

MINUTES OF CARTER COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD

MEETING HELD September 14th, 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)	Present
Ken Gough (5)	Present	J.R Campbell (6)	Present	Charlie Mattioli (7)	Present
Mike Melton (8)	Present	Eliz Park and Rep	Absent		

Guests were introduced: Jerry Griffin (Appalachian Paddling Enthusiasts) Chris Schuettler (Carter County Planning Office)

PREVIOUS MINUTES: Minutes of the August 3rd, 2017 meeting were provided to members before the meeting. The minutes were approved unanimously.

PRESENTATIONS: None

OLD BUSINESS:

1. **Carter County Hunting & Fishing Assn:** (Randall Jenkins) Nothing Significant to Report
2. **Community Tour:** (J.R Campbell). The next community tour will focus on the Watauga area. We will depart the Courthouse at 09:00 on Saturday, October 14th and return by noon.
3. **Elizabethton Parks and Rec:** Elizabethton Parks and Rec Board was unable to take action on the multi-sport land resolution.
4. **Birding:** (Charlie Mattioli) Nothing Significant to Report
5. **Mountain Biking:** – (Jeff Smythe) Jeff will accomplish an assessment of the Hampton Watershed trail and parking lot. We may need better direction signs and the information kiosk may need refurbishment.
6. **Roan Mountain Community Park:** (Erik Anderson) Erik provided a written monthly report before the meeting. The Farmers Market is completing another successful season. Although there are fewer vendors the ones that are regular do well. The stage is being well used with a "Tuesday Tunes program, Tai Chi and music on Saturdays during the Farmers Market. Work on the playground has not yet started as we are awaiting the volunteer to dig out the usage areas. Two items required Park and Rec action:
 - i. **Accessible Parking Improvements:** Erik made a recommendation that "The Park and Recreation Board would concur with a RMRF request to the Highway Committee to officially close the dead end portion of Carter Street as a County

Road” This would allow the RMRF to properly construct accessible parking. Michael Warren seconded. The recommendation was passed unanimously.

ii. **Happy Trails Park:** Erik made a motion that: “The Park and Recreation Board concur with RMRF efforts to organize and plan for a fourth component of the Roan Mountain Community Park, the Happy Trails Park” This multi-use parking lot will be located at the juncture of Highway 19-E and Old Railroad Grade and will be a terminus of the Carter County Tweetsie Extension Phase 2. Mel seconded the motion. The recommendation was passed unanimously.

7. **Tweetsie Extension:** (Ken Gough) The highway department has emplaced more signs along Old Railroad Grade Road and Bear Cage Road.
8. **Overmountain Victory Trail Master Plan** – (Mel McKay) The Master Plan has been signed. Mel will check on when we might expect results.
9. **Website:** (Ken Gough) Nothing Significant to Report
10. **Road Cycling:** (Ken Gough) Nothing Significant to Report.
11. **Recreation Master Plan:** (Ken Gough) A final draft was provided to members before the meeting. Ken asked that all board members review and provide comments to him. Our goal is to approve the plan at the next meeting and post it on our website. The final invoice to include printing would be \$3,599. Ken made a motion to approve and pay the final invoice which would include the printing cost. Erik 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)	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.

12. **Multi-Sports Park:** (Charlie Mattioli) An updated resolution for the County to obtain the TDOT property near Happy Valley HS was provided before the meeting. Michael Warren made a motion to approve the revised resolution. Mel seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Separately, several people are investigating a way to obtain access to the property that we looked at on Gap Creek Road. Charlie and Mike Melton were encouraged to start developing a support group in case this property becomes viable.

13. **Adventure Tourism** – (Ken Gough) Nothing Significant to Report
14. **Pocket Parks:** Michael Warren continues to work on potential opportunities in the Stony Creek area. He is currently working with some citizens in the Buladean area.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Hampton Doe River Access (AKA Green Bridge Landing) Pocket Park.** (Ken Gough)
An updated draft Volunteer Services Agreement has been worked between the Appalachian Paddling Enthusiasts and the Carter County Parks and Recreation Board. Randall made a motion that we approve the agreement. Michael Warren seconded. A roll call vote was taken:

Leon Humphrey (Mayor)	Absent	Randall Jenkins (Commission Liaison)	Yes	Michael Warren (1)	Yes
Erik Anderson (2)	Yes	Mel McKay (3)	Yes	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.

Status of the development efforts were discussed. A construction plan has been prepared. Much of the debris and trash have been removed and weed killer applied. The parking area is well on its way to completion thanks to the IDEAs group, the River APEs, other volunteers, Randall Jenkins, Mel McKay and Chris Schuettler. The APEs will build the landing during a planned work day on Sept 29th.

The APEs requested that the park be officially name park the "Green Bridge Landing". Michael Warrren made the motion that we approve the naming. Mel seconded. A roll call vote was taken.

Leon Humphrey (Mayor)	Absent	Randall Jenkins (Commission Liaison)	Yes	Michael Warren (1)	Yes
Erik Anderson (2)	Yes	Mel McKay (3)	Yes	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.

- Riverside Park Playground Equipment:** (Ken Gough). Elizabethton Parks and Recreation is replacing the playground equipment at Riverside Park and has offered it to the Carter County Parks and Rec. Jr Campbell requested that Little Milligan be given the equipment. He will arrange for removal and transportation.
- 2018 Grant Application, Carter County Tweetsie Extension Phase 2.** (Ken Gough) Ken led a discussion on what project we would submit for the 2018 Grant Cycle. Since Elizabethton Parks and Rec will not be able to work on the multi-sports park in 2018 we will pursue the Carter County Tweetsie Extension Phase 2. The Phase 2 extension would run from Old Railroad Grade to the Roan Mountain Community Park. It will use the Happy Trails Park as a departure point assuming it is under construction. Jeff made a motion that we adopt the Carter County Tweetsie Extension Phase 2 as our 2018 Grant Cycle candidate. Mike Warren seconded. The motion was passed unanimously.

This project will require a major State grant (perhaps LPRF) and perhaps others. The grant development and management would be beyond the resources of our Board, Mike Warren

made a motion that the Board authorize the Chairman to approach and negotiate with First Tennessee Development District (FTDD) to assist and manage the grant development. Randall seconded. A roll call vote was taken.

Leon Humphrey (Mayor)	Absent	Randall Jenkins (Commission Liaison)	Yes	Michael Warren (1)	Yes
Erik Anderson (2)	Yes	Mel McKay (3)	Yes	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. **Quadratec Grant:** (Erik Anderson) Erik made a motion that The Park and Rec Board endorse the RMRF applying for a \$3,500 grant from the Quadratec Corporation for parking lot gravel in the Happy Trails Park. Charlie seconded. The motion passed unanimously.
5. **Small Projects Discussion” (Ken Gough)** Ken led a discussion on pre-planning for projects and potential future grant requests. Ken will compile a list from our inputs for use at the next meeting.
6. **Next Meeting:** The next meeting will be Thursday, October 5th at 6:00 PM at the Courthouse

ADJOURNMENT:

The Chairman closed the Meeting at 8:40 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Erik Anderson
 Secretary