

Minutes of the Recreation and Parks Advisory Board Meeting

October 8, 2020 Regular Meeting

The October 8, 2020 meeting of the Recreation and Parks Advisory Board was convened at 7:01 pm in the Social Room of the Oak Ridge Civic Center.

Roll Call

Present: Jake Greear, David Kitzmiller, Dan Robbins, Brad Spears, Michele Thornton

Absent: Mark Cantrell, Melissa McMahan, Chris Melhorn, Ken Rueter

Approval of the September 10, 2020 Meeting Minutes

Motion to approve: Jake; second: Michelle. The September 10, 2020 meeting minutes were approved unanimously.

Appearance and Citizen Comments

- Doug Colclasure provided an overview of some trail developments in Colorado and compared those to trail development efforts in the Oak Ridge area.

Updates and Observations (Non Action Items):

- Robert Kennedy, Chairman of the Environmental Quality Advisory Board (EQAB), provided the Park Board members with an overview of a letter from EQAB to the City Manager, Mayor and City Council outlining concerns of that Board related to the proposed Motorsports Park development at the Horizon Center.
- Willem Blokland, President of Oak Ridgers for Responsible Development (OR4RD), presented information about noise levels that could be generated by the proposed Motorsports Park and their potential impact on the North Boundary Greenway.
- Brad followed up the presentations with an overview of the Recreation & Parks Advisory Board's role. He then requested that the Board members consider information presented at this meeting and the previous meeting for future consideration of a position statement of the Board relative to the proposed Motorsports Park.

New Business

- **North Boundary / ED-6 parking area (Oak Ridge Turnpike west of Wisconsin Ave.)** - Brad read an email from Ken Rueter regarding the North Boundary ED-6 parking area. He requested that the following be included in the meeting minutes:

"I realize we do not currently have consensus as a board regarding the severity and significance and action regarding this feedback. Notwithstanding this board point of view and with the ED-6 parcel still

under DOE control and the authority for this parcel being the DOE Oak Ridge Office of Environmental Management (OREM), I felt an obligation under the UCOR Contract and our responsibilities to support OREM to discuss this public feedback relative a potential safety concern. Fundamentally, I/we embrace a question attitude and appreciate the citizens wellness to bring this forward to our collective attention.

I have discussed it with OREM leadership and they agreed something needed to be done as some of them who reside in the Oak Ridge area had similar observations. OREM looks to DOE Reservation management to assist in the management of ED-6 as you are aware. We reached agreement that UCOR should coordinate and discuss with Legacy Parks Carol Evans to include safety improvements to the parking area as part of the currently being worked ED-6 licensing agreement revision that is being worked to support the next phase of multi use trail implementation on ED-6. I have talked with Carol and she is moving out with dialog with Reservation management to include in the revision. This is being worked as an action under our UCOR Reindustrialization responsibilities and I want to make sure there is not any type of misunderstanding that I was working it under Parks and Rec board sponsorship.

Regards
Ken Rueter"

Unfinished Business

- None

Board Work Plan

Rails to Trails:

- No update.

Blueway Development:

- Brad reported that Ron Woody, Roane County Executive, recently gave a presentation on planned blueway development around Poplar Creek.
- Michelle reported that the TCWP/AFORR position letter (presented to the Board in September) was published in the Oak Ridger recently. AFORR has also reached out to Tennessee Lieutenant Governor Randy McNally for support. The main issue with the plan is the disposition of Clark Center Park, which is currently unknown.

West BORCE Resolution:

- No report

Oak Ridge Outdoor Swimming Pool:

- Department Aquatics Manager Vonda Wooten provided an overview of the history of the pool and recent operational and financial information. She then answered questions from the Board.

City Position & Policy on E-Bikes:

- Brad is researching the subject and hopes to have information to present to the Board at the November meeting.

Parks & Recreation Stewardship, Maintenance and Trail Development:

- Brad reported that the Grand Opening of the Dirt Lab at Haw Ridge Park postponed to Friday, October 8, 2020 at 10 AM.

CIP Review:

- Staff will send data to David and Mark ASAP.

Secondary Objectives:

- Velodrome
 - No report
- Community Events
 - Upcoming events include the first regatta of the year (the Secret City Head Race) and the Halloween Drive-Through Party (in place of the party usually held in the Rec Center). Options for the Holiday Tree Lighting Ceremony and Park Board awards are being evaluated.
- Development Opportunities for Disc Golf & Soccer on Tuskegee Dr. Parcels
 - No report

Director's Report:

- The Board was provided an update on facility reopening plans for the Department, including playgrounds, the Senior Center and basketball courts.

Future Agenda Items:

- Recreation & Parks Achievement Awards

The meeting was adjourned at 8:42 PM.



Brad Spears
Chairperson