

MINUTES OF CARTER COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD

MEETING HELD February 25th , 2020 at 801 East Elk Ave, Elizabethton, TN 37643

OPENING: Chairman Ken Gough called the meeting to order at 6:10 PM.

ROLL CALL: Erik Anderson conducted a rollcall. A quorum was present.

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

Guests were introduced: Mike Mains, Elizabethton Parks and Recreation; Wes Bradley, Appalachian Paddling Enthusiasts and Southern Off Road Biking Association; Gary Barrigar, Friends of Roan Mountain.

PREVIOUS MINUTES: Minutes of the January 28th, 2020 meeting were provided to members before the meeting. The minutes were approved by common consent.

PRESENTATIONS: Ken led a budget workshop to develop and approve the Parks and Recreations Boards submission for next year's budget cycle. Board members and partners provided projects and budget request for the coming FY. Each item was discussed. The discussion include taking care of the capabilities we have, improving some capabilities and working with partners to develop new service offerings for our communities. Highlights include \$5K for a birding festival; \$20K for pocket parks (including \$10K for Fish Springs); \$25K for continued work at Gap Creek Park; an increase in the maintenance reserve to \$10K; and \$25K in matching funds for the Watershed Trails skills park. This years request also included funds for conducting a needs survey in 2020. **The total amount of the Budget request was \$107,870. Mel made a motion that we approve the Budget and have Ken provide it to the Finance Department and Carter County Budget Committee. Michael 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)	Yes	Vacant (4)	
Ken Gough (5)	Yes	JR Campbell (6)	Yes	Charlie Mattioli (7)	Absent
Mike Melton (8)	Yes	Eliz Park and Rep	N/A		

The motion was approved unanimously. The Chairman will forward the approved budget and provide additional information to the Finance Department and Budget Committee as required.

OLD BUSINESS:

- Green Bridge Park Status** – Green Bridge Landing came through the recent floods with minor damage to the walking trail, nothing else. Wesley Bradley informed us that the APEs are picking up the trash weekly and have alerted the sheriff's department to a small amount of contraband that's been found. Minor graffiti in the changing house has been painted over. The park is used regularly and frequently. The operation is working well.

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02-27-2020 @ 2:15 pm

The playground is currently at HV High School for welding. It then goes to Unaka for sand blasting and then to Hampton High School for installation. The plans are for the playground to be installed by the end of the school year. Mel will work to assist with identify mulch requirements and the Mayor will assist with identifying a source for borders for the playground.

2. **Shooting Park** – Nothing Significant to Report
3. **Mountain Biking** – Wes and Mike Mains updated the Parks and Recreation Board on the progress and future plans for improvements for the Hampton Watershed Trails based on the Master Plan developed with Park and Rec funding. Mike Mains will be meeting with Doe River Gorge to discuss the details of lease of some of their adjoining property to increase the trails. Preliminary estimates are that the trail expansion would cost approx. \$175-250K. A pump track would potentially cost approx. \$250K. One option for future funding would be a RTP grant which is an 80/20 match. A funding line was included in the Park And Recreation budget submission to biking opportunities for County residents.
4. **Gap Creek Park** - Ken – The City of Elizabethton is unable to commit to operating the future Gap Creek Park at this time. The Park and Recreation Board discussed a way ahead for the near future. Discussion include a review of existing funding and the Master Plan and potential next steps. **Mel made a motion that the Park and Recreation Board authorize Mayor Barnett to expend existing funding for Gap Creek Park to accomplish engineering work for a pedestrian bridge as a component of future walking trails, an initial parking lot, and the dog park. Michael 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)	Yes	Vacant (4)	
Ken Gough (5)	Yes	JR Campbell (6)	Yes	Charlie Mattioli (7)	Absent
Mike Melton (8)	Yes	Eliz Park and Rep	N/A		

The motion was approved unanimously.

5. **Overmountain Victory Trail** – Nothing Significant to Report
6. **Happy Valley Park** – Mike – 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.
7. **Elizabethton P&R** – Mike Mains provided an update on top priorities for the Elizabethton Parks and Recreation Department. Of immediate urgency is planning and organizing for this year Covered Bridge Festival. Two other major initiatives are the renovation of the Covered Bridge Park and improving the Hampton Watershed Biking Park. **Mayor Barnett made a motion that the Carter County Park and Recreation Board disburse \$5,000 to the Elizabethton Park and Recreation department to become a sponsor of this years Covered Bridge Festival. Mike Melton 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)	Yes	Vacant (4)	
Ken Gough (5)	Yes	JR Campbell (6)	Yes	Charlie Mattioli (7)	Absent
Mike Melton (8)	Yes	Eliz Park and Rep	N/A		

The motion was approved unanimously.

8. **Birding** – There will be an exploratory meeting on Thursday February 27th at 7:00 at the Chamber of Commerce to discuss the potential to accomplish a birding festival in the Spring of 2020. The Herndon Birders, Friends of Roan Mountain, Southern Highlands Appalachian Conservancy, Park and Recreation will discuss the feasibility of such an event. The 2020 budget request from Parks and Recreation includes a line item to support the potential event.
9. **Roan Mtn. Comm. Park** – Erik provided a written report. The softball/T Ball coaches plan to install a batting cage and scoreboard at the Softball field. The 4th AT Festival will be May 8th – 10th. An execution plan has been developed for the Pavilion Re-Roof. **Erik made a motion for the Park and Recreation Board to disburse \$7,700 to the RMRF for the Pavilion Roof refurbishment. Mel 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	Vacant (4)	
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. The work on the Pavilion is tentatively schedule for Mar 15 through April 15th.

The BCHET are fundraising to develop the Walnut Mountain Parking Lot Pocket Park. Erik requested that the Park and Recreation Board disburse \$2,000 to the RMRF for this effort. Michael warren 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	Vacant (4)	
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.

10. **Carter County's Tweetsie Extension** – Roger Colbaugh is making arrangements with TDOT to put up signs on 19E. We will need more signs – Mel to find out who made them
11. **Website update** – Ken – Nothing new to report.
12. **Road Cycling** – Nothing Significant to Report
13. **Pocket Parks** – JR and the Mayor continue to work on organizing a potential Fish Springs Pocket Park. We have the land. The mayor has asked for another parcel of land, about 1 acre, to add to the park. J.R. arranging a meeting of interested parties. At the mayor's request, added \$10K more to next year's pocket parks budget.
14. **Jeff Smythe:** Jeff has submitted his formal resignation after moving to Johnson City. He will be missed. The position is being advertised.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. **Support for Elizabethton Twins and Appalachian League Baseball:** Randall made a motion that the Park and Recreation Board ask the Mayor to prepare a resolution for the County Commission supporting Appalachian League Baseball and the Elizabethton Twins. The Elizabethton Twins Baseball is an important recreation opportunity for our County residents. Michael Warren seconded. The motion was approved unanimously
2. **Next Meeting:** The next meeting will be Tuesday, April 28th at 6:00 PM in the Mayor's conference room.

ADJOURNMENT: The Chairman closed the Meeting at 8:20 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Erik Anderson
Secretary