

**MINUTES OF CARTER COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD****MEETING HELD August 25<sup>th</sup>, 2020 at Roan Mountain Community Park, Roan Mountain TN, TN 37687**

**OPENING:** The Roan Mountain Recreation Foundation provided Pizzas from Smoky Mountain Bakers. After supper, Chairman Ken Gough called the meeting to order at 6:45 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)	Absent
Erik Anderson (2)	Present	Mel McKay (3)	Present	Lisa McGinnis (4)	Absent
Ken Gough (5)	Present	JR Campbell (6)	Present	Charlie Mattioli (7)	Absent
Mike Melton (8)	Absent	Eliz Park and Rep	Absent		

**GUESTS:** Wes Bradley (APES and SORBA); Adam Bean (Milligan University); Pam Baldwin (Roan Mountain Recreation Foundation)

**PREVIOUS MINUTES:** Minutes of the May 19<sup>th</sup> and July 28<sup>th</sup> meetings were provided to members before the meeting. The minutes were approved by common consent.

**PRESENTATIONS:** Professor and biking enthusiast Adam Bean of Milligan University described the challenges with accessing the Tweetsie Trail from Milligan University. Those challenges include a safety issue of travelling on the heavily used Old Milligan Highway or using a shorter route which entails an approximate 16% grade which is beyond many bikers ability. It is also noteworthy that the Milligan cycling team has national recognition. The idea resonated with Board members and may be one that would be appropriate for a Multi-modal or RTP grant. Follow-up from Ken the next day: Milligan Pres. Greer has endorsed the idea and asked Adam to lead the discussions. Adam will make a presentation to the Eliz. Parks & Rec Board in a couple of weeks.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

- Green Bridge Landing** – Wes, the park is receiving strong, steady use and they are having to remove trash almost weekly. The Sheriff's department has been very helpful in mowing the grass. The park has experienced three or four mini-floods in the last year and those floods have washed away most of the mulch and gravel trail. Seeking a more permanent solution he presented a quote from Summers-Taylor to build a "pervious" concrete trail around the park - \$48.5K. The quote contains a 850 ft section and an 80 ft section. This solution would also help with stream stabilization which may make the project more attractive for potential grants. The Board requested Wes obtain at least one more quote if possible and deferred action. Playset – no action. Waiting to be painted. Security light – per the mayor, doesn't look like the water authority is going to help us. **JR made a motion that we authorize the Mayor to expend up to \$2,000 to install the security lighting. Mel seconded. A roll call vote was taken:**

Rusty Barnett (Mayor)	Yes	Randall Jenkins (Commission Liaison)	Absent	Michael Warren (1)	Absent
Erik Anderson (2)	Yes	Mel McKay (3)	Yes	Lisa McGinnis (4)	Absent
Ken Gough (5)	Yes	JR Campbell (6)	Yes	Charlie Mattioli (7)	Absent

Mike Melton (8)	Absent	Eliz Park and Rep	Absent		
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**The motion was approved unanimously.**

2. **Shooting Park** – Nothing Significant to Report
3. **Mountain Biking** – Wes, the city is going to install a bike service station at Hampton Watershed that SORBA obtained through a grant, and improve the parking area. Frequent storms this summer have brought down numerous trees and limbs. SORBA will have a work day soon – volunteers needed. Waiting on the city attorney to finish drafting the agreement with Doe River Gorge Camp. Per the mayor, the city was delighted with our offer of \$10K matching funds if they pursue an RTP grant to build the upgraded trail system. During the July meeting, the mayor was authorized to write the Check to the City at the appropriate time.
4. **Gap Creek Park** – Mayor Barnett reported that the next step is to build the bridge abutments. The engineering drawings are ready, not sure if they've been approved. He will approach Summers-Taylor re their \$10K in-kind grant offer. Ken will check with Bob Richards about his ability to build the abutments. The mayor will ask Hwy Supt. Roger Colbaugh to mow the grounds at his earliest convenience.
5. **Overmountain Victory Trail** – The OVTA will be doing a victory march this year but it will be limited. They will probably not do any school classes but will conduct marches and talks where feasible.
6. **Elizabethton P&R** – Ken passed out a written report. Much is getting accomplished while they are dealing with COVID-19.
7. **Birding** – Nothing Significant to report
8. **Roan Mtn. Comm. Park** – Erik reported that almost 500 hours of community time has been amassed so far this CY. Like GBL, the picnic sheds have been in heavy demand. Improvements added since last years visit include: a Wayfinder guide and an OVTA historical panel. They have delayed several projects until after the mowing season to reduce the potential for volunteer burnout. Projects they are working include a concrete pad for the trailer, repainting the stage and rehabbing the OVT walking trail by the river. Mel suggested the RMRF contact the OVNHT for possible funding on the trail re-hab.
9. **Carter County's Tweetsie Extension** – Nothing Significant to Report
10. **Website update** – Ken – Nothing Significant to Report.
11. **Road Cycling** – Mayor – The Mayor and his helper helped control traffic for the Roan Groan at the 19E/Gap Creek Road intersection. All went well. The Criterium in downtown Elizabethton reported to go well, too. Thanks, Mayor and Lisa. Ken will invite Reneau Dubberley to give us a report.

**DRAFT**

**12. Pocket Parks – JR -** Six Board members met with Fish Springs residents last week and discussed various aspect of a pocket park and shared their experiences with starting and maintaining Pocket Parks. They will have an expanded community meeting on Tuesday Sept. 1 to organize their volunteer group. Erik will provide assistance on the RMRF experience in setting up a 501 (c ) 3 organization. J.R. and the Mayor are working to obtain another small parcel of land adjacent to the property already in-hand. **Erik made a motion that we pledge \$10,000 to a future Fish Springs Community Park entity once it is established. The Mayor seconded. A Roll Call vote was taken:**

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

**The motion was approved unanimously.**

**NEW BUSINESS:**

- 1. Bemberg Depot – Ken** The city is obtaining the train now located at the Chamber of Commerce (the Chamber is re-locating downtown and decided to dispose of the train). Ken has discussed the idea of establishing a Tweetsie museum and visitor center at the Bemberg Depot with several organizations and received good feedback. A number of obstacles to overcome before this becomes a viable project. While our Board generally supports the concept, for a number of reasons our we are unlikely to contribute much more than moral support.
- 2. Blevins Road Landing Lighting – Mayor -** will work with Eliz. Electric to install new LED lights, but only if there is a savings to us. (We budget \$600/yr, usually spend slightly less than that.) The lights are expensive, which is why there may not be a net savings.
- 3. Twin Springs Picnic Shelter – Erik –** reported that our \$3K grant disbursed to the Friends of Roan Mountain to renovate the Twin Springs Picnic area has been received , but, due to Covid-19, no work expected until next spring.
- 4. Master Plan Update: Ken and Erik** The Board reviewed the actions they took in 2014 and 15 to develop a Master Plan and the need to update. Erik and Charlie, with assistance from others as needed, will prepare and perform a community survey and stakeholders’ assessment this fiscal year. JR suggested we use the School Systems to get the survey out and returned and thereby reducing costs. Erik will bring a more detailed proposal to the next meeting laying out steps and anticipated costs for the survey and stakeholders analysis. After the survey and stakeholders analysis are complete we will decide how to proceed with updating the master plan in FY 21-22.
- 5. Next Meeting:** The next meeting will be September 29<sup>th</sup> 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