

Minutes of the Recreation and Parks Advisory Board Meeting

November 12, 2020 Regular Meeting

The November 12, 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, Chris Melhorn, Dan Robbins, Ken Rueter, Brad Spears, Michele Thornton

Absent: David Kitzmiller

Approval of the October 8, 2020 Meeting Minutes

Motion to approve: Jake; second: Ken. The October 8, 2020 meeting minutes were approved unanimously.

Appearance and Citizen Comments

- Doug Colclasure suggested the Board consider naming the proposed rail-to-trail greenway the Briefcase Trail. Doug also requested that the Board consider supporting additional trails in the BORCE.
- Representatives of the Atomic City Aquatics Club (ACAC) were present, including Trish Brown, Andy Wagner and Harry King. At Brad Spears request, they provided an overview of the club's overall view of outdoor pool redevelopment.

Updates and Observations (Non Action Items):

- Dan Robbins noted a fire ant resurgence; he has treated approximately 110 mounds this year.
- Brad spears expressed concern about the damage to Old Edgemoor rd. created by material hauling for the TVA Anderson Substation Project and its potential impact to trail access along the road. Jon Hetrick responded that TVA was responsible for addressing damage to the road and that Public Works staff were conducting regular inspections.
- Jon Hetrick reported that City Council voted on November 9th to extend all Advisory Board and Commission terms by one year due to interruptions to activities caused by COVID-19.

New Business

- **Recreation & Parks Achievement Award Elections** – Board members nominated candidates for the 2020 achievement awards. Nominees included Matt Stanke (CVTA/Dirt Lab volunteer), Ray Garrett (Former Board member, trail volunteer and driving force behind the East Fork Riparian Trail), Ron Woody (Roane County Executive and outdoor recreation advocate), the Recreation & Parks Department Staff (For their efforts to provide quality recreation & parks opportunities to the community, especially through the COVID-19 pandemic) and Joe Mason (long-time athletics volunteer who has devoted

countless hours to maintenance and development of the Oak Ridge Baseball Complex). Ray Garret, the Recreation & Parks Department Staff and Joe Mason were all elected in the first round of voting.

- The Board will develop a new plan for presentation of the awards due to the cancellation of this year's Holiday Tree Lighting Ceremony.

Unfinished Business

- The Board discussed developing a position with regard to the proposed motorsports park. A decision on the item was postponed until the Board has time to gather additional information on the project.

Board Work Plan

Rails to Trails:

- No update.

Blueway Development:

- Roane County is moving forward with plans to develop a Poplar Creek Blueway at the ETPP.

West BORCE Resolution:

- No report

Oak Ridge Outdoor Swimming Pool:

- Jon Hetrick reported that Aquatics Manager Vonda Wooten is working on a presentation for the Board that will provide an overview of various options for pool redevelopment and probable costs for options. The presentation may be ready for the December Park Board meeting.
- Dan Robbins asked the members of ACAC present to comment on the desired competition lane length for the pool. Harry King responded that they would like to have a 50 meter by 25 yard competition area in the pool.

City Position & Policy on E-Bikes:

- Brad provided the Board members with a handout providing US Forest Service guidance on electric-assist bicycles. He also noted that there have been discussions at the State level about defining electric bikes as vehicles, depending on type.

Parks & Recreation Stewardship, Maintenance and Trail Development:

- There will be a Haw Ridge trail work day this Saturday, November 14th.
- The Dirt Lab grand opening was great success, with large attendance and extensive positive media coverage.

CIP Review:

- No report.

Secondary Objectives:

- Velodrome
 - No report
- Community Events
 - The Halloween Drive-Through Event was very successful, with over 700 cars passing though during the event.
 - The City is assisting the Chamber of Commerce to plan a reverse holiday parade as a safe alternative to the traditional holiday parade.
- Development Opportunities for Disc Golf & Soccer on Tuskegee Dr. Parcels
 - No report

Director's Report:

- The department continues to work through the challenges of COVID-19 while providing recreational opportunities to the community.

Future Agenda Items:

- Development of a Board position on the proposed motorsports park prior to the 2nd City Council reading of zoning changes related to the Horizon Center properties. The zoning changes would be required for the project to move forward.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:09 PM.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. Kitzmiller", is written over a horizontal line.

David Kitzmiller
Vice Chairperson