

MINUTES OF CARTER COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD**MEETING HELD Sep 8th, 2016 at the Elk Mills Volunteer Fire Department**

The Elk Mills Volunteer Fire Department Hosted the meeting. Previously, some board members had visited the area on a community tour. This meeting offered the opportunity for the entire board to hear and assess the opportunities for a Pocket Park in Elk Mills

OPENING: Chairman Ken Gough called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

ROLL CALL: Ken Gough conducted a roll-call. A quorum was present.

Leon Humphrey (Mayor)	Absent	Randall Jenkins (Commission Liaison)	Present	Vacant (1)	Vacant
Erik Anderson (2)	Absent	Mel McKay (3)	Present	Jeff Smythe (4)	Absent
Ken Gough (5)	Present	J.R Campbell (6)	Present	Charlie Mattioli (7)	Present
Mike Melton (8)	Present	Bonnie Peters (Eliz Park and Rep)	Absent		

Guests were introduced: Mark Dunn, Floyd Matthews and Mike Walsh of the Elks Mills Volunteer Fire Department, County Commissioner John Lewis and wife, District 6. Dan Reese of Alpha Trace Consulting.

PREVIOUS MINUTES: Minutes of the August 4th meeting were provided to members before the meeting. The minutes were approved with corrections

PRESENTATIONS:

Recreation Plan - Dan Reese of Alpha Trace Consulting explained that the Recreation Plan he is writing will be a short, simple document, covering the essentials and adequate for submitting with grant applications. It will show that the County has thought through its needs and how to satisfy them, but deliberately leaves out the details and "bells and whistles". The Board concurred with this approach, and his presentation was well received. The plan will be ready for review in early December, with the intention of presenting it to the County Commission for approval in January.

OLD BUSINESS:

- 1. Community Tour:** (J.R. Campbell) Next tour in late October, to be determined at the October meeting
- 2. Elizabethton Parks and Rec:** (Charlie Mattioli) September EP&R Board meeting postponed, will report in October.
- 3. Birding:** (Charlie Mattioli for Denee Mattioli) – Next publication (Birds of Roan Mountain) in final review, out soon. Children's Guide to follow in short order.
- 4. Mountain Biking:** – No report.

5. **Carter County's Tweetsie Extension** (Ken Gough) No further action, reasons unclear since there has been no contact with Chris Schuettler.
6. **Roan Mountain Community Park:** (Ken Gough for Erik Anderson) Erik provided a written report before the meeting (see attached). Fundraising for the potential Community Stage has proceeded faster than expected. Erik plans to bring a proposal to the October meeting to request approval to proceed and start construction in the spring.
7. **Website:** (Ken Gough) Nothing significant to report. Functioning well. Mel McKay and Ken will attempt to complete the "List of Everything" by the next meeting.
8. **Road Cycling:** (Ken Gough) Nothing to report.
9. **District 1 Representative:** (Ken Gough) Per Leon Humphrey, one application received, soliciting more.
10. **Overmountain Victory Trail** -- (Ken Gough) Written report submitted outlining an exchange of emails with the OVT partners (see attached). There appears to have been an unfortunate but unintentional failure to communicate the NPS's plan to the Board. The Master Plan under consideration will cover the section from Abingdon to Sycamore Shoals, then to an undetermined point a little further on (perhaps to the Elizabethton city limits on Old Gap Creek Road). A meeting of partners to clear the air and firm up the plan will be held sometime in October. Motion to commit \$5,000 to the planning effort was tabled pending outcome of that meeting.
11. **Welcome signs** -- (Mel McKay) Information turned over to the Tourism Council. Our involvement is ended unless they request our assistance.
12. **Adventure tourism** -- (Ken Gough) Per ECD, applications will be accepted next year. We will review and update our application as needed, then submit at the proper time.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. **Carter County Hunting & Fishing Assn.** -- (Ken Gough) Ken visited the group on Sept. 6 to explain our purpose and solicit establishment of a Memorandum of Understanding. The group is attempting to develop a multi-acre shooting sports park, which might fit well into the Pocket Park concept. No decisions, but the presentation was well received. On Board instruction, the shooting park will be added to our project list.
2. **Website** -- On motion duly made, seconded and unanimously passed on roll call vote, \$600 is authorized for website hosting in FY 2016/17.
3. **Potential Elk Mills Pocket Park** - JR Campbell and the Elk Mills Volunteer Fire Department led a discussion of the needs, the potential locations and potential partners for a Pocket Park in Elk Mills. The Board's role as laid out in the Policy on Pocket Parks was explained. The location near the Volunteer Fire Department on the Elk River (where a community park was located prior to the 1998 flood) was discussed. Potential traffic safety issues and the potential for flooding make this location problematic. There is a more favorable property upstream from the Fire Department which might become available. Regarding an operating partner, the Elk Mills Volunteer Fire Department cannot take on

the task but-with J.R. Campbell's help, they will try to organize a community group for the purpose and obtain a property. Therefore, on motion duly made, seconded and unanimously passed on voice vote, the Parks and Recreation Board pledged that \$5,000 will be held for a Pocket Park in Elk Mills, subject to the Elk Mills Volunteer Fire Department's successful effort to obtain the property and organize a community group to construct and operate it. The board also commits to providing advice and assistance to the effort per our Policy on Pocket Parks.

4. **Grants** – There was a brief discussion of projects for which we might request grants (4 projects identified). Mel pointed out that, while state grant requests are due in the spring, private requests are usually less formal and accepted at any time. Given the difficulties of preparing and administering grants, it was suggested that we need expert help. Therefore Ken was instructed to invite the First Tennessee Development District to send a representative to the October meeting. Further discussion was postponed until after FTDD's presentation.
5. **NEXT MEETING:** The next meeting will be on Oct. 6, 2016, at 6 PM in the County Courthouse.

ADJOURNMENT:

The Chairman closed the Meeting at 8:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Erik Anderson
Secretary