

Minutes of the Recreation and Parks Advisory Board Meeting

August 20, 2020 Regular Meeting

The August 20, 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.

Roll Call

Present: Mark Cantrell, Jake Greear, Melissa McMahan, Dan Robbins, Ken Rueter, Brad Spears, Michele Thornton

Absent: David Kitzmiller, Chris Melhorn

Approval of the February 20, 2020 Meeting Minutes

Motion to approve: Ken; second: Jake. The February 20, 2020 meeting minutes were approved unanimously.

Approval of the March 12, 2020 Meeting Minutes

Motion to approve: Mark; second: Michelle. The March 12, 2020 meeting minutes were approved unanimously.

Appearance and Citizen Comments

- Doug Colclasure requested that the Board adopt a position opposing the Motorsports Park being proposed for the Horizon Center.

Updates and Observations (Non Action Items):

- Dan reported that he has treated 75 fire ant hills so far in 2020. He also noted that Melton Lake Greenway continues to be well used and that the litter control situation is improving.
- Ken reported that the Legacy Parks Foundation is in discussions with DOE regarding possible development of the Pine Ridge District identified in the Oak Ridge Natural Assets Guidebook and the next phase of trail development on the ED-6 parcel. The discussions have been encouraging and will continue when DOE moves into the next phase of COVID-19 recovery.
- Legacy Parks has also taken part in discussions with representatives of the State of Tennessee regarding the future of Clark Center Park.

New Business

- None

Unfinished Business

- Board Work Plan Discussion – The Board reviewed and revised the draft work plan that had been distributed to members following the March Park Board meeting.
- Board Work Plan Vote - Following the discussion, Jake made a motion to approve the revised Work Plan; Ken seconded the motion. The Work Plan (attached) was approved unanimously.

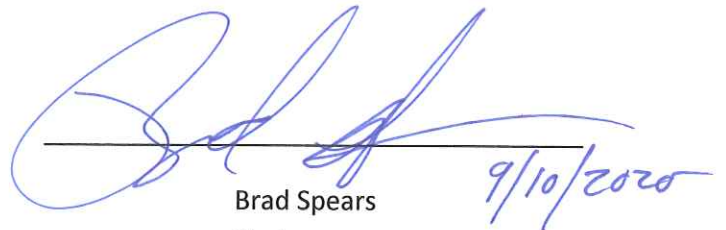
Director's Report:

- Rec & Parks staff are working hard to adapt to the changes brought about by the coronavirus pandemic. Staff were able to offer a safe and successful summer camp program and outdoor pool season. The Recreation Center and Scarboro Community Center have reopened on a limited basis and will continue to expand offerings as we learn to adapt to the situation. Parks maintenance continues and we are exploring options for a return to athletic programming. Staff continue to evaluate infection and positivity rates locally to determine when playgrounds, public restrooms and other closed facilities can be safely reopened.
- Blankenship –restroom installation was completed prior to the end of the grant term on June 30th, but some work remains. The State is currently evaluating the final reimbursement request from the City. Once that has been accepted the State will draft a new grant contract for the remainder of the project.
- Rails to Trails –NEPA clearance has been received and work is progressing on greenway design. Options for the required Public Input Session are being evaluated. Staff welcome any recommendations from the Board on a safe, successful meeting.
- City Council approved a contract for a new playground at Scarboro Park at the August meeting.
- Staff are working on an Oak Ridge Gateway project, with a gateway monument planned for the median between S Illinois Ave and Bethel Valley Road. The monument will welcome visitors as they enter the City from Solway Bridge and Edgemoor Rd.

Future Agenda Items:

- A presentation on the proposed development of a motorsports park at the Horizon Center (tentative).

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 PM.


Brad Spears
Chairperson
9/10/2020

Target Objectives, Priority Activities and Goals

1) Rails to Trails Project

- a) Support public meetings, outreach planning and public involvement
- b) Planning and design support
- c) General status, update and community communication
- d) Investigate continuing R2T rail through Scarboro Road to Bull Bluff Road and further to Clarke Center Park
- e) Bike to Work Initiative (ORNL, Scarboro Area)
- f) Consider Solway Connections – There’s a formal concept of that idea.
- g) Consider Edgemoor, Haw Ridge, Melton Lake connections
- h) Advocacy for timely progress with the state

2) Blueways Initiative

- a) West End Riverline Development Support
 - assist with coordination and communication of stakeholders
 - support Roane County and TWRA partnership formation
 - support launch area development
- b) Water Front District / Clark Park Blueway initiative
- c) Form Connections: Melton Lake, Haw Ridge Boat Area, Clarke Center park “low hanging fruit”
- d) Facilitate and explore a partnership with Legacy Parks on the initiative.

3) West BORCE Resolution

- a) Advocacy to Government and support on behalf of user groups for resolution

4) Oak Ridge Swimming Pool

- a) Develop action timeline

5) City Position and policy on E-Bikes

- a) Investigate existing policies and positions of cities and organizations
- b) Research positive and negative impacts of options
- c) Recommend policy and protocols to the City Of Oak Ridge

6) Parks and Recreation Stewardship, Maintenance, and Trail Development

- a) Facilitate any initiatives from local volunteer organizations that require city input or support.
- b) Evaluate parks, recreation, stewardship and trail related actions on city-owned property identified in the City Blue Print / natural asset plan and develop execution strategy utilizing local advocacy groups.
- c) Provide on-going communications of parks and recreation, and trail related developments within the community and existing park and recreation (e.g. work days, new builds, trash pick-up, etc.).

7) Review CIP as it relates to Rec and Parks

Secondary Objectives

- 1) Continue to explore opportunities for an Oak Ridge Velodrome
- 2) Facilitate and Support Recreation and Parks-related Community Events
- 3) Explore opportunities for the continued development of disc golf and a soccer complex on Tuskegee Dr.