

MINUTES OF CARTER COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD**MEETING HELD May 19th , 2020 at 801 East Elk Ave, Elizabethton, TN 37643****OPENING:** Chairman Ken Gough called the meeting to order at 6:105 PM.**DRAFT****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)	Absent	Lisa McGinnis (4)	Present
Ken Gough (5)	Present	JR Campbell (6)	Absent	Charlie Mattioli (7)	Present
Mike Melton (8)	Present	Eliz Park and Rep	Present		

NEW BOARD MEMBER WELCOMED: Lisa McGinnis was welcomed to the Carter County Parks and Recreation Board as the new member from District 4. She is a counselor at Unaka High School and lives in Lynn Valley.

PREVIOUS MINUTES: Minutes of the February 25th, 2020 meeting were provided to members before the meeting. The minutes were approved by common consent.

PRESENTATIONS: None**OLD BUSINESS:**

- Green Bridge Landing** – The Park receives steady use. Anglers are a regular and Paddling Enthusiast often use the park after a good rain. The next big improvement is refurbishing and emplacing the play set donated by Elizabethton Parks and Rec. The location where we plan to place the playset has been above the high water during this winters floods. The welding shop at Happy Valley High School repaired the playset and Keith Renfro of Volunteer industries sand-blasted the pieces. The shop class at Unaka High School will do the painting once school resumes.
- Shooting Park** – Nothing Significant to Report
- Mountain Biking** – The COVID 19 economic impact on Eliz Park and Rec capital improvements may be significant and the Watershed Trail project may be delayed. Mike Mains will update us as their budget for the next FY unfolds.
- Gap Creek Park** – Mayor and Charlie – Chris (lead), Mel, the Mayor and Charlie teamed together and spent approx. 794 hours preparing the park for future improvements. Charlie and the Mayor showed the Board pictures of the impressive progress. The team cleaned up and established parking on the Gap Creek Road side of the creek. They dug out the two drainage ponds. They improved the creek crossing. They cut out a causeway on the property and part of the walking trail. The planning office has received bid/s on a 45 ft by 6ft pedestrian bridge. Abutments will be built on both sides of the creek and a large crane will be necessary to emplace the bridge. This will allow the team to bring the Dog Park portion of the Park to fruition. To date the team has spent just over \$20K.
- Overmountain Victory Trail** – Nothing to Report



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6. **Happy Valley Park** – Mike and Randall – The County Commission decided not to support the Park and Rec application to TDOT for the land. This clears the way for a local realtor to purchase the property from the State and develop it.
7. **Elizabethton P&R** – Charlie reported that Elizabethton Park and Rec has a multi-phase plan to reopen their facilities
8. **Birding** – The Herndon Birders decided not to proceed with a Birding Festival. For the time being that project is off the table. Work on *Birds of Carter County* will proceed.
9. **Roan Mtn. Comm. Park** – Erik provided a written report. The park is seeing heavy usage and operating in line with the Governors TN Pledge and Executive Orders. Hikerpalooza is indefinitely postponed. The Community Garden has been prepared and most spots have been allocated. The pavilion has been reroofed and remaining funds will be used to refurbish the riverside walking trail. The Farmers Market is under consideration. The RMRF used a TVA/Mountain Electric Corporation economic development grant to produce and distribute a brochure highlighting their many Park and Recreation activities to over 28,000 MEC customers. The Tractor procured with Park and Rec funds last year has proven invaluable.
10. **Carter County's Tweetsie Extension** – TDOT did not give permission for the Highway department to install some more of the Tweetsie Extension signage. We will review options and re-address at a later date
11. **Website update** – Ken – Significant updates have been made. Ken asked that all members review the website and provide any necessary feedback.
12. **Road Cycling** – Ken – The Johnson City Omnium, of which the Roan Groan is a part has been postponed , perhaps until August
13. **Pocket Parks** – Mayor – The county now has the Title to the land next to the Dollar General. The Mayor and JR are working a sponsor, probably the church next door. The Mayor will try to set up a meeting with the potential sponsors. Michael Warren and Lisa McGinnis will team together to explore options for the Stoney Creek area.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. **BUDGET:** Ken reported that the Budget Committee recommended \$75K for Park and Rec in the coming FY.
2. **Next Meeting:** The next meeting will be July 28th at 6:00 PM in the Mayor's conference room.

ADJOURNMENT: The Chairman closed the Meeting at 7:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Erik Anderson
Secretary

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