

## MINUTES OF CARTER COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD

### MEETING HELD Aug 24<sup>th</sup>, 2021 at 124 Carter St, Roan Mountain, TN 37687

The Roan Mountain Recreation Foundation provided a meal at the Erik Anderson Community Park before the meeting.

**OPENING:** Chairman Ken Gough called the meeting to order at 6:32 PM.

**ROLL CALL:** Erik Anderson conducted a roll call. A quorum was present.

Patty Woodby (Mayor)	Present	Randall Jenkins (Commission Liaison)	Present	Michael Warren (1)	Present
Erik Anderson (2)	Present	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		

**GUESTS:** Wes Bradley (SORBA and APES); David Carmichael (Treasurer, Friends of Fish Springs Park); Reneau Dubberly (Carter County Omnium)

**PREVIOUS MINUTES:** Minutes of the June 22<sup>nd</sup> and July 27<sup>th</sup> meetings were provided to members before the meeting. They were approved by common consent.

#### PRESENTATIONS:

**Hampton Watershed Skills Park:** Wes Bradley presented a Master Concept for a future skills park at the Hampton Watershed Trails park. The concept was developed by SORBA Tri-Cities at no cost and saved approximately \$8K in initial design concept costs. The future skills park concept includes new parking and trailhead on 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue as well beginner, intermediate and advanced skills trails. It would also include a Pump Track, new connector to the existing Watershed Trails and climb trails as well as other features. The estimate for a turn key project is approximately \$250K which will necessitate the City of Elizabethton doing an RFP. The Master Concept can be undertaken in phases. The first phase would be clean-up. Wes has met with a logger, the Forest Service Forrester and TDEC. The majority of the location is pine beetle infested woods and has no value from a logging perspective. We have 10K in our spend plan to start the Skills Park project.

#### OLD BUSINESS:

- Fish Springs Park:** JR introduced David Carmichael, Treasurer, who provided us an organizational update on the Friends of Fish Springs. Their focus at this time are the procurement of the additional property and fund raising. Their next meeting is Monday August 30<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 The Highway Department has committed to help with some initial preparation as soon as the demand for mowing decreases. That led to a discussion of how supportive the Highway Department has been over the past several years with all of our Park and Recreation initiatives. **Michael Warren made a motion to allow the Mayor to expend up to \$100 from our Park and Recreation Budget to provide an appreciation lunch to the Highway Department. Randall seconded. A roll call vote was taken.**

Patty Woodby (Mayor)	N/A	Randall Jenkins (Commission Liaison)	Yes	Michael Warren (1)	Yes
Erik Anderson (2)	Yes	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	N/A		

**The motion was approved unanimously.** The Mayor will arrange a date. Ken and other members are invited.



2. **Road Cycling - Carter County Omnium:** Reneau Dubberly of the Carter County Omnium gave us a verbal report on the success of this year’s event. It was a great success. There were 276 racers this year. As the Omnium does not have ticket sales the Omnium is dependent on sponsors and volunteers for prize money and execution. The Chambers donation and Carter County Park and Recreation sponsorship was most appreciated. The area economic impact of the racers is approximately \$250K.
3. **Mountain Biking – Hampton Watershed Trails:** Wes Bradley reported that the City has not yet appropriated their \$37.5K contribution to SORBA to execute Phase 1 of the Hampton Watershed Trails Expansion. This administrative oversight is in the process of being corrected.
4. **Tunnel Trail Park:** The Mayor and Chairman Gough initiated conversations with appropriate stakeholders about extending the Tweetsie Trail to Green Bridge Landing/Hampton Watershed Trails. They have been met with positive feedback so far. They have arranged a meeting of regional leaders on Thursday September 2<sup>nd</sup> at 5:30 at the Valley Forge Christian Church to explore the concept as well as walk the potential trail extension. Ken also previewed a presentation that will be used at the September 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting. Randall is working to form a local support group.
5. **Green Bridge Landing (GBL) –** Wes reported that GBL is in good shape. The Highway Department will fix the potholes at the entrance when they have an opportunity
6. **Shooting Park –** Nothing Significant to Report.
7. **Gap Creek Park –** Charlie provided the Board with a draft project manager contract for Gap Creek with Bobs Trails, Trees and Gardens. The contract has been reviewed by the County Attorney and Mayor. **Erik made a motion that we approve the proposed contract and the 2021-2022 addendum. Michael Warren seconded. A roll call vote was taken:**

