

APPROVED

MINUTES OF CARTER COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD

MEETING HELD April 6th, 2017 at 801 East Elk Ave, Elizabethton, TN 37643

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

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

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

Guests were introduced: Mr. Bill Watson and Mr. Russel Sutton – Back Country Horsemen of East Tennessee (BCHET); Chris Schuettler – Carter County Planning Office; a contingent of officers from Appalachian Paddling Enthusiasts (APE) which included Wesley Bradley, Steven Adams, Patrice Risenberg, Jerry Smith, Rahul Subramanian, Mr. Aaron Frazier – Carter County Hunting and Fishing, Mr. Jeff Wright – President of the Overmountain Chapter of Trout Unlimited; and Mr. Kevin Arnold form District 5.

PREVIOUS MINUTES: Minutes of the March 2nd, 2017 meeting were provided to members before the meeting. Charlie Mattioli made a motion to approve. Michael Melton seconded. The minutes were approved unanimously.

PRESENTATIONS/SIGNINGS:

1. MOU with the Appalachian Paddling Enthusiast to develop white water rafting opportunities was signed by Mr. Wesley Bradley and Mr. Ken Gough. The Board of APE was present.
2. MOU with Carter County Hunting and Fishing to develop a shooting range was signed by Mr. Aaron Frazier and Mr. Ken Gough
3. Mr. Jeff Wright gave an overview of the Overmountain Chapter of Trout Unlimited. They have approximately 300 members in the Tri-cities/upper East Tennessee. They are very active in Carter County with stream/river clean ups as well as preservation and improvement of brook trout habitat. One of the new concepts that they are using in another county is "Trout in a Classroom". The concept is for a teacher/students to take trout from eggs to release using a cold water aquarium set-up. A typical set up costs approximately \$1,400 to \$1,800. The program fits well with other disciplines being taught in most schools. We will seek and MOU with the Overmountain Chapter of Trout Unlimited.
4. Mr. Bill Watson of BCHET made a presentation of the parking lot project that they are working with the Planning Office. The approximately 3+ acre property is off Railroad Grade road near the State Prison Annex. The primary purpose of the parking lot is to give BCHET a parking lot which will improve their access to several trails that connect to Tower Road. Chris Schuettler added that a completed parking lot could probably support up to 38 cars and 12 trucks with trailers. The parking lot offers several future potential future expansion/capabilities. For example, the parking lot could serve as a terminus for the Carter County Tweetsie Extension phase 2. As such it would improve access to the "Upper Doe" for the APE and Trout fishermen. It could also serve as a picnic area. There are septic tanks on site which could possibly support a restroom. It could also be the major factor in connecting a

walking/biking trail that would eventually connect to the Roan Mountain Community Park. The next step is for the Planning Office to check with the Highway Department to explore possible approaches to completing the parking lot. Cost of materials may be in the realm of \$13,000. The idea of developing an operating agreement between BCHET, the RMRF, APE, and perhaps other organizations was broached. The completion of the parking lot in 2017 was also thought to be a good precursor action for 2018 grant request for the Carter County Tweetsie Extension Phase 2.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. **Hampton Doe River Access (AKA Green Bridge Park) Pocket Park.** Wes Bradley of APE provided an update. Survey has been completed. Initial project concept is complete. Transfer of property from School Board progressing. The IDEAS group and APE have permission to conduct clearing and site clean-up. A work day is scheduled for Saturday April 8th. The Planning Office is working necessary permits. Project remains on a very fast track.
2. **Other Pocket Parks:** J.R Campbell continues to search for an appropriate property and has identified another candidate. Randall and Ken have broached the subject of opening up some or most Elementary School playgrounds to public use after hours. The School Board will review their policy and options to include perhaps the Park and Rec Board picking up the cost of additional insurance.
3. **Carter County Hunting & Fishing Assn.** (Randall Jenkins) The Landfill does not look like an acceptable location. Randall, Aaron and Chris will discuss other opportunities to include potential National Forest Service locations.
4. **Community Tour:** (J.R Campbell) Next tour will be in June. One idea suggested was a land identification trip perhaps with Chris S participation. J.R will identify a date at the next meeting.
5. **Multi-Sports Park:** (Charlie Mattioli) Mike Mains and the Elizabethton City engineering department walked the TDOT property this week. Their preliminary assessment was that the property was not favorable for a 4 ballfield configuration. It still may be a good property for a 2 ball field park with other capabilities (trails, picnic areas, dog park, etc.). Charlie is pursuing other nearby properties in the Happy Valley area.
6. **Elizabethton Parks and Rec:** (Mike Mains) No report.
7. **Birding:** (Charlie Mattioli) The Children's guide has gone to press and the product should be available in a few weeks. This is the third product produced in cooperation with the Herndon birders.
8. **Mountain Biking:** -- Bob Richards (formerly with TDEC and now a consultant) declined to give a proposal for developing a plan for Sugar Hollow. Mike Mains will be looking for another firm. The Sugar Hollow property has experienced significant tree fall during the winter storms to the point where some previous paths/trails are no longer accessible. County Prison or State Prison work crews will be needed to clear the paths.
9. **Roan Mountain Community Park:** Erik provided a written report. A planning meeting was held with Farmers Market Vendors. The Community Garden has been plowed and

