

MINUTES OF CARTER COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD

MEETING HELD Feb 14th, 2019 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.

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

Guests were introduced: Ray Lyons (Carter County Commission Chairman); Robert Richie – private citizen; Lisa Lyons – “Kids Like Us”

PREVIOUS MINUTES: Minutes of the January 10th, 2019 meeting were provided to members before the meeting. The minutes were approved by common consent.

PRESENTATIONS:

- Bee Cliff Rapids** – Mr. Ritchie presented a proposal to name a section of rapids along the Watauga River as well as name an island in the middle of the river for Mr. Charles Shell. Once named they would be featured on US topographical maps. Mel discussed the way in which we could assist the effort. It was the sense of the Board that this was a good project and we referred Mr. Ritchie to the Carter County Planning Office to start the process of making an appropriate resolution.
- Kids Like Us Community Learning Center** – Ms. Lisa Lyons introduced us to the services and efforts of the Kids Like Us Community Learning Center. The center is a 501 (c) 3 charity located on Watauga Road which provides a fun and appropriate learning environment for special need people of all ages. Her main topic was a presentation on ideas and design concepts for special needs children playgrounds. She highlighted many components of such a playground to include safety, sensory integration, and some cost estimates of various pieces of playground equipment. Lisa estimated that there are over 400 special needs children in Carter County and the center services approximately 120 children per week at this time. She offered to be part of the effort to establish a special needs playground in existing or future pocket parks such as Gap Creek Park.

OLD BUSINESS:

- Petition to County Commission to amend Private Act to 12 meetings per year:** The Mayor will check on the status of the petition and provide feedback to the Board.
- Green Bridge Landing:** Several bird houses have been installed by the Herndon Birders. An approach is being formulated to develop a more stable bank for the walking trail with a more permanent surface. Ken will be working with the Appalachian Paddling Enthusiasts to submit a grant request to the L.L. Bean company for this purpose. Signage and other finishing touches for Green Bridge landing remain in work.

3. **Shooting Park:** Ken visited an area on NFS land between Little Milligan and Watugua that has excellent access and was logged after the windstorm 2 years ago. As this property is NFS land the process would likely take significant effort and time.
4. **Happy Trails Park:** Erik reported that lighting had been installed. Some signage will be worked in the next month.
5. **Mountain Biking:** SORBA conducted a clean-up day of the Hampton Watershed park on Feb 10th. The city of Elizabethton and SORBA now have a MOU in place and the insurance issue with TML appears to be on the path toward a favorable resolution. Once the insurance issue is resolved efforts on a potential Bryan Ridge effort can resume.
6. **Gap Creek Park:** The topographical survey was completed, and Charlie presented it to the Board. Logging has been completed and garnered almost \$3K for future development. Engineering and design efforts continue. The Mayor reported that an annual TN Public Health department grant of \$20,000 is being designated for Gap Creek park. Ken and Charlie will develop the spend plan. Of note: A joint County/City Commission public information session will take place on Monday Feb 25th at 6:00 PM at the Elizabethton/Carter County library. Board members are encouraged to attend.
7. **Overmountain Victory Trail:** Nothing Significant to Report
8. **Community Tour:** The next Community Tour will be March the 9th. The tour will depart the Courthouse at 09:00 AM. The focus will be the Central Community. JR is arranging and will secure a local expert to accompany us.
9. **Happy Valley Park:** Mike Melton reported that the State environmental survey has been completed. The next steps are to finalize the lease and have Buildings and Grounds install the fencing.
10. **Elizabethton Parks and Rec:** Nothing Significant to Report
11. **Birding:** The Herndon Birders expect to publish Birding in Carter County next fiscal year, for which we've allocated \$2,500
12. **Roan Mountain Community Park:** Erik provide a written report. Upcoming events include a Trout Unlimited sponsored Doe River Stream Clean-up on February 23rd. Additionally planning is underway by The Roan Mountain Appalachian Trail Community to host the third annual "Trailfest/Hikerpalooza" in the Community Park. Camping will be permitted from May 2nd through the 6th. The trail celebration will take place on May 4th and the "Roan Mountain Hardcore" trail maintenance event will take place on the 5th. The Park and Recreation Board will be one of the sponsors of the event.
13. **Tweetsie Trail:** Nothing Significant to Report
14. **Website:** Nothing Significant to Report
15. **Road Cycling:** Nothing Significant to Report
16. **Pocket Parks:** Michael Warren is still searching for a potential location in the Stoney Creek area. JR reports that it looks favorable that the future Dollar Store in Fish Springs will provide land for a Pocket Park.

17. Doe River Fishing Trail (DRiFT): Erik reported that signage for the first five access points had been installed in the Roan Mountain Community Park. Trout Unlimited (TU) has worked with the planning office to identify other potential access points off Old Railroad Grade road. An access point at Happy Trails park will be identified next month. TU is developing plans to build a parking lot with an access point on Holly Hills road this summer. Plans are to have approximately eight of the potential 18 or so access points completed by the end of summer.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. FY 2019-2020 Budget Submission: Ken led the second budget workshop for the FY 2019-2020 budget submission. Mel presented updated information on tractor bids which allowed the Board to provide a more refined estimate on the cost of a utility tractor. Major items in the proposed budget included \$600 for Blevins Road safety lighting, \$86,570 for operations, \$50,000 for Gap Creek Park initial development, and \$25,000 for a tractor package for Park and Recreation upkeep and development.

Michael Warren recommended that we approve the proposed budget and submit to the Carter County Budget Committee. Mike Melton seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken:

Rusty Barnett (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	Absent		

The Budget was approved unanimously and will be submitted to the Budget Committee.

2. Next Meeting: The next meeting will be Thursday April 11th at 6:00 PM in the Mayors conference room.

ADJOURNMENT:

The Chairman closed the Meeting at 7:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Erik Anderson
 Secretary

