

MINUTES OF CARTER COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD**MEETING HELD October 27th, 2020 at 801 East Elk Ave, Elizabethton, TN 37643****OPENING:** Chairman Ken Gough called the meeting to order at 6:05 PM.**ROLL CALL:** Erik Anderson conducted a rollcall. A quorum was present.

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

PREVIOUS MINUTES: Minutes of the September meeting were provided to members before the meeting. The minutes of September were approved as presented by common consent.**PRESENTATIONS:** None**OLD BUSINESS:**

- Green Bridge Landing** – Wes reported by email that he only received one bid for the rework of the walking trail to provide a more flood resistant option. That bid was from Summers Taylor and was for \$44K. The board decided to table the walking path rework until spring to see how expenditures go this year. We are waiting on the paint shop at Unaka High School to paint the playground materials.
- Shooting Park** – Nothing Significant to Report. We brought the interim Mayor up to date on previous efforts with the National Forest Service which have not yielded positive results.
- Mountain Biking** – Elizabethton Park and Rec expanded the parking lot at Hampton Watershed Park. SORBA used a grant to establish a repair station. Much of the tools were vandalized shortly after installation. The agreement to expand biking trails with Doe River Gorge has been put in place. The trail expansion will be flagged in November. The City is working on a grant for trail construction and we previously pledged \$10K to support that effort. It appears that there is growing interest in North East Tennessee on Mountain Biking. Recent improvements at Bays Mountain in Kingsport, Tannery Knob in Johnson City, new trails on Doe Mountain in Johnson County and the Hampton Watershed efforts are bringing additional momentum to making East Tennessee a Mountain Biking destination. A future Bryant Ridge Bike Park might also be a great addition. While it is unlikely that development of Bryant Ridge would be pursued soon, a Master Plan might be useful in case future funding became available. **Randall made a motion that we authorize Ken to expend up to \$10,000 on a Master Plan for Bryant Ridge. Lisa seconded. A roll call vote was taken.**

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

The motion passed unanimously. Ken will discuss the need for a potential Master Plan with Mike Mains.

4. **Gap Creek Park** – The Planning Office has sent a Letter of Interest for a TN Department of Health “Healthy Place” grant. The request is for paving a handicap parking area, a handicap trail system and connecting crossway which will cost approximately \$80K. The Mayor will check with Chris and Charlie to get an update on the bridge abutments.
5. **Overmountain Victory Trail** – Nothing Significant to Report
6. **Elizabethton P&R** – Nothing Significant to Report
7. **Birding** – The Herndon Birders continue work on *Birds of Carter County*.
8. **Roan Mtn. Comm. Park** – Erik provided a written report. The park has remained quite busy and they are still mowing. Significant process has been made on their walking path extension/rehabilitation. 4 churches will be holding a fall festival/trunk or treat this coming Saturday October 31st. Planning is underway for the annual Citizens Club Christmas Tree Lighting on Monday November 23rd.
9. **Carter County’s Tweetsie Extension** – Ken is working on how to get more signage out. Erik reported that the County Highway Departments paving of Old Railroad Grade Road has resulted in a first class location for family road cycling.
10. **Website update** – NSTR
11. **Road Cycling** – Reneau Dubberley provided a written report on this year’s Roan Groan. Even with COVID concerns, 208 riders participated which was equivalent to last year’s numbers. Park and Rec sponsorship was appreciated and helped a lot. They are working with NFS to see if next years race can finish at the Rhododendron Gardens versus Carvers Gap.
12. **Pocket Parks – FISH SPRINGS** Mayor Woodby and JR continue to pursue the acquisition of an adjacent piece of property from Union Baptist Church. Hampton High School has updated the park concept. One concept visualizes the park and food pantry with the existing land and the other with the combined additional property. The Highway Department has committed to clearing the land once the property is finalized. JR reports that the community organizing effort would like to tailor the charter of an existing 501 (c) 3 organization (Care and Share) to operate the future park and Food Bank. JR and Erik will meet with the supporters to help them take appropriate steps and draft a MOU for operation with the Park and Recreation Board. Elizabethton Parks and Recreation has offered a playset that they are retiring which could potentially be used at Fish Springs. Ken will evaluate.
13. **Blevins Road Lighting**: Ken will work on this in November, We will pursue if cost savings can be realized.
14. **Master Plan update planning**: Erik reported that the survey and a cover letter have been completed. The Superintendent of Schools has agreed to accomplishing the survey at the 10 Elementary Schools. Erik will reproduce the needed copies and deliver to the School Administrative Office next week.

NEW BUSINESS:

December 15th ~~24th~~

1. **Next Meeting**: The next meeting will be Tuesday, ~~November 24th~~ 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