

Minutes of the Recreation and Parks Advisory Board Meeting

August 15, 2019 Regular Meeting

The August 15, 2019 meeting of the Recreation and Parks Advisory Board was convened at 7:00 pm in the Craft Room of the Oak Ridge Civic Center with Brad Spears, Chair, presiding.

Roll Call

Present: Naomi Asher, Mark Cantrell, Ray Garrett, David Kitzmiller, Dan Robbins, Ken Rueter, Brad Spears

Absent: Melissa McMahan

Approval of the July 11, 2019 Regular Meeting Minutes

Motion to approve: Dan; second: Ken. The July 11, 2019 meeting minutes were approved unanimously.

Appearance and Citizen Comments

- A large group of citizens were in attendance, including members of TCWP and residents of the neighborhood adjacent to the California Avenue greenbelt. Most indicated that they wished to express their concerns about a proposal to build multi-use trails in the greenbelt. Brad offered to stay after the Park Board meeting to discuss the project from his role as Chairman of CVTA, as the only related Park Board agenda item was scheduling of a public meeting on the topic.

Unfinished Business

- None

New Business

- Succession planning. The Board discussed the need to fill five open positions at the end of the year – four rolling over and one as a result of a resignation. Current Board members are eligible to reapply, but some have indicated they may not do so. A citizen in attendance suggested the Board might include a student member, as is done on the Environmental Quality Advisory Board. Board members generally agreed that was a good idea and should be pursued. Staff will check to see if the by-laws of the Board would require an amendment to do so. Board members were also encouraged to seek out other potential applicants, especially those that could bring greater diversity to the interests of the Board.
- Naomi asked that everyone attend the Ricky Skaggs concert on Saturday, August 17th. United Way of Anderson County will be selling beer as a fundraiser. Sales will include a new locally brewed beer, sales of which will also benefit the Legacy Parks Foundation.

Board Work Plan

Rails to Trails:

- Preliminary trail plans have been submitted for City staff review. The plans will be formally reviewed at the site review meeting on Monday, August 26th.

Trail Development:

- Brad provided an update on the Haw Ridge Skills Area. The drops have been completed, “skinnies” provided by Bob’s Trails & Trees will be installed next. The pump track is scheduled to be constructed in September.
- CVTA is proposing to move the date of the public meeting on the California greenbelt multi-use trail proposal, possibly to October. The club currently has several high priority projects in the works.
- Ray will meet with City staff to discuss East Fork Riparian Trail (EFRT) signage on City-owned parcels.
- Ken expects to receive an updated license agreement with DOE by the end of September, allowing the construction of an additional trail on the ED-6 parcel.

Blueprint Integration into Long Range CIP Planning:

- City staff to provide CIP info to David to begin the revision process.

Community Events:

- See “New Business”, item 2.

Recreation & Parks Integrated Natural Asset Development:

- Ken reported that the Natural Asset study is progressing well. The group working on the study are on track to deliver the report this fall, probably in October. Board members discussed incorporating information from the study into the CIP discussion.
- Ken noted that the latest issue of Oak Ridge Livability magazine was being distributed by the Chamber of Commerce, with a lot of focus on recreation.

Communication Integration with Explore Oak Ridge:

- No report

Exploratory Objectives:

- After School Programs & Events for Pre-teens & Youth – No report.

Updates and Observations (Non Action Items):

- Dan reported that he has treated over 100 fire ant mounds so far this year.
- Dan expressed concern about surveying at the Horizon Center that he suspects is for a power line through the North Boundary Greenway. Ellen Smith, City Council member in attendance, told Dan that she had discussed the surveying with the Electric Department Director and it was for power distribution within the Horizon Center.
- Brad thanked the Parks crew for clearing the sightline along Melton Lake Greenway near Union Valley. Overgrown brush impacted the sightline for pedestrians crossing to and from Rivers Run subdivision and traffic on Melton Lake Drive.
- Ken offered kudo’s to all who helped with the recent trail re-route work at Haw Ridge Park.

Director’s Report:

- Major projects continue to progress, including the Blankenship Football Field Revitalization, Senior Center and Pre-Kindergarten/Scarboro Park Improvements.

Future Agenda Items:

- A discussion of the process for awarding the second annual Oak Ridge Recreation & Parks Achievement Award.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:49 PM.



David Kitzmiller
Vice-Chairperson