

MINUTES OF CARTER COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD

MEETING HELD October 26th, 2021 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 roll call. A quorum was present.

Patty Woodby (Mayor)	Present	Aaron Frazier (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)	Present
Mike Melton (8)	Present	Eliz Park and Rep	Absent		

GUESTS: Wes Bradley (SORBA and APES); Ashley Davies (Healthy Development Coordinator, Northeast TN Regional Health Office); Andrew Long (Eagle Scout candidate Troop 516 and his mom); Bob Richards (Bob's Trails, Trees & Garden)

PREVIOUS MINUTES: Minutes of the September 28th, 2021 meeting were provided to members. They were approved by common consent.

PRESENTATIONS:

1. **Built Environment and Health:** Ashley Davies of TN Dept. of Health filled us in on her work to promote healthy life styles. She is the Healthy Development Coordinator serving counties in Northeast TN. They have both competitive and non-competitive grants. She has gotten Carter County two grants in the past (\$10K for the Roan Mountain Community Park playground rehab and \$20K for Gap Creek Park). She is working on additional grants for Gap Creek Park and the pump/skills area for the Watershed Trails. More information on the Built Environment and Health program and funding opportunities can be found at: <https://www.tn.gov/health/health-program-areas/office-of-primary-prevention/redirect-opp/built-environment-and-health/built-environment-funding-opportunities.html>
2. **Eagle Scout Project:** Eagle Scout Candidate Andrew Long showed us the plans for the trash can cover and information Kiosk he will build at the Green Bridge Landing. The APES are covering material expenses and Andrew's troop 516 will be helping with labor. The project will use the same colors and schema as was used for the changing house at GBL. The Board applauded Andrews presentation and project.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. **Green Bridge Landing (GBL)** – Wes Bradley of the APES reports no further vagrants; still waiting on parking lot repairs; Plexiglas installed on the monument to protect the memorial plaque from vandals. Patty Woodby reports the sheriff is conducting more-frequent security patrols. Lisa McGinnis will take over getting the playset ready to install. Wes also reported that there is a large fallen sycamore tree. He is offering it up for firewood and will see if there are any takers.
2. **Shooting Park** – Nothing Significant to Report.
3. **Mountain Biking – Hampton Watershed Trails** – Wes Bradley of SORBA reported that the City of Elizabethton has placed the contract for Phase 1 which provides 2.75 miles of new trails. Construction will start in March 2022 with projected completion in June 2022 Cost, a little over \$71K, funded by the county. Info on cost of Phase II trails (approx \$150K) has been provided to both Mayors for FY 22/23 budgeting. Wes is also developing a cost estimate for the bike skills park. He will see if the Army Corps of Engineers can help clean out the future pump track area of the park which has a lot of dead pine and also help expand the parking lot.
4. **Mountain Biking – Tunnel Trail-** Ken, Wesley and Patty will be preparing a portfolio for Gov. Lee, visiting sometime in November. They have 9 letters of support in hand, more promised and coming. A structural engineer looked at the railroad bridge reconstruction proposal, says it's very do-able. There are no structural issues with the center pier and one abutment. The abutment on the

the Tunnel side will require work as part of it was removed for water pipes. In discussions with some Summer Taylor engineers they pointed out that the bridge cost is one factor. They estimate that site preparation and staging for installation would likely be a multi-million dollar effort. We're re-evaluating the design concept. We will present a contract for a design narrative and options at our November meeting. We will also see if Army Corps of Engineers can help with rebuilding of the trail on the Valley Forge side.

5. **Gap Creek Park** – Project Mgr. Bob Richards and Charlie Mattioli report that they are collecting information and quotes for building the bridge abutments and installing the bridge, which is ready and waiting in Atlanta. They estimate \$1,000 to transport the bridge from Atlanta and another \$1,200 for a crane to remove it from the truck and emplace on the abutments. They currently estimate the bridge abutments will cost approx. \$22K. The low water crossing will be postponed and use a “319” grant of approx. \$236K to accomplish it. Those funds will be available next FY and the Carter County match will be \$30K. They are also working on the dog park, parking, rain gardens and walking trail. They need information from the Planning Office on the Fence RFP for the Dog Park to proceed. Bob showed signage that identifies the park as under construction and not open to the public. The signage cost \$800 While reviewing the plans for the park Aaron and Patty urged that the playgrounds be ADA accessible. Charlie and Bob have a meeting on November 2nd with Grant Summers to explore the details of the \$10K in kind work pledge.
6. **Overmountain Victory Trail** – Nothing Significant to Report
7. **Elizabethton P&R** – Mike reported that the next meeting will be November 2nd . .
8. **Birding** – Nothing Significant to report.
9. **Erik Anderson Community Park** – Erik provided a written report. Several Churches will be having a Fall Festival Saturday October 30th from 4:00 to 7:00 PM as an alternative to Halloween. Music, free food, candies and games will be provided.
10. **Website update** – Nothing Significant to Report
11. **Road Cycling** – Nothing Significant to Report
12. **Pocket Parks – Fish Springs**. JR reports that the Friends of Fish Springs expect to acquire the additional property by next month. He also noted a recent Elizabethton Star article highlighted the future park and its origins.
13. **Blevins Road Lighting**: No change.
14. **Carter County Tweetsie extension** – TDOT is producing the signage that meets Federal standards. Estimated time to produce signs is several weeks. Then they will do a site visit.
15. **Master Plan update planning**: Erik and Charlie provided a final draft of the Strategic Recreation Plan. They asked that members and partners provide any suggested changes. Erik will provide the final plan with any changes at the November meeting for Board Approval.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. **Linkage between Parks and Recreation and Economic and Community Development**: Aaron Frazier presented the board with the results of the recent Joint Economic and Community Development Board SPOT workshop. The presentation identified strengths, problems, opportunities, and threats to economic and community development in Carter County. Outdoor recreation is a significant economic driver.
2. **County Commission Update**: Ken will prepare a status report for the County Commission with plans to present it at the January Commission meeting.
3. **Next Meeting**: It will be on November 23rd at 6:00 PM in the Mayor's Conference Room.

ADJOURNMENT: The Chairman closed the Meeting at 8:29 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Erik Anderson
Secretary

