

Minutes of the Recreation and Parks Advisory Board Meeting

March 14, 2019 Regular Meeting

The March 14, 2019 meeting of the Recreation and Parks Advisory Board was convened at 7:05 pm in the Craft Room of the Oak Ridge Civic Center with David Kitzmiller, Vice-Chairman, presiding.

Roll Call

Present: Naomi Asher, Mark Cantrell, David Kitzmiller, Melissa McMahan, Dan Robbins, Jerry Williams

Absent: Ken Rueter, Brad Spears, Ray Garrett

Approval of the February 19, 2019 Regular Meeting Minutes

Motion to approve: Jerry; second: Mark. The February 19, 2019 meeting minutes were approved unanimously.

Appearance and Citizen Comments

- Doug Colclasure requested that the Natural Asset study include the quarry adjacent to the North Boundary Greenway.

Unfinished Business

- Board work plan – motion to approve: Jerry; second: Mark. Naomi requested that communication integration with Explore Oak Ridge be added. Jerry made a motion to approve the amendment; second: Naomi. The amendment was approved unanimously. The Board then approved the amended plan unanimously.

New Business

- Oak Ridge resident Colin Colverson presented a plan to construct multi-use trails in the greenbelt east of California Ave as a pilot project for further development of multi-use greenbelt trails in Oak Ridge. Mr. Colverson requested support of the Board for the concept and for an amendment to the current zoning ordinance to allow multi-purpose trails in the greenbelt. Naomi made a motion to support the plan and the zoning ordinance change; second: David. The motion was unanimously approved. Naomi volunteered to draft a letter of support to City Council to be voted on at the April Board meeting.

Board Work Plan

Rails to Trails:

- Staff reported that AMT is moving forward with NEPA work, including surveying and geotechnical testing.

Trail Development:

- No report.

Blueprint Integration into Long Range CIP Planning:

- No report.

Community Events:

- Staff reported that upcoming events include the Egg Hunt, Graduation Celebration, 9 Lakes Wine Festival, Secret City Festival, Lavender Festival and the US Cycling Time Trials National Championship.
- Dan reported that the Melton Lake River Cleanup would be taking place at the end of the month and the League of Women Voters will be hosting a Breakfast with the Legislators at the Civic Center on March 25th.

Recreation & Parks Integrated Natural Asset Development:

- No report.

Communication Integration with Explore Oak Ridge:

- Naomi is working on a plan to integrate Parks donation requests into hotel visitor packages.

Exploratory Objectives:

- Rec & Park Staffing - Staff is preparing material for future presentations
- After School Programs & Events for Pre-teens & Youth – Melissa is preparing plans; will coordinate with staff & YAB.
- Integrated Youth Sports Strategy – Jerry is working on a plan to combine the efforts of the Boys & Girls Club, Girls Inc. and the City to promote youth leagues in Oak Ridge.

Updates and Observations (Non Action Items):

- Dan reported that 30 volunteers attended the gravel garden raking training for the Peace Bell. He also stated that a committee of ten had formed to oversee landscaping of the Bell site and requested that irrigation be installed immediately. Staff explained that the construction contract had not been closed out, so no work could take place until that was completed and the project aligned with the department's work plan.

Director's Report:

- The Blankenship Field, Senior Center and Preschool projects are all moving forward, despite challenging weather conditions.

Future Agenda Items:

- A vote on the letter of support for a trail system in the Greenbelt east of California Avenue.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:43 pm.

Brad Spears
Chairperson