

**APPROVED**

**MINUTES OF CARTER COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD**

**MEETING HELD May 7th, 2015 801 East Elk Ave, Elizabethton, TN 37643**

**OPENING:** Chairman Ken Gough called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM

**ROLL CALL:**

Erik Anderson conducted a roll-call. A quorum was present.

Leon Humphrey (Mayor)	Present	Randall Jenkins (Commission Liaison)	Present	William Birchfield (1)	Present
Erik Anderson (2)	Present	Charles Dykes (3)	Absent	Jeff Smythe (4)	Present
Ken Gough (5)	Present	J.R Campbell (6)	Present	Charlie Mattioli (7)	Present
Jim Hughes (8)	Present	Bonnie Peters (Eliz Park and Rep)	Present		

**Guests were introduced:** Josh Hardin, County Attorney, Mike Mains (Elizabethton Parks and recreation Board, Lee Woodby (Carter County Little League), Sean Wiggins and Anthony Duncan (SORBA)

**PREVIOUS MINUTES:**

Previous minutes of the April 9<sup>th</sup> meeting were reviewed. Jim made a motion to approve as submitted. Bill seconded. The minutes were approved unanimously.

**PRESENTATIONS:**

1. Lee Woodby of Carter County American Little League provided background on the Carter County Little League. They currently have 52 teams. He also informed us of their need for additional ball fields and improved facilities For example, the restroom facilities at Cat Island Park are a most pressing priority. They are working with the Elizabethton Parks and Recreation on opportunities for other fields as well as the Cat Island Bathrooms and they are helping improve the Roan Mountain T-Ball field.
2. Sean Wiggins of SORBA – Southeastern Off-Road Biking Association, Tri-Cities Chapter – informed us of the mountain biking potential in Carter County and offered to work with us on potential future projects. Medium to long-range project, three to five years out, may be most feasible for collaboration. We will stay in touch. The revitalization of the Chamber’s Tourism Council would assist in these efforts.
3. Mike Mains, Director of Elizabethton Parks & Recreation Board presented the board with their Needs Assessment Report. He discussed urgent, future and facility needs. He added that a skate park might be a more likely endeavor in the current environment. He introduced Bonnie Peters as the Elizabethton Parks and Recreation Board Liaison to the County Parks and Rec Board. Our representative to the Elizabethton Parks and Recreation Board is Charlie Mattioli. Summary is their list of priorities, closely tracks with our potential projects list. We will closely coordinate our efforts.

**OLD BUSINESS.**

1. Source of Compensation: Josh Hardin and the Mayor reported that this issue is still to be determined. It will be addressed at the next meeting
2. Permit/Fees for River Access: Josh Hardin reported that to do this the County Commission would have to initiate a Private Act. Two counties in Tennessee currently collect fees. There are also other potential issues with TVA and perhaps the Federal government. This idea was tabled by the board.
3. Follow-up on gifts and donations: Josh Hardin reported that there are procedures for the board to accept donations. Under the current structure the board may not solicit donations or carry out fund-raising activities
4. Reports/Updates from members on potential projects. All projects were discussed. Current way ahead for select projects is:
  - a. Tweetsie Trail Completion Donation: Josh Hardin discussed the potential issues associated with a donation to Johnson City to support the completion of the Tweetsie Trail. Jim Hughes will contact CTAS for advice on Tweetsie donation.
  - b. Tweetsie Trail Extension – The Mayor and Ken reported on cost of signs (about \$50/each installed).
    - i. Randall will contact county planner about sign locations and number needed, then
    - ii. Pass the information to the Mayor to get a final quote from the highway department for installation, and
    - iii. The Board will try to take action next month.
  - c. Baseball and skateboard facilities – Charlie will work with Eliz P&R to find a suitable location and funding. Long-term project.
  - d. Greenhouse – The Mayor reported that the County Jail Greenhouse may not be a viable option. Instead he suggested we work with the high schools' greenhouses. JR will assess the potential with county school director.
  - e. Birding – Ken provided a proposal on Carter County Birding from Fred Alsop of the Tennessee Ornithological Society at ETSU. Ken will pursue the plan.
5. Tourism Council: The Mayor reported that the Tourism council is still in disarray. We will revisit the subject next month.

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

### **1. Roan Mountain Community Park**

- a. Erik provided a monthly report to the Parks and Recreation Board. No significant issues required immediate Parks and Rec Board attention. The Parks and Recreation Board decided to hold the August 6<sup>th</sup> meeting at the Roan Mountain Community Park at 6:00PM
- b. Farmers Market Agreement: Josh Hardin reported that from his perspective the Roan Mountain Farmer's Market agreement is acceptable and that he had a letter from the County Insurance Vendor that the Farmers Market did not present undue risk. Erik made a motion to approve the use of the Roan Mountain Community Park for a Farmers Market. Jim seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

2. **Community Visits:** J.R. highlighted the potential benefits of Board Member orientation by Community Visits. He will bring a specific recommendation on dates/times for visits to the next meeting.
3. **Property Reports:** The property listing of 31 properties were reviewed and discussed – Four properties have potential for pocket parks or other uses. The Mayor will remove them from the sale list for the time being.
4. **NEXT MEETING:** The next meeting will Thursday June 4th at 7:00 PM in the Mayor's Conference Room.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

The Chairman closed the Meeting at 9:38 PM

Respectfully submitted,  
*Erik Anderson*  
Secretary