

# MINUTES OF CARTER COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD

MEETING HELD Oct 4<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:** Jeff Smythe conducted a roll-call. A quorum was present.

Rusty Barnett (Mayor)	Present	Travis Hill for Randall Jenkins (Commission Liaison)	Present	Michael Warren (1)	Present
Erik Anderson (2)	Absent	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:** Travis Hill filling in for Commission Liaison Randal Jenkins, Denee Mattioli (Herndon Birders); Allen Ingram (Hampton HS horticulture instructor).

**PREVIOUS MINUTES:** Minutes of the September 6<sup>th</sup>, 2018 meeting were provided to members before the meeting. The minutes were approved by common consent.

## PRESENTATIONS:

**Hampton HS Horticulture Program** – Allen Ingram, Hampton HS Horticulture instructor gave an update on their plans for the Green Bridge Landing Park. In the coming year they will install plaques identifying the tree types. Additionally they will help the Herndon Birders build and install bird boxes. The APEs have endorsed their plans.

## OLD BUSINESS:

- 1. Green Bridge Landing:** Chris Schuettler has been overwhelmed lately and not been able to install signage or spread gravel. Ken will approach Roger Colbaugh of the highway department for help spreading gravel. Laura Eryasa has been working on painting the changing booth. The park is getting significant use.
- 2. Shooting Park:** Nothing Significant to Report
- 3. Happy Trails Park:** Erik reported the park has seen some usage by fishermen and family bicyclists. BCHET will bush hog once more after first heavy frost. Carter County annex work crew and RMRF volunteers will then further remove stumps etc to prepare for next spring. Some signage on hand. Expect signage for OVTA and bicycling to be put in place next month.
- 4. Mountain Biking:** Plans for a pump track/skills park at Bryant Ridge have been stymied by insurance concerns. Wes Bradley and Mike Mains continue to work.
- 5. Gap Creek Park:** Charlie and Ken explained the status of the proposal for joint city/county development and operation. The County Attorney had some concerns (none insurmountable) and we are waiting on the City Attorney review. Then the proposal will be taken to city and county executive and political leadership for endorsement. The goal is to have enough preparatory work accomplished to give both parties confidence that we should include Gap Creek Park development funding in our 2019/2020. No progress was

made on the RFP to log the site. Clean-up of the area needs to be started soon and the river ford need to be understood before detailed design could commence. **Michael Warren made a motion that we request \$25,000 from the budget committee to begin engineering and design work. J. R. seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken.**

Rusty Barnett (Mayor)	Yes	Travis Hill (Commission Liaison)	Abstain	Michael Warren (1)	Yes
Erik Anderson (2)	Absent	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 passed unanimously.** Ken and Charlie will take the request to the Budget Committee next Monday.

6. **Overmountain Victory Trail:** Still waiting on the final plan by Destination by Design.
7. **Community Tour:** The next tour will be on Saturday Nov 3<sup>rd</sup>. We will leave the County Courthouse at 9 AM. JR is arranging transportation and will lead the tour.
8. **Happy Valley Park:** Mike Melton reported that the State Environmental Report by TDOT should be completed by the middle of next month. Then the Building and Grounds builds fencing. He also reported that the owner of the Taylor Family Cemetery, adjacent to the land, is very pleased with the efforts.
9. **Elizabethton Parks and Rec:** Charlie reported that the proposed softball complex has been approved. Discussions are underway on a Surf Betsy Whitewater Park. They are currently replacing several sets of playground equipment.
10. **Birding:** Denee Mattioli reports that TVA has given the Herndon Birders wood duck boxes and songbird houses to install at Green Bridge Landing and Happy Trails Park. Will install with the help of the Hampton HS horticulture students (see below) in late winter/early spring. Requested permission to put flashing around trees to protect from predators – approved. They will try to raise the money for supplies (maybe \$200) but may approach us for assistance in January. She also reported that plans for the TN State birding convention for the last weekend in Sept. 2019 are proceeding nicely.
11. **Roan Mountain Community Park:** Erik provided a written update prior to the meeting. Mowing continues, expect one more mowing in about two weeks. Equipment functioning fairly well. OVTA reenactors hosted on Wed 26 Sep. Approximately 30 people from community attended. Carter County 4<sup>th</sup> grader presentation for 27 September was postponed due to inclement weather. Todd Burleson Memorial Stream Clean-up hosted on Saturday 29 September. Approx. 12 members of Trout Unlimited (Overmountain Chapter) and 30 people from community participated. OMTU focused on the Doe River along Railroad Grade (where future Doe River Fishing Trail will be built). They got out two pick-up truck loads of trash. Community participants concentrated on the Doe from the community park headed up stream for approx. 2 miles. They also got approximately two pick-up truck loads of trash. This was the 24<sup>th</sup> annual stream clean-up and was very successful. Farmers Market finished for the year. Will likely move the Farmers Market to Tuesday afternoon/evenings next year.
12. **Tweetsie Trail:** Ken reported that Elizabethton and Johnson City are beginning the preservation of Estes Coal Company as a trailside museum.

13. **Website:** Nothing Significant to Report
14. **Pocket Parks:** Nothing Significant to Report.
15. **Doc River Fishing Trail (DRIFT):** OMTU continues their fundraising efforts. They synopsised their efforts with the Roan Mountain Community at the September 29<sup>th</sup> stream clean-up.
16. **Chamber of Commerce Breakfast:** Board members were reminded of the upcoming Chamber of Commerce Breakfast. The breakfast will be on Thursday November 15 at 07:30 in the Pine Room of the Franklin Fitness Center. Board members are encouraged to attend and be there by 07:15
17. **Thank You for prison work crews and supervisors:** The Board reviewed and approved draft letters to the Sheriff and the Northeast State Correction Unit Warden for the sustained efforts of their work crews to help maintain our County Parks. Ken will mail the letters.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

1. **Bartelby Project:** Bartleby Program students at EHS have proposed a small park on the Tweetsie Trail near Js Corner. We will invite them to make a presentation at our November meeting.
2. **Next Meeting:** The next meeting will be Thursday November 8<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 PM in the Mayors conference room.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

The Chairman closed the Meeting at 7:23 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
*Jeff Smythe and Erik Anderson*  
Secretary