expanded this year. Mowing season has started and equipment is functional. The stage construction has started.

- 10. **Website:** (Ken Gough) Web pages are under development for Carter County Hunting and Fishing as well as Appalachian Paddling Entusiasts.
- 11. **Road Cycling:** (Ken Gough) Ken met with the TDOT Bicycling Coordinator and others to discuss several potential Road Cycling routes. They toured the potential Powder Mary Loop. TDOT is reworking their cycling program. Ken suggested that they use Carter County as a pathfinder/prototype as we have all types of roadways in many challenging terrains and varying traffic patterns. We are still awaiting approval of the Powder Mary route.
- 12. **Overmountain Victory Trail Master Plan** – CC Parks and Rec received the invoice for its \$5,000 pledge. We were also informed that the East Tennessee Foundation will be submitting their \$2,500 pledge.
- 13. **Recreation Master Plan:** Mr. Reece hopes to deliver a product by the end of April.

NEW BUSINESS:

- 1. **Budget Committee Presentation:** Ken will present our proposed budget of \$49,200 to the Budget Committee on April 10th. Board members were encouraged to contact their district commissioners to be available to answer any question they may have.
- 2. **AT Community Celebrations:** Planning for the AT Community Designation event and the hiker TRAILFEST celebration continue. Board members are encouraged to attend the Designation event on April 24th at 1:20 PM in the Roan Mountain Community Park. TRAILFEST will be May 6th.
- 3. **Public Health Grant Application/Roan Mountain Playground:** Erik met with Dave McQueen from City of Elizabethton Parks and Rec and a representative of Game Time incorporated. Upon his return from vacation Mel will be contacting an insurance person to visit the playground and provide his advice. Erik is interviewing parents and users of the playground as opportunities arise. Mel and Erik will proceed with a goal of doing as much as possible with the funds we can amass. The initial plan is to use Grant funds for purchase of equipment and use RMRF and Carter County Parks and Rec funding to accomplish site preparation which may cost on the order of \$8,000. In support of site preparation: Randall made a motion that we transfer the \$3000 from this year's budget that was earmarked for RMRF potential lawnmower purchase to the RMRF for Playground preparation work. Mike Melton seconded the motion.

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

The motion passed unanimously.

Final

Randall made a motion that the Parks and Rec Board advance \$5,000 from next years budget identified for the Roan Mountain Playground to site preparation if needed. Jeff seconded. Mel and Erik will assess if and when this funding will be needed.

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

The motion passed unanimously.

4. **Next Meeting:** The next meeting will be Thursday June 1st, at 6 PM in the County Courthouse.

ADJOURNMENT:

The Chairman closed the Meeting at 8:52 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Erik Anderson
Secretary