

MINUTES OF CARTER COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD

MEETING HELD Jul 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: Lisa McGinnis conducted a rollcall. A quorum was present.

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

PREVIOUS MINUTES: Minutes of the May 19th, 2020 meeting were not available for review. They will be reviewed at the August meeting.

PRESENTATIONS: None

OLD BUSINESS:

- 1. Green Bridge Landing** – Everything ok. Playset has been sandblasted and waiting on work to be done at UHS. Security Light – no news; Mayor Barnett will speak to Robbie Fritz/Bryan White about its placement. The water department would not allow it to be placed on their building. Discussion on setting our own pole for the light – if done, we have to pay for placement and the bill.
- 2. Shooting Park** – Nothing Significant to Report
- 3. Mountain Biking** – Ken and Mayor Barnett – The city is working on improving the parking. Other improvements have been set aside for the time being due to budget cuts. Mr. Estes, the City Manager, approached the Mayor about contributing some matching funds to assist them with a major grant request. Contingent funding was designated in this years spend plan (see below). Mayor Barnett will follow up with Mr. Estes.
- 4. Gap Creek Park** – (Charlie) mulch has been spread with 2 gravel piles left. One parkway has been worked on with gravel and some of the walking trail. Overgrown area in much of it due to no one overseeing it. Mayor Barnett: Bridge set date – August 15. Week of August 3 – footers should be poured for bridge. Need volunteers to do this. We still have \$10,000 “in kind” services due by Chris Scheuttler, so he will ask Chris to get the bridge set.
- 5. Overmountain Victory Trail** – Nothing to Report
- 6. Elizabethton P&R** – Mike Mains - Surf Betsy – feasibility study; hoping to restart the concert series in August. They are receiving no help from the Carter County Work Annex, but receiving quite a bit from Hunter First Baptist Church volunteers. They are also in the process of updating their Recreation Plan.



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7. **Birding** – We expect that the Herndon Birders will complete the *Birds of Carter County* in this coming FY.
8. **Roan Mtn. Comm. Park** – Erik was absent but provided an input by e-mail. They are not receiving help from the Carter County Work Annex due to continued COVID-19 impacts. They have also heard that the Work Annex may be closing. The long term support of the Community Park has provided significant benefits for maintaining this recreation opportunity for our citizens.
9. **Carter County's Tweetsie Extension** – The State was asked to put up more signage but turned down the request. On a related matter there may be an opportunity forthcoming to work on the Bemberg Depot on the Tweetsie Trail.
10. **Website update** – Ken – Nothing Significant to Report.
11. **Road Cycling** – Ken – The Roan Groan is set for August 15th. We have four volunteers assisting that day.
12. **Pocket Parks** – Mayor and JR – Deed for Fish Springs was received. Still waiting on a sponsor. The community wants to recognize the lady who owned it by putting signs up with her name, etc. There is an acre and a half with an entrance that may be up for grabs. Mountain Electric wants to assist us in getting this property. JR says we need to get this land due to it being prime property for us. JR and the Mayor will attempt to schedule a meeting with potential community sponsors. Nothing Significant to Report on Stoney Creek efforts.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. **FY 20/21 SPENDING PLAN:** Ken led the Board in a budget workshop to allocate funds for this FY and disburse some of those funds. Details can be found in the FY 20/21 Spending Plan Spreadsheet. The following were some key highlights:
 - a. Roan Mountain Community Park. Operating subsidy of \$6,000 should be adequate. RMCP should not need mowing equipment this year.
 - b. Blevins Road lighting – Ken will approach TWRA about installing LED lights, which should cut operating costs significantly. Per Mel, TVA may be persuaded to supply the lights.
 - c. Pocket Parks – \$20K allocated gives us enough money to support a potential Fish Springs park and another park, if an area of the county is interested and a sponsor can be found.
 - d. Gap Creek Park – Next FY spend plan includes money not spent last year plus \$25K more this year.
 - e. Cycling – we will continue to support the Roan Groan.
 - f. Bear Cage Landing – a small amount set aside for materials to repair/reinforce the parking area and/or riverbank if needed.
 - g. Green Bridge Landing – Operating subsidy of \$1,000 for the APEs. \$2,000 set aside to finish the playset and \$2,000 for installation of the security light
 - h. Mountain Biking – \$10,000 allocated as a potential match with City on a large grant to build the Watershed Trail expansion.
 - i. Twin Springs Picnic Area Renovation – \$3,000 to the Friends of Roan Mountain.

- j. Master Plan update – Allocated \$3,500 to pay for survey and analysis. We will discuss way ahead at next meeting.
- k. Unallocated reserve – this money likely to be used for Gap Creek Park, but will be held in reserve until we see where things stand later this year.

Mel made a motion to accept the Spend Plan. Randall seconded the motion. A Roll Call

Vote was taken:

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

The FY20/21 Spend Plan was approved unanimously.

2. INITIAL DISBURSEMENTS FROM SPEND PLAN:

- a. **RMCP: Mel made a motion to disburse the RMCP \$6,000 operating subsidy to the Roan Mountain Recreation Foundation. Randall seconded. A Roll Call Vote was taken.**

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

The motion passed unanimously.

- b. **Green Bridge Landing; Randall made a motion to disburse \$1,000 operating subsidy to the Appalachian Paddling Enthusiasts. Mel seconded. A Roll Call Vote was taken.**

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

The motion passed unanimously.

- c. **Twin Springs Picnic Area Renovation: Mel made a motion that we disburse \$3,000 to the Friends of Roan Mountain for the Twin Springs renovation: Mike Melton seconded. A Roll Call Vote was taken.**

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

The motion passed unanimously.

- d. **Watershed Trail Grant Match: Randall made a motion that we authorize the Mayor to disburse \$10,000 to the City of Elizabethton as our portion of a grant to**

expand the Mountain Bike Park if the City pursues a grant. Lisa seconded. A Roll Call Vote was taken.

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

The motion passed unanimously.

3. Next Meeting: The next meeting will be August 25th at 6:00 PM at the Roan Mountain Community Park. The RMRF will provide a meal

ADJOURNMENT: The Chairman closed the Meeting..

Respectfully submitted from notes by Chairman Gough and Lisa McGinnis

Erik Anderson

Secretary