

MINUTES OF CARTER COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD

MEETING HELD September 28th, 2021 at 801 East Elk Ave, Elizabethton, TN 37643

OPENING: Chairman Ken Gough called the meeting to order at 6:15 PM.

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

Patty Woodby (Mayor)	Present	Aaron Frazier (Commission Liaison)	Absent	Michael Warren (1)	Present
Erik Anderson (2)	Present	Mel McKay (3)	Absent	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)

PREVIOUS MINUTES: Minutes of the August 24th, 2021 meeting were provided to members. They were approved by common consent.

PRESENTATIONS: None

OLD BUSINESS:

1. **Green Bridge Landing (GBL)** – Wes Bradley of the APES presented the risk management signage that the APES will mount in Green Bridge Landing. The information content parallels what is used in other County Pocket Parks. Key information includes 911 address, users risk statement (Use at Own Risk) and identification of any needed warnings. The signage will be displayed on a new information kiosk. The kiosk will be built as an Eagle Scout project and will use funds remaining from the memorial to local kayaking legend Chris Clark. Chris's memorial is built to withstand flooding and is a beautiful addition to GBL. Potholes and guide wire removal are on the list of minor problems to be addressed. Mowing has been accomplished almost weekly versus every other week as planned, Wes will have to adjust the mowing interval next FY.
2. **Shooting Park** – Nothing Significant to Report.
3. **Mountain Biking** – Ken and Wes Bradley of SORBA presented a slide show on the Tunnel Trail/Tweetsie Expansion and Hampton Watershed Trails projects. The Tunnel Trail is in very good shape except for the old highway bridge crossing the Doe River. We expect that the existing bridge can be used on a temporary basis with safety precautions and TDOT and our insurance company concurrence. The long term solution to crossing the Doe would be rebuilding the Tweetsie Railroad bridge using the old railbed and bridge abutments. The bridge abutments are in good shape. Phase 1 of the Hampton Watershed Trails Master Plan is fully funded. The RFQ is out and work is expected to start next month with completion of 2.7 miles of additional trails by next spring. Remaining phases to include more trails, expanded parking and a skills track are in the funding phase. The current and future improvements at Hampton Watershed Trails tied together with the developing Tunnel Trail provides a synergistic opportunity to expand the existing Tweetsie Trail from Johnson City through Elizabethton to the Hampton Watershed by 4.5 miles. This Expanded Tweetsie Trail would then become a premier regional recreation attraction. To bring this concept to fruition the Tweetsie Railroad bridge needs to be rebuilt and will likely require a regional approach. The presentation serves to build support for such a regional effort. The presentation can be viewed at:

https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1CvQ2exMIXQ_hUxsmx2LWYRxYu0nVeirM/edit#slide

