

Minutes of the Recreation and Parks Advisory Board Meeting

September 12, 2019 Regular Meeting

The September 12, 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 David Kitzmiller, Vice Chair, presiding.

Roll Call

Present: Naomi Asher, Mark Cantrell, Ray Garrett, David Kitzmiller, Melissa McMahan, Dan Robbins

Absent: Ken Rueter, Brad Spears

Approval of the August 15, 2019 Regular Meeting Minutes

Motion to approve: Ray; second: Mark. The August 15, 2019 meeting minutes were approved unanimously.

Appearance and Citizen Comments

- Attending: John Jaruzel and Doug Colclasure. Doug expressed his hope that the California Ave greenbelt trail proposal would be revisited at some point. He believes it meets many City objectives.

Unfinished Business

- None

New Business

- Oak Ridge Recreation & Parks Achievement Awards process
 - After Board review of the process used last year, Ray made a motion to use the same process this year. Naomi provided a second; the motion passed unanimously.
 - Board members will provide nominations to the Chair prior to the November Board meeting. At that meeting, each Board member will vote for three nominees. The three nominees with the most votes will be recipients of the award for 2019. In the case of a tie, voting for unelected nominees will continue until the tie is broken.
 - Awards will be presented at the annual Tree Lighting Ceremony in AK Bissell Park, tentatively scheduled for Friday, December 6th.
- Melissa will research a plaque for the award recipients to be placed in the Rec Center. She will look at modular systems that can be added to as additional awards are made.

Board Work Plan

Rails to Trails:

- Work continues on NEPA approval. Preliminary plans are nearly ready for submittal to TDOT for their review.

Trail Development:

- Ray reported that signage for East Fork Riparian Trail has been installed and the trail is beginning get worn in nicely.
- Staff provided an update on the Haw Ridge Skills Area.

Blueprint Integration into Long Range CIP Planning:

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

Community Events:

- Upcoming events include Scrapbooking at the Rec Center, Fall Break Camp, and the Halloween Party. Staff also reported that next spring will be very busy, with six large events scheduled in about four weeks, beginning in May and continuing into June. Events include the NCAA Rowing Championships, Graduation Celebration, Nine Lakes Wine Festival, Secret City Festival, US Cycling Time Trials Championships and the Lavender Festival.

Recreation & Parks Integrated Natural Asset Development:

- Staff reported that the study is progressing well. The final report is expected by the end of the year.

Communication Integration with Explore Oak Ridge:

- Naomi is working to integrate Recreation & Parks information into the new Explore Oak Ridge website.
- Naomi is also working with EOR on a coordinated volunteer recruitment plan for multiple events, such as Secret City Festival, Nine Lakes Wine Festival, etc.

Exploratory Objectives:

- After School Programs & Events for Pre-teens & Youth – Melissa has been doing a lot of research into a variety of options. She has also been reviewing the City Blueprint plan for ideas.

Updates and Observations (Non Action Items):

- Dan reported that he has treated 109 fire ant mounds so far this year.

Director's Report:

- The Department is currently fully staffed and very busy.

Future Agenda Items:

- Nominations for the Oak Ridge Recreation & Parks Achievement Award.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:33 PM.



Brad Spears
Chairman