

**MINUTES OF CARTER COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD**

**MEETING HELD January 28th, 2020 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 rollcall. A quorum was present.

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

**Guests were introduced:** NONE

**PREVIOUS MINUTES:** Minutes of the November 26<sup>th</sup>, 2019 meeting were provided to members before the meeting. The minutes were approved by common consent.

**PRESENTATIONS:** None

**OLD BUSINESS:**

1. Green Bridge Park Status – Randall continues to work security lighting. We are waiting to hear about Hampton High school’s help on the playground. We will need to purchase a replacement slide.
2. Shooting Park – Nothing Significant to Report
3. Mountain Biking – Good report on WJHL about the planning efforts underway for potential improvements to the Hampton Watershed Trails. The Doe River Gorge Board of Directors are deliberating on the use of their property. Once their participation is decided, plans can be finalized and fundraising for the improvements can be pursued. The difficulty of the work will likely mandate that the construction would have to be contracted out, possibly about \$250K
4. Gap Creek Park - Charlie, Ken – There will be a meeting at 09:00 on Friday to discuss the MOA and way ahead. We did not get the Blue Cross/Blue Shield grant but were encouraged to try again next year.
5. Overmountain Victory Trail – There may be an opportunity to improve the OVT from Hampton Cove Creek up to Yellow Mountain Gap. Erik and Mel will keep in mind.
6. Happy Valley Park – Mike – The County attorney object to clauses in the potential TDOT Contract which would allow TDOT to reclaim the property at a future date. Mike Melton was asked to contact TDOT to ascertain (1) if they know of a case where the land was later reclaimed and (2) the last entity to which TDOT gave land so we can contact them to understand their experience.

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7. Elizabethton P&R – Charlie sent out a separate report. A heavy focus this year will be Covered Bridge repairs and renewal. He encouraged us to fill out an Eliz Park and Rec survey. Randall will attend the Feb 3<sup>rd</sup> Eliz Park and Rec meeting in place of Charlie.
8. Birding – Denee Mattioli, two other Herndon Birders and Ken met with the Mayor to discuss the potential for a future birding festival. It would likely take place Mid Apr-May 2012 and be a weekend long affair. Attendance would likely be 100-150 and would include social events, vendor exhibits, guest speaker, and outings. The Birders will put together a budget for our consideration.
9. Roan Mtn. Comm. Park – Erik provided a written report. The RMRF received a \$3,905 TVA/MEC economic development grant to promote the recreation opportunities available in Roan Mountain. Rack cards and advertisements in the Western NC High Country visitors' guides are in works. The 4<sup>th</sup> AT Festival is in the planning phase and will take place May 8<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup>. Hikers will be camping in the park. Planning is underway for the Pavilion re-roofing. The RMRF will focus on rehabilitating and extending one of the existing walking paths this year.
10. Carter County's Tweetsie Extension – Ken – Nothing new to report.
11. Website update – Ken – Nothing new to report.
12. Road Cycling – **Charlie made a motion that we disburse \$500 for a Roan Groan cycling sponsorship. Randall seconded.** A roll call vote was taken.

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

**The motion was approved unanimously.**

13. Pocket Parks – JR continues to work a meeting with Fish Springs entities for a pocket park adjacent to the Dollar General
14. Request to amend law to allow 12 meetings – Randall – Our proposal has been forwarded to the State legislators.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

1. **Jeff Smythe resignation:** Jeff is moving to Johnson City and will be resigning. The opening for the 4<sup>th</sup> district will be advertised. Mike Melton volunteered to take Jeff's place as our Treasurer. **Mel made a motion to make Mike our Treasurer. Randall seconded. The motion passed unanimously.** Mike will be working with the Finance Department to establish our Petty Fund account.
2. **Budget worksheet:** Ken handed out a budget worksheet and asked all to provide him inputs prior to our next meeting. At the next meeting we will have to deliberate and approve a budget for the next FY.
3. **AT VISTA PROGRAM:** Ken reported on a new Appalachian Trail Conservancy VISTA program. It is an opportunity to host 750-1000 people at a multi day event that celebrates

the AT. Ken suggested we investigate what the VISTA program would entail and the feasibility of pursuing this initiative.

4. **Next Meeting:** The next meeting will be Tuesday, February 25<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 PM in the Mayor's conference room.

**ADJOURNMENT:** The Chairman closed the Meeting at 7:25 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

*Erik Anderson*

Secretary