

**APPROVED****MINUTES OF CARTER COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD****MEETING HELD January 11<sup>th</sup> 2018 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<br>(Mayor) | Absent  | Randall Jenkins<br>(Commission Liaison) | Absent  | Michael Warren (1)   | Present |
| 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                       | Absent  |                      |         |

**Guests were introduced:** Chris Schuettler (Carter County Planning Office); Lance Lowery (First TN Development District); Reneau Dubberley, (Tri Cities Road Club Race Director)**PREVIOUS MINUTES:** Minutes of the November 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2017 meeting were provided to members before the meeting. The minutes were approved unanimously.**PRESENTATIONS:**

- Doe River Trail Grant:** The proposed 2.1 mile trail along the Doe River would connect the Roan Mountain Community Park and the Happy Trails Park. Lance Lowery of FTDD explained the process of applying for a TDEC Recreational Trails Program grant, and the pros and cons of the grant, with input from Chris Schuettler. Lowery advised us not to seek the grant if there was any possible way to build the trail using local resources. Even if the grant is received in the summer of 2018, it is highly unlikely that construction can begin before 2020, and there are a number of requirements that will significantly increase the cost of the project. After debate it was decided that there is no other practical way to do the project. The deadline for grant submission is April 15<sup>th</sup>. Submission requirements include a project description and three public hearings on the proposed project with minutes. Additionally a resolution from the County Commission to provide matching funds is required. The grant requires a 20% match (Cash or in-kind contribution however cash is preferred) so the County matching funds would be \$50K for a \$250K grant. Approved grants would be identified after August 2018. At that time environmental engineering (includes archeological aspects) takes place. Chris estimated that environmental engineering costs would be between \$5K and \$10K. Environmental engineering must be accomplished before the grant monies are disbursed. Property easement may be accomplished before grant submission or during the environmental engineering phase. Lance would be the lead for the grant submission. Chris S would be the technical lead and prepare a preliminary concept. Ken will be the administrative lead. Ken then asked if the Board wanted to proceed with the grant effort.

**Erik made a motion that Park and Rec pursue the Doe River Trail RTP grant for the 2018 grant cycle. Mike Warren seconded. Due to the significance of this undertaking a Roll Call vote was taken.**

|                       |        |                                      |        |                      |     |
|-----------------------|--------|--------------------------------------|--------|----------------------|-----|
| Leon Humphrey (Mayor) | Absent | Randall Jenkins (Commission Liaison) | Absent | Michael Warren (1)   | Yes |
| 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                    | Absent |                      |     |

**The motion was approved unanimously.**

**OLD BUSINESS:**

1. **Green Bridge Landing Park:** Chris Schuettler provided an update. Most site work has been accomplished. The TVA has committed to providing a bear proof trash can. Chris will check to see if it will be delivered or we have to pick it up. Cloudland High School shop is making the sign. Work on the Changing station is not expected to start before March.
2. **Shooting Park:** Nothing significant to report
3. **Community Tour:** Nothing significant to Report.
4. **Elizabethton Parks and Rec:** (Charlie Mattioli) Their next meeting is January 25<sup>th</sup>. Feb 15<sup>th</sup> they will have a public meeting to solicit feedback on priorities for the coming year
5. **Birding:** (Charlie Mattioli) Nothing significant to report.
6. **Mountain Biking:** – (Jeff Smythe) – There was concern that a right-of-way had been granted to a developer that would interfere with the Hampton Watershed Trail. This is incorrect. Instead, temporary access was granted to an adjacent landowner to allow him to perform logging operations. No long-term effect.
7. **Roan Mountain Community Park:** (Erik Anderson) A written report was submitted separately. Two items required Park and Rec Board attention. The County Commission approved \$6,714 to be added to the Park and Rec Line item to assist in Roan Mountain Community Park flood remediation in their November 2017 meeting..

**Erik made a motion that Park and Rec disburse \$6714 to the RMRF for flood remediation. Jeff seconded. A roll call vote was taken.**

|                       |        |                                      |        |                      |     |
|-----------------------|--------|--------------------------------------|--------|----------------------|-----|
| Leon Humphrey (Mayor) | Absent | Randall Jenkins (Commission Liaison) | Absent | Michael Warren (1)   | Yes |
| 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                    | Absent |                      |     |

**The motion was approved unanimously.**

The second Appalachian Trail days will take place during the first weekend in May of 2018. Planning is underway for the event.

**Erik made a motion that the Park and Recreation Board approve a permanent authorization of camping in the Roan Mountain Community Park for all future Appalachian Trail Day events. Charlie seconded. The motion was passed unanimously.**

8. **Overmountain Victory Trail Master Plan** – Nothing significant to report

9. **Website:** (Ken Gough) Nothing significant to report

10. **Road Cycling:** (Ken Gough) Mr. Reneau Dubberly, the Tri Cities Road Club Race Director updated the Board on this summer's "Roan Groan" race. This year the race will take place on June 2<sup>nd</sup>. In previous years the Elizabethton Carter County Chamber of Commerce has been a sponsor of the race. Last year there were a total of 311 riders and 495 people came to our area for the Roan Groan. He specifically was looking for the Parks and Recreation Board to be a "support sponsor" this year. The board will address the sponsorship at its next meeting.

11. **Multi-Sports Park:**

- i. **GAP CREEK PARK:** Chris and Charlie provided a conceptual lay-out of the Gap Creek Park. The current concept calls for two softball fields, large and small breed dog parks, a Multi-use building with restrooms, a 1/3<sup>rd</sup> mile paved walking trail, a playground, a gazebo, a pedestrian bridge across Gap Creek and 47 graveled parking spaces and 23 paved parking spaces. Chris is working to identify interest from potential partners. Chris and Charlie will stake out the property next week to provide a better visualization to any interested parties.
- ii. **POWDER BRANCH PARK:** Mayor Humphrey is currently negotiating with TDOT for the land. TDOT has offered a 15-year lease, with the intent and expectation that the land will be permanently transferred to the county once plans for the park are completed. While there are concerns about this approach and some of the other conditions in the proposal, the Mayor believes that it is viable and the best they will offer.

12. **HAPPY TRAILS PARK:** Chris provided an update on recent work. He also provided an aerial view of the park and noted where stumps and roots have been removed as well as the work accomplished on the entrance. Fill has been added to create a 22 ft wide entrance with an acceptable slope for horse trailers. Grading has been accomplished which will permit horse trailers to enter and then have parking for three rows of trailers. The park is almost ready for gravel. He also showed the board the concept for location of the new launch point for the Appalachian Paddling Enthusiast and a proposed ADA compliant fishing area. The fishing area might be a welcome addition for Operation Healing Waters or other Wounded Warrior initiatives.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

1. **2018-2019 budget workshop:** Ken led the second budget workshop for the next FY budget submission. Each member reviewed the potential projects and provided updates from our first budget workshop. Several items were taken off the list and updated estimates were provided for other projects. The total amount of the budget request was reduced from \$85,000 in the first workshop to \$72,200 with this workshop. Of note was a request for \$25,000 to commence work on the Gap Creek Park.

**Mike Melton made a motion that the Park and Recreation Board approve a request of \$72,200 for FY18-19. Charlie seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.**

2. **Park and Recreation Update for the County Commission:** Ken reviewed a presentation that he will present on the Boards behalf at the January Commission meeting. The sense of

the Board was that the presentation does a good job of documenting our activities during the last three years.

**3. Next Meeting:** The next meeting will be Feb 8<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 PM at the County Courthouse.

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**ADJOURNMENT:**

The Chairman closed the Meeting at 8:20 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
*Erik Anderson*  
Secretary