

MINUTES OF CARTER COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD

8-3-17

MEETING HELD June 1st, 2017 at 801 East Elk Ave, Elizabethton, TN 37643

OPENING: Chairman Ken Gough called the meeting to order at 6:10 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)	Present
Erik Anderson (2)	Present	Mel McKay (3)	Present	Jeff Smythe (4)	Absent
Ken Gough (5)	Present	J.R Campbell (6)	Absent	Charlie Mattioli (7)	Absent
Mike Melton (8)	Present	Eliz Park and Rep	Absent		

Guests were introduced: Katrina Meshell private citizen.

PREVIOUS MINUTES: Minutes of the April 6th, 2017 meeting were provided to members before the meeting. The minutes were approved unanimously.

PRESENTATIONS: Katrina Meshell visited to ask our assistance in getting access to the Tweetsie Trail for the Franklin Place Apartments (senior living) on Stateline Road. The Board reviewed pictures and description of topography and discussed potential solutions. This would be a difficult undertaking because of location on a curve in the road and a steep, 12-ft-plus descent from Stateline Road to the trail. During the discussion we determined that Franklin Place Apartments are within Elizabethton city limits. We referred her to Jon Hartmann, the city's planner and Ken will give Jon a head's up.

OLD BUSINESS:

- 1. Carter County Hunting & Fishing Assn. (Randall Jenkins)** Randall Jenkins will be setting up a meeting with Aaron and Chris Schuettler and the National Forest Service to explore potential locations for a shooting range. We will solicit the help of our legislators to assist in this effort.
- 2. Hampton Doe River Access (AKA Green Bridge Park) Pocket Park.** (Ken Gough) The Planning Office continues to work the TDEC permit. Other items in work are the TWRA ramp design and an operating agreement. USA Raft could not be the operating partner. The Appalachian Paddling Enthusiasts had some reservations on the operating agreement and will be proposing changes. Randall Jenkins will ask a prison work crew to continue the brush clean-up. The Herndon Birders have expressed interest in developing a bird habitat.
- 3. Community Tour:** (J.R Campbell). JR was absent. Nothing significant to report.
- 4. Elizabethton Parks and Rec:** No report. The Park and Recreation Board is both sorry and delighted to learn that Mike Mains has accepted a job as Johnson City's Asst. Director of Parks & Rec. The working relationship we've developed has been mutually beneficial and greatly appreciated. We look forward to working as closely with the new director, whomever that may be. Several joint projects will essentially be on hold until a new Director gets up to speed

5. **Birding:** (Charlie Mattioli) Charlie was absent. The Children's guide is being distributed. They will likely be used by some of the schools in the fall. The Herndon Birders next partnership project with us will be an update on the birds of Carter County publication which is approximately 30 years old.
6. **Mountain Biking:** – (Jeff Smythe) Jeff was absent. Nothing Significant to Report. This project is one of the joint projects that is essentially on hold until a new Elizabethton Park and Recreation Board Director is in place.
7. **Roan Mountain Community Park:** Erik provided a written monthly report as well as an Appalachian Trail TRAILFEST report. TRAILFEST went well despite inclement weather. He stated that for next year's event that we attempt to use the County Insurer for event insurance if needed. The Farmers Market is off to a slow start. The Community Garden is being planted. Mowing season well underway. No significant problems noted.
8. **Multi-Sports Park:** (Charlie Matioli) Progress on this effort is probably delayed until Elizabethton's new Park and Recreation Director gets up to speed. Elizabethton checking on price of land near Happy Valley Elementary, and will try to get an engineering study of the TDOT land.
9. **Website:** (Ken Gough) Working with Carter County Fishing and Hunting to develop a web page.
10. **Road Cycling:** (Ken Gough) Nothing significant to report.
11. **Adventure Tourism** – The State has started taking applications for this program and our application has been submitted. Although the designation would benefit the Tourism and Chamber of Commerce mostly, such a designation may be useful in soliciting future grants.
12. **Overmountain Victory Trail Master Plan** – (Mel McKay) The Rocky Mount chapter is managing the effort. Mel will check on status.
13. **Recreation Master Plan:** No update. Dan Reese is experiencing health issues.
14. **Pocket Parks:** Michael Warren reported that there was group interest in improving the Blue Hole. He will contact Buford Peters to discuss.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. **Roan Mountain Community Park Playground Refurbishment:** Erik and Mel provided a status report. They met with a TN Risk Reduction representative on April 20th. The representative advised that wooden structures with updated playground surfaces are acceptable for the community park. The strawman concept is to remove and replace the standalone swing set, refurbish the hardware on the "fort" structure, and establish appropriate use areas. The way ahead is to refine the concept, garner community input in July, order material in August and install in September.

Erik made a motion that: **The Park and Recreation Board disburse the \$10,000 Rural Access to Health and Healthy Built Environment (RAHHABE) Grant to the Roan Mountain Recreation Foundation, Randal seconded.**

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

The motion passed unanimously.

2. **Budget Workshop:** Ken led a discussion on the proposed budget. The Carter County Budget committee has recommended \$25,000 which is a substantial increase from last year but approximately half of our \$49,200 request. We will respectfully request more at the June 19th Commission meeting. Randall indicated that commissioners he had spoken with were favorably oriented to supporting out of cycle requests for matching grant opportunities.
3. **Next Meeting:** The next meeting will be Thursday August 3rd, at 6 PM at the Roan Mountain Community Park. The key focus will be planning our 2017/2018 activities.

ADJOURNMENT:

The Chairman closed the Meeting at 8:33 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Erik Anderson
 Secretary