Patty Woodby (Mayor)	N/A	Randall Jenkins (Commission Liaison)	Yes	Michael Warren (1)	Yes
Erik Anderson (2)	Yes	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	N/A		

**The motion to approve the contract was approved unanimously.** Ken signed the contract for the Board. Charlie, Ken and the Mayor will meet with Finance and Bob’s Trails on Friday to review and execute the contract. Charlie is working a Blue Cross/Blue Shield Healthy Places grant request for a regulation adult softball field. The City of Elizabethton has given us authority to negotiate a right of way through the trailer park for heavy equipment and emergency vehicle access. Ken and the Mayor will start working with the owner. The Mayor is working the pedestrian bridge shipment and storage. **Erik made a motion that we authorize the Mayor to expend up to \$79,500 for Gap Creek 2021 Projects; up to \$20,876 from the Dog Park Grant for the dog park portion of the projects and up to \$5,043.80 for the Project Manager contract to execute this years work on Gap Creek Park. Michael Warren seconded. A roll call vote was taken:**

Patty Woodby (Mayor)	N/A	Randall Jenkins (Commission Liaison)	Yes	Michael Warren (1)	Yes
Erik Anderson (2)	Yes	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	N/A		

**The motion to authorize the Mayor to expend funds for this year’s Gap Creek development was approved unanimously.**

8. **Overmountain Victory Trail –** Nothing Significant to Report



- 9. Elizabethton P&R** – Mike Melton and the Mayor will lead our effort at the Covered Bridge Days. Erik provided Mike with Roan Mountain Park and Recreation brochures which include our Carter County Pocket Parks. **Randall made a motion that we authorize Mike Melton to expend up to \$500 to purchase promotional items for our booth. Michael Warren seconded. A roll call vote was taken:**

Patty Woodby (Mayor)	N/A	Randall Jenkins (Commission Liaison)	Yes	Michael Warren (1)	Yes
Erik Anderson (2)	Yes	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	N/A		

**The motion to authorize the Mike to be reimbursed for expenses for the Covered Bridge Days passed unanimously.** Board members are encouraged to also support manning our booth.

- 10. Birding** – Ken spoke to Roy Knispel of the Herndon Birders about the plans to finish “Birds of Carter County”. The text is 80% complete. They are working on maps. Roy asked if they could use our \$2500 for a graphics designer and “publish” the book on our website. After our discussion, Ken is to inform them that they can use the money as needed, but we expect the book to be published on paper or as an ebook no later than the end of this fiscal year.
- 11. Erik Anderson Community Park** – Erik thanked the board for their on-site visit. A joint Elizabethton Arts and Cultural Alliance and RMRF summer concert series has completed 6 of their 11 free Saturday concerts. The concerts have been well attended. A second part of the effort will provide an art project, probably a Quilt to be emplaced on the community park stage. The Mayor is making arrangements to provide a 54 inch Zero-turn mower to the Park and Recreation Board which will be stored and used in the Roan Mountain Community Park. There was an act of vandalism last week. Two sitting benches in the Playground were damaged but should be repairable.
- 12. Website update** – Some links to other County websites have been broken. They have either been repaired or are in the process of repair. All members are asked to review their web pages and either update them or provide Ken with information to update.
- 13. Road Cycling** – Nothing Significant to Report
- 14. Carter County Tweetsie extension** – We received excellent support from our legislators but have yet to hear from TDOT. Ken will follow up with legislators on September 2<sup>nd</sup>.
- 15. Master Plan update planning:** Charlie made a motion that we accomplish the Master Plan update using in house resources. Michael Warren seconded. The motion was approved unanimously. Charlie and Erik are to provide a first draft at the January 2022 meeting.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

- 1. HYDROFLASK Grants:** Ken and J.R will investigate and if appropriate prepare a grant application for the Hydroflask Company for either Fish Springs or for our Parks and Recreation Board, whichever one they think has the best chance of success.
- 2. Term Expirations:** Lisa and Mel’s terms will be expiring this year. They have both submitted their paperwork to continue to serve on the Board. We expect their terms to be renewed in September.
- 3. Next Meeting:** The next meeting will be Tuesday, September 28<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 PM at the Carter County Courthouse

**ADJOURNMENT:** The Chairman closed the Meeting at 8:39 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
**Erik Anderson**

