

# Minutes of the Recreation and Parks Advisory Board Meeting

January 9, 2020 Regular Meeting

The January 9, 2020 meeting of the Recreation and Parks Advisory Board was convened at 7:00 pm in the Social Room of the Oak Ridge Civic Center with Brad Spears, Chair, presiding.

## Roll Call

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

Absent: Naomi Asher, Melissa McMahan, Dan Robbins

## Approval of the November 11, 2019 Regular Meeting Minutes

Motion to approve: Ray; second: David. The November 11, 2019 meeting minutes were approved unanimously.

## Appearance and Citizen Comments

- Attending: John Jaruzel, Doug Colclasure, Ben Pounds. Doug Commented on the proposed Horizon Center power line, which would follow a portion of the North Boundary Greenway.

## Updates and Observations (Non Action Items):

- None

## Unfinished Business

- None

## New Business

- Discussion on the Horizon Center and Black Oak Ridge Conservation Easement (BORCE) management as they relate to the North Boundary Greenway. Ken noted that the greenway currently crosses two development parcels. It will have to be relocated when those parcels are developed, regardless whether the power line is constructed or not. By addressing the issue now the City can pursue an easement for trail realignment along the edge of the BORCE, around the development parcels. This easement could also include the area adjacent to the proposed power line, proactively addressing both issues.
- Ken will develop a draft recommendation to the City Council and City Manager for Board review at a future meeting.

- Board meeting schedule – February 2020. The election of new Board members will not take place until the February 10<sup>th</sup> City Council meeting. City staff recommend postponing the February Park Board meeting in order to allow time for newly elected members to be sworn in at the City Clerk's office. After discussion, the Board voted unanimously to hold a Board meeting on Saturday, February 22<sup>nd</sup> at 8:30 AM. Immediately following that meeting, the Board will hold a work session to develop its 2020 work plan. Staff will advise of a meeting location at a later date.

## **Board Work Plan**

### **Rails to Trails:**

- The project is still waiting on NEPA clearance and a Notice to Proceed to final design.

### **Trail Development:**

- The Haw Ridge skills park is receiving heavy use when the gates are open, with a large crowd at the recently completed pump track on New Year's Day.
- Brad reported that paperwork for the license agreement for a third trail on the DOE ED6 Parcel, west of Wisconsin Avenue, is ready for signature.
- Ken noted that there was also a large crowd at the skills park on Christmas Day, with lots of evidence of users tying into other Haw Ridge trails from that area, as hoped. In particular he noted a lot of family activity. Brad mentioned that water management around site features would be the next step in development of the area.

### **Blueprint Integration into Long Range CIP Planning:**

- David requested that staff resend the CIP files.

### **Community Events:**

- Ken reported that the Tree Lighting Ceremony and Park Board Recognition Awards were a great success with a large turnout.

### **Recreation & Parks Integrated Natural Asset Development:**

- Ken reported that Carol Evans, Legacy Parks Executive Director, presented a draft of the Guidebook to the Contractor's Forum earlier today. He observed that it is a well-integrated plan with a strong focus on connectivity. It was well-received by the Contractor's Forum. He added that the process of beginning the study seems to have already stimulated work in that direction.
- Next week representatives of stakeholder organizations will review the draft.

### **Communication Integration with Explore Oak Ridge:**

- No report.

### **Exploratory Objectives:**

- No report.

**Director's Report:**

- Staffing updates.

**Future Agenda Items:**

- Electric Bikes on Recreational Trails – Policy Recommendations

The meeting was adjourned at 7:47 PM.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, written over a horizontal line. The signature is stylized and appears to be "B. J. [unclear]". To the right of the signature, the date "2/20/20" is written in blue ink.

Chairperson