

# Minutes of the Recreation and Parks Advisory Board Meeting

July 28, 2022 Regular Meeting

The July 28, 2022 meeting of the Recreation and Parks Advisory Board was convened at 6:09 pm in the Oak Ridge Recreation Center Social Room with Chairman Jake Greear presiding.

## Roll Call

Present: Mark Cantrell, Alissa Jones, Kelly McCampbell, Melissa McMahan, Chris Melhorn, Dan Robbins, Michelle Thornton, Jake Greear  
Absent: Brad Spears  
Also Present: Jon Hetrick, Recreation & Parks Director, staff liaison

## Approval of the June 9, 2022 Meeting Minutes

The June 9, 2022 meeting minutes were approved with no changes

## Board Work Plan

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

- Survey final results were shared with the board via email; Jon covered the highlights of the findings
- Did get funding of \$125,000 for a design contract for a pool renovation project
- Jon's goal to get a scope of work together to get something rolling by fall; board will assist with vetting that
- The survey was distributed via FaceBook and newsletters
- Jon encouraged the board to review the survey in-depth
- Public discussion was brought back up; we had originally discussed to be held during the pools open season but now it seems to be better suited once someone has been brought on board to assist with the overall renovation project
- Discussion to bring to the aquatics manager regarding specific questions for the pool
- Jon was going to check with the shelter to see what all the shelter plans for the end of year Puppy Pool Party; some discussion on if there were some fund-raising opportunities they could explore similar to what other areas have done with their community pools

### **North Boundary Greenway:**

- Carryover discussion around unintended usage on some trails

### **Greenway System:**

- Rails to Trails Project
  - Received 4-year extension on grant
  - Reallocation of funds on transportation improvement plan
    - Intent to carry us thru the acquisition of the trail line
    - 40 months to get the right of way acquired
- Greenway Master Plan Support
  - Goal is how to tie this all together; maybe in the fall/winter we can start discussion in more detail
  - May need to be its own plan but also aligns with the city's long-range plan

- Roadside Safety Evaluations and Advocacy
  - No new updates.

### **Blueways Initiative**

- Ellen Smith spurred discussions with National Parks Services (NPS)
  - Limited consultation approved; NPS to come out to community and work with them on local trails and parks
- Funding approved for the NPS consultant
  - They will be coming here for a visit; focus on concepts and engagement
  - Hoping for nonprofits to be involved
    - Advocates for the OR reservation (AFOR)
    - TN Citizens for Wilderness Planning (TCWP)
  - Set things up the next few months to see what can happen
  - Coach on how to bring entities together on how to move things forward
  - Something similar was discussed in the past. To meet the NPS for Blueway must have certain number of launch points so the thought is that it might be more regional versus Oak ridge
    - Anderson, Knox, Roane counties etc.
    - Having TCWP and AFOR will help spearhead this endeavor

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

- Realtors continue to share the Oak Ridge greenways as a benefit to moving to Oak Ridge

### **Secondary Objectives:**

- Community Events
  - Jon Hetrick provided a list of all events currently on the Rec & Parks Department calendar, including City events and events by outside organizations
- No updates on disc golf course or soccer complex
- Conference Center Update
  - Design dev work; more refined with the plan
  - Geotech work on south side closest to the creek

### **Unfinished Business**

- None to report

### **New Business**

- None to report

### **Appearance and Citizen Comments**

- Bill Henry – sent out the email to the board about the bridge
- Zeke Sanchez – consultant for DOE
- Doug Colclasure – reserve at the Clinch River which is a sizeable development; asking board to invite developer to share recreational attributes of the development to encourage development of a robust greenway on the property. There are master plans on file with amenities called out but they do not seem to include greenways

### **Updates and Observations (Non Action Items):**

- None to report


**Director's Report:**

- Funding for pool design work was approved; 10 or 11 project funding in the CIP for just over \$1M
  - Lot of projects coming down the pike
- New position funded Special Projects Coordinator
  - Position has been posted
  - Applications accepted through Friday 8.12

**Future Agenda Items:**

- None

The meeting was adjourned at 7:02 PM.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Jake Greear  
Chair

