

# Minutes of the Recreation and Parks Advisory Board Meeting

## January 13, 2022 Regular Meeting

The January 13, 2022 meeting of the Recreation and Parks Advisory Board was convened at 7:02 pm in the Oak Ridge Recreation Center Social Room.

### Roll Call

Present: Mark Cantrell, Jake Greear, Kelly McCampbell, Melissa McMahan, Dan Robbins, Michele Thornton

Absent: David Kitzmiller, Chris Melhorn, Brad Spears

### Approval of the December 9, 2021 Meeting Minutes

Motion to approve: Mark Cantrell; second: Kelly McCampbell. The December 9, 2021 meeting minutes were approved unanimously.

### Board Work Plan

#### **Oak Ridge Swimming Pool:**

- The Board followed up on the discussion of holding a public input session on the project prior to issuing a survey. The meeting could potentially be held in late February.
- Staff received follow-up on the geotechnical testing performed on the pool shell. Additional testing (boring) was presented as an option in the report, but after discussions between the geotechnical testing firm and City staff it is not recommended at this time. Initial testing does not indicate concerns that would warrant the additional drilling through the pool shell.

#### **Rec & Parks CIP Review and Prioritization:**

- Rankings, as received from the Board, were reviewed. Jake Greear asked that any recommended edits be submitted to staff by January 14, 2022 (tomorrow). Staff will meet with the Planning Commission to review CIP requests on January 27<sup>th</sup>.

#### **North Boundary Greenway:**

- Michelle Thornton presented a draft position paper for Board review. The position paper outlined plans to develop a power line to provide additional power to the Horizon Center Industrial Park. As planned, a portion of the power line would be constructed adjacent to a section of the North Boundary Greenway. The draft position paper requests that the City consider other options for supplying power to the Horizon Center, including those outlined in a report issued by Cannon & Cannon in 2013.
- Jake Greear discussed the Board's interest in preserving the aesthetics of the area, with the understanding that the trail is located adjacent to an industrial park.
- City Manager Mark Watson commented that development conditions had changed since the Cannon & Cannon report was issued. He also reported that the City was looking at mitigation options for any tree clearing required for the construction of the power line. These discussions will potentially involve both the Park Board and the Environmental Quality Advisory Board (EQAB).
- Jake asked if the training facility currently under construction near the Horizon Center comes into play in the discussion. Mark Watson replied that the power draw is minimal compared to a typical industrial customer.
- Electric Director Ardo Ba explained that one of the reasons for supplying power from the proposed new line was to have redundancy in the electric feed to the industrial park. A recent power outage required the substation feeding the park to be de-energized to make repairs. There was no option to provide power from another source for a period of time.

- In response to a question from Michelle Thornton about how the training center is being fed power, Ardo explained that temporary power was coming underground from the Horizon Center. Conduit was being installed for power along with spares for later use (fiber optic, etc.).
- Jake Greear asked what the City's implementation plan is. Mark Watson responded that the City has received approval to cross Poplar Creek from the substation to the North Boundary area. A vegetation study is needed to determine actual clearing required to extend power to Horizon Center Lot 5. Once the power line reaches Lot 5 the power line will be located on Horizon Center property. The actual feed size will depend on actual needs of development. The City is currently looking for approval to build the line so construction of the line can be guaranteed to prospective developers. The actual lines will not be built until needed.
- Mark Cantrell asked about the possibility of moving the trail onto the Black Oak Ridge Conservation Easement (BORCE), adjacent to the current trail but away from the Horizon Center. Jon Hetrick responded that TWRA, the managing entity for the BORCE, has prohibited trail development there. In addition, the topography becomes very steep and unfavorable to development of a wide, gently rolling trail like the North Boundary Greenway.
- Dan Robbins said it was not the Board's responsibility to try to solve where to put the 69KV power line. It is the Board's role to protect the trail as a resource for recreation activities.
- Michelle Thornton then made a motion to approve the draft resolution as a Board position. Dan seconded the motion. The board members present voted unanimously to approve a resolution that the City consider other options for supplying additional power to Horizon Center than ones impacting the North Boundary Greenway.

#### **Greenway System:**

- Rails to Trails Project
  - The project engineers have requested a meeting with TDOT to resolve the outstanding conditions related to the Ernie's Creek hydrology.
- Greenway Master Plan Support
  - No report.
- Roadside Safety Evaluations and Advocacy
  - No report.

#### **Blueways Initiative**

- Michelle Thornton reported on the recently announced plan to transfer various parcels from DOE to TWRA, including Clark Center Park. She recommended the City engage with TWRA on the management of Clark Center Park, in particular, to ensure that it can be included in blueway planning. Mark Watson added that the recently signed letter of intent is the first stage in the land transfer

#### **Parks & Recreation Stewardship, Maintenance and Trail Development:**

- Doug Colclasure reported that CVTA will be doing a work day at Haw Ridge Park on Saturday at 9 AM.

#### **Secondary Objectives:**

- Community Events
  - No report
- Development Opportunities for Disc Golf & Soccer on Tuskegee Dr.
  - No report

#### **Unfinished Business**

- Jake Greear asked if there were any comments on the draft Bylaws, Rules & Procedures that had been distributed to the Board. Some minor editorial changes were suggested. Michelle Thornton made a motion to adopt the draft documents, with a second from Kelly McCampbell. The motion passed unanimously.

## New Business

- None

## Appearance and Citizen Comments

- Doug Colclasure was very complimentary of the Recreation & Parks Department parade float in the Chamber of Commerce Christmas Parade. He then provide an overview of the proposed land transfer from DOE to TWRA.
- Pat Postma and Alan Tatum presented a proposal for additional work to be performed by the City at the Peace Bell Pavilion site. Pat Postma provided a history of the Peace Bell project from its original planning to the present day. She then made a request for corrections to some of the project elements that fell short of expectations or were not included in the original project funding and made requests for additional work beyond the scope of the original project. The total requested work is estimated to cost approximately \$80K - \$90K. She would like the Board to recommend that the City provide half of the funding plus labor to complete the requested work.
- Dan Robbins suggested adding the project back into the Capital Improvement Project (CIP) process and asked what the Recreation & Parks Department could do to make the work happen. Jon Hetrick responded that has extremely limited discretionary funding that could be used for these requests, but the department has committed to provide labor and materials to replace the material in the walkways that was incorrectly installed during the original construction. Jake Greear noted that the CIP process can be very slow to get funding approval.
- Mark Watson remarked that it is a CIP appropriate project that needs to get "on the radar screen" to finish it out. Dan Robbins then suggested That Pat Postma and Alan Tatum make a direct appeal to City Council, rather than going through the CIP process. Dan then requested that the item be added to a future Board agenda for consideration of a recommendation by the Board.

## Updates and Observations (Non Action Items):

- Mark Watson reported that DOE was in the process of surveying the DOE property adjacent to homes on Whippoorwill Ave. in preparation for removal of the fence between the properties and the North Boundary Greenway. He stated that this is not a City or Park Board issue, but felt the Board should be aware of it in case they received any questions from citizens.


## Director's Report:

- Interviews were held to fill the Manager position at the Recreation Center. Those interviewed were strong candidates and the department is looking forward to extending an offer to fill the position very soon.

## Future Agenda Items:

- Consideration of a resolution to endorse additional funding for the Peace Bell Pavilion Project.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:54 PM.

  
Chairperson