

MINUTES OF CARTER COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD

MEETING HELD April 11th, 2019 at 801 East Elk Ave, Elizabethton, TN 37643

OPENING: Chairman Ken Gough called the meeting to order at 6:02 PM.

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



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| Rusty Barnett (Mayor) | Present | Randall Jenkins (Commission Liaison) | Absent | Michael Warren (1) | Absent |
| Erik Anderson (2) | Present | Mel McKay (3) | Absent | 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: Travis Hill (Carter County Commissioner) substituting for Randall Jenkins

PREVIOUS MINUTES: Minutes of the February 14th, 2019 meeting were provided to members before the meeting. The minutes were approved by common consent.

PRESENTATIONS: NONE

OLD BUSINESS:

- Petition to County Commission to amend Private Act to 12 meetings per year:** The County Attorney is still evaluating the petition.
- Green Bridge Landing:** The mayor will coordinate with Chris Schuettler to arrange pickup of the materials needed to complete the park. Highway Superintendent Roger Colbaugh has agreed to do the installation. Ken will take the material to his shop and complete preparations with the help of volunteers, then deliver to Roger.
- Shooting Park:** Fred Taylor of the Carter County Hunting & Fishing Association visited the area that Ken identified last month and has pronounced it promising. He will need to do a layout to be sure. Three potential considerations: (1) it's a long way from Elizabethton (17.5 miles) and the rest of the TriCities; (2) it's owned by the Nat'l Forest Service, which would have to be persuaded to give us the land; and (3) although there are no nearby neighbors, we don't know how those in the general vicinity will take it.
- Happy Trails Park:** The Back-County Horsemen of East Tennessee (BCHET) have installed hitching posts. A trail ride was also conducted in March. Three information panels are in place. One - closest to Railroad Grade Road has information on the OVTA and Carter County's Tweetsie Extension. The second one is located beside the BCHET hitching posts. It contains their trail map display as well as park rules. The third information panel is located alongside the Doe and has information on the Doe River Fishing Trail and Doe River paddling. Three access cuts from the edge of the parking lot to the edge of the Doe River were made in March. The farthest upstream is shallower and more ideal for the BCHET. The middle cut accesses a deeper portion of the Doe and provides access for the River APEs. The farthest downstream is ideal for fishing. The dirt

removed from the cuts was used to build up the future location of a multi-purpose building. Geomat and the gravel donated last fall by TVA were used to surface the cuts.

5. **Mountain Biking:** Nothing Significant to Report
6. **Gap Creek Park:** Engineering and planning documents are expected Mid-May. County Commission authorized opening negotiations with the city on a joint project. Ken and Mike Mains will support city budget review on April 18 to present our case if possible. Initial indications are that county budgetary constraints and city priorities may not yield a significant budget for Gap Creek Park improvements in the coming Fiscal Year.
7. **Overmountain Victory Trail:** Four miles of Railroad Grade Road are now marked, and an Information Kiosk has been installed at the Happy Trails Park. Ken is working with the Nat'l Park Service and Johnson City to put signs on the Tweetsie Trail between Sycamore Shoals State Park and Mary Patton Highway.
8. **Community Tour:** Erik provided a draft recreation concept paper that grew out of the most recent tour of the Central Community. J.R. proposed a revisit of Fish Springs/Little Milligan/Heaton Creek area to familiarize the board with recent and pending changes in the communities. Will arrange at the May meeting.
9. **Happy Valley Park:** The County Attorney recommends that the State's proposed lease agreement is unacceptable due to the conditions associated with the lease agreement. Mike Melton and the Mayor concur. Mike will check with TDOT on the conditions on deeding the property to the County at no cost. His TDOT contact implied there are also onerous conditions on a deed, but we need to evaluate those conditions before we either abandon the project or approach it in a completely different way.
10. **Elizabethton Parks and Rec:** Nothing Significant to Report
11. **Birding:** The Herndon Birders continue planning for a future Tennessee Ornithological Society meeting.
12. **Roan Mountain Community Park:** 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. The Park and Recreation Board is one of the sponsors of the event.
13. **Carter County's Tweetsie Extension:** An eight-mile round trip has been highlighted at the Happy Trails Park.
14. **Website:** Nothing Significant to Report
15. **Road Cycling:** Nothing Significant to Report
16. **Pocket Parks:** J.R. reported prospects for a pocket park at the new Dollar General Store in Fish Springs are looking up.
17. **Doe River Fishing Trail (DRiFT):** Trout Unlimited has placed the initial signage on the Fishing Trail. Work on a Holly Hills parking lot will likely be deferred until fall. TWRA started stocking this section of the Doe the first week of April. An increase in fishing has already been noted

NEW BUSINESS:

1. **FY 2019-2020 Budget Submission:** Ken reported that the Park and Rec Budget submission for next Fiscal Year was politely received. He is doubtful that the requested budget will come to fruition. The earliest we should expect to have a good indication of next year's funding level is mid-July.
2. **Meet Carter County:** A subset of NETREPs meet the mountain will be a "Meet Carter County" event. That event is being organized for August 24th and the Parks and Rec Board have been afforded the opportunity to have an information booth.
3. **Budget Execution:** Ken provided a FY execution summary. The Board has approximately \$20K of funds remaining that could be committed this Fiscal Year
4. **Next Meeting:** The next meeting will be Thursday May 9th at 6:00 PM in the Mayors conference room.

ADJOURNMENT:

The Chairman closed the Meeting at 7:32 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Erik Anderson
Secretary

