

Minutes of the Recreation and Parks Advisory Board Meeting

April 8, 2021 Regular Meeting

The April 8, 2021 meeting of the Recreation and Parks Advisory Board was convened at 7:05 pm in the Social Room at the Oak Ridge Recreation Center.

Roll Call

Present: Mark Cantrell, Jake Greear, David Kitzmiller, Melissa McMahan, Michele Thornton

Absent: Kelly McCampbell, Chris Melhorn, Dan Robbins, Brad Spears

Approval of the March 11, 2021 Meeting Minutes

Motion to approve: David; second: Michelle. The March 11, 2021 meeting minutes were approved unanimously.

Appearance and Citizen Comments

- Doug Colclasure noted that the West End greenways were especially pretty this spring. He also praised recent gravel road maintenance by DOE in and around the BORCE.

Updates and Observations (Non Action Items):

- Jake asked if the Board had a role in ensuring the continuity of the North Boundary trail where it passes through Horizon Center parcels, now that the motorsports park proposal has been withdrawn. Jon Hetrick provided an overview of previous Board discussions on both the trail alignment and the proposed power line on the North Boundary to the Horizon Center. The Board was evaluating both issues prior to the motorsports park proposal, but had tabled the discussion pending the outcome of the motorsports development. Now that the Horizon Center parcels are again available for industrial development, it is quite possible that the Board will be requested to revisit those issues. No action has been requested at this time, however.

New Business

- None

Unfinished Business

- Staff to distribute CIP info to the Board.

Board Work Plan

Rails to Trails:

- Review of Right of Way plans by TDOT and City staff continues; the City's design contractor, AMT, is addressing comments as they are received.
- Michele asked for information about plans to continue the trail down Scarboro Rd to connect with Bethel Valley. Jon Hetrick stated that it is part of the larger greenway concept for the city, but there is no formal master plan. A master plan is required by some potential grant funding sources, but funding for a greenways master plan has not been identified yet.

Blueway Development:

- Michele suggested the city work to remain "on the radar" for the Riverline 652 project.
- Jake reported that Roane County, a Riverline 652 partner, was planning to acquire some kayaks and gear for use at public paddling events, with funding from the Riverline project.

West BORCE Resolution:

- No report.

Oak Ridge Outdoor Swimming Pool:

- In May, Aquatics Manager Vonda Wooten is planning to request Board review and comment on a user survey she is developing for pool attendees. The survey will gather information about their views on pool renovation/replacement. She will also provide the Board with an overview of what it takes to prepare the pool to open every year.

City Position & Policy on E-Bikes:

- No report.

Parks & Recreation Stewardship, Maintenance and Trail Development:

- No report.

CIP Review:

- Jon Hetrick will send the current Planning Commission CIP recommendation to the Board for review.

Secondary Objectives:

- Velodrome
 - No report.
- Community Events
 - Upcoming events include Graduation Celebration (May 27th); USA Cycling Time Trails (June 17th); Summer Camp (June & July)
- Development Opportunities for Disc Golf & Soccer on Tuskegee Dr. Parcels
 - Staff are evaluating a proposal to add additional formal tee pads and basket placements at the Mounds. Jake suggested the staff consider a project to improve access to the Mound tee pads.

Director's Report:

- Jack Suggs has been promoted from Electric Department Director to Assistant City Manager.

Future Agenda Items:

- Pool user survey review and pool opening overview (May)

The meeting was adjourned at 8:07 PM.



Jake Greear
Chairman