

MINUTES OF CARTER COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD

MEETING HELD Nov 8th , 2018 at 801 East Elk Ave, Elizabethton, TN 37643

OPENING: Chairman Ken Gough called the meeting to order at 6:05 PM.

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

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

Guests were introduced: Terry Smith (Bartleby Coach Elizabethton High School), Cami Davison, Ellie Dugger, Nick Street, Nate Wetzel (Bartleby Students), Lance Lowery (First Tennessee Development District).

PREVIOUS MINUTES: Minutes of the October 4th, 2018 meeting were provided to members before the meeting. The minutes were approved by common consent.

PRESENTATIONS:

1. **Bartleby Student Project** – The Bartleby class at Elizabethton High School gave a presentation on their plans for a small park on the Tweetsie Trail on a plot of unused land across the street from Big John’s - working title Coalyard Park. They have a concept and materials list. Plans call for landscaping, plantings, and a shelter with picnic tables – very attractive and useful. They are soliciting funding from 40 businesses. We gave them some advice and contacts, and invited them to return in a few months with a progress report, at which time we may consider a donation.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. **Green Bridge Landing:** Charlie reported that Chris Schuettler expects to have the remaining elements installed by the end of November (benches, signs, trash can, lighting). Ken is arranging to repair the walking trail with help from Doe River Gorge and the Hampton High School horticulture class. Still to arrange – picnic table and play area..
2. **Shooting Park:** Nothing Significant to Report
3. **Happy Trails Park:** Erik reported that Back Country Horsemen of East Tennessee will bush hog in the next two weeks. Carter County annex work crew and RMRF volunteers will then further remove stumps etc to prepare for next spring. Most signage is now on hand. Expect signage for OVTA and bicycling to be put in place next month. Chris Schuettler now has the horseshoes needed to weld the park sign.
4. **Mountain Biking:** Discussions for a pump track/skills park at Bryant Ridge are on hold until the TN Municipal League can resolve insurance concerns for the Hampton Watershed park. Mike Mains continue to work.

- 5. Gap Creek Park:** The County Commission authorized the Park and Recreation Board \$25K to start planning, design, and engineering for the future Gap Creek Park. The city and county attorneys have reviewed the proposed joint development/operations agreement – some adjustments are needed but no major obstacles. Charlie Mattioli is arranging a tour of the property for the political and executive leaders from the county and city. Charlie reported from Chris Schuettler that a Rough Order of Magnitude cost for a survey, topo map and layout would be approximately \$9K. An environmental water/stormwater study would be approx. \$3.5K Lance Lowery of FTDD advised us on what we need to do to insure eligibility for a state Local Park and Recreation Fund grant in early 2020.

Charlie made a motion that the Park and Recreation Board authorize Ken and Charlie to disburse a portion/s of the 25K authorized by the County Commission if needed before the next meeting. Mayor Barnett seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken.

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

The motion passed unanimously. Ken and Charlie will work with Chris Schuettler on way ahead

- 6. Overmountain Victory Trail:** Nothing Significant to Report.
- 7. Community Tour:** Last Saturday Ken, J.R. and Erik visited Watauga, Turkeytown and nearby areas. The only opportunity we see for a pocket park is in Watauga – no other identifiable communities to host one. One tour remaining – Central Community, TBDL.
- 8. Happy Valley Park:** No significant change. Mike Melton reported that the State Environmental Report has yet to be completed. Mike provided some visioning ideas for the future park. He will bring a vision document to the January meeting.
- 9. Elizabethton Parks and Rec:** Nothing Significant to report
- 10. Birding:** Charlie reported that the Carter County birding guide is still in the works. Planning for the TN State birding convention for the last weekend in September 2019 continue.
- 11. Roan Mountain Community Park:** Erik provided a written update prior to the meeting. Significant upcoming event is the annual Christmas Tree lighting in the Community Park on November 19th at 6:00 PM
- 12. Tweetsie Trail:** Ken reported that Elizabethton is beginning the preservation of Estes Coal Company as a trailside museum.
- 13. Website:** Ken reported that the owner of the server for the website requires \$20 per month and a once a year hosting fee of \$30. We had previously allocated \$30 in this years budget for the hosting. **Randall made a motion to allocate an additional \$240 from our unallocated funds to pay for this necessary expense. Mike Warren seconded. A roll call vote was taken.**

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

The motion passed unanimously

14. **Pocket Parks:** Michael Warren reported that there is some interest in the Buladean/Stoney Creek area for a Pocket Park. He hopes to bring a proposal to the January meeting
15. **Doe River Fishing Trail (DRiFT):** OMTU reported that have raised \$6,800 so far. They will start working on a parking area and signage
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 thank you 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 were mailed.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. **Carter County Travel Snapshot:** Ken presented data from the state showing that tourism injects almost \$40 million into Carter County each year and reduces the average tax burden by over \$200 per household. Our efforts indirectly contribute to the attractiveness of Carter County for tourists.
2. **Next Meeting:** The next meeting has been changed to Thursday January 10th at 6:00 PM in the Mayors conference room.

ADJOURNMENT:

The Chairman closed the Meeting at 8:10 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Erik Anderson
Secretary