California for access to the trail system. The parcels are undeveloped and have adjacent on-street parking for trail users that would be removed from existing residences.

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.
- Doug Colclasure reported that EQAB (the Environmental Quality Advisory Board) was considering a proposal from the Dogwood Arts Festival to add a Dogwood Trail in Oak Ridge.

Director's Report:

- The Board will hold a work session on Thursday, February 28th to draft a work plan for the upcoming year.
- ORNL FCU, host of the WDVX summer concert series in AK Bissell Park, has offered to provide facility improvement to the performance pavilion where the concerts are held.
- The Parks Division is conducting a search for a new Maintenance Technician and a new Crew Chief, following the departure of two employees.

Future Agenda Items:

- A presentation on a proposal to develop a trail system in the Greenbelt east of California Avenue.
- An overview of UCOR Historic Preservation activities.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:13 pm.

Brad Spears
Chairperson