

MINUTES OF CARTER COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD

MEETING HELD January 26th, 2021 at 801 East Elk Ave, Elizabethton, TN 37643

OPENING: Chairman Ken Gough called the meeting to order at 6:10 PM.

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

Patty Woodby (Mayor)	Present	Randall Jenkins (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)	Telcon
Mike Melton (8)	Present	Eliz Park and Rep	Absent		

PREVIOUS MINUTES: Minutes of the December 15th, 2020 meeting were provided to members before the meeting. The minutes of the December meeting were approved as presented by common consent.

PRESENTATIONS: None

OLD BUSINESS:

- Green Bridge Landing** – In person schooling restarts next week, so Ken will try to get the playset painted ASAP. Then we'll work on installation. **Mike Melton made a motion that we ask the appropriate County or State office to investigate options to reduce or mitigate periodic flooding at the convergence of the Little Doe and Doe Rivers. JR seconded. The motion was approved.** We will approach the Planning Office to see if there is some way to mitigate the damage caused by periodic flooding, which has seriously damaged the trail. The APEs reported that only one bid was received for rebuilding the walking trail. That bid using permeable concrete as discussed in October is still under consideration but cost may be a significant concern.
- Shooting Park** – Nothing Significant to Report.
- Mountain Biking** – Elizabethton Park and Recreation did not get their grant for Hampton Watershed Trails expansion and we do not expect any activity on this effort for the foreseeable future.
- Gap Creek Park** – Chris Schuettler informs Charlie that the bridge is ready to install, and he's working on getting the abutments built. Charlie will work with the mayor, Finance Office and others as needed to develop a RFP to hire a contractor to oversee Gap Creek Park construction. Scope of work as to whether the contractor is a project manager or provides a turn-key solution and budget to be determined. The scope of the effort could include putting up fencing, build vehicle access road through the trailer park, install wetland features, build the dog park(s), and put in a rest room, among other suggestions. We have at least \$70K less the cost of the bridge available in this years execution plan.
- Overmountain Victory Trail** – Nothing Significant to Report
- Elizabethton P&R** – Mike Mains provided a written report last month. Their next meeting is next Monday.
- Birding** – The Herndon Birders continue work on *Birds of Carter County*. Much of the verbiage and illustrations/pictures have been compiled. They are currently working on maps to the locations in partnership with ETSU.
- Roan Mtn. Comm. Park** – Erik reported that the Recreation Foundation is accomplishing their annual organizational meeting by e-mail this year due to Covid-19. He provided a list of

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accomplishments for 2020 and a financial summary as of January 1st 2020. It was a busy year and they are in good shape financially at this time. They are investigating installing a plastic trout trap on the Doe River this year.

9. **Carter County's Tweetsie Extension** – No additional progress on signage emplacement.
10. **Website update** – Nothing Significant to Report
11. **Road Cycling** – The former Johnson City Omnium is now the Carter County Omnium. The Commission gave the Chamber of Commerce \$5,000 to support the race and \$2,500 to promote the race. Ken introduced Race Director Reneau Dubberley to the mayor a couple of weeks ago. Reneau briefed her on the race and its impact on the county. The Roan Groan Road Race and Erwin Time Trial stay the same, and the Criterium (closed-loop, multi-lap short course race) moves to downtown Elizabethton. The Park and Recreation Board will provide a \$500 sponsorship and will solicit volunteers to assist with the race. The actual date of the race is TBD.
12. **Pocket Parks** – Covid 19 has prevented the Fish Springs community from making progress during the last two months. J.R. hopes and expects to get things going in February. The County Mayor and JR are trying to secure another parcel of land adjacent to existing land and the highway.
13. **Blevins Road Lighting: No change.**
14. **Master Plan update planning:** No progress on the surveys. Erik will check with the County School Administration to see if the surveys can be completed once in person schooling resumes on February 1st. One of the other inputs to the planning update is a documentation of actions completed in the first 5 years of the Master Plan. A first draft of accomplishments was provided to Board Members with a request to review and provide updates. Erik and Charlie also provided a paper which outlined the need for a full or part time employee to take on the role of a Park and Recreation Director to be included in the next Master Plan. The difficulty of operating the growing park system is becoming a serious concern and may require more immediate action. Conversations will be held with county leaders about hiring someone to do the job sooner rather than later. Although some members of the Commission are aware of the problem (and opportunity), this will require a serious effort to build the case.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. **Budget Workshop:** Ken led the Board in a budget workshop. Covid-19 has delayed project execution for many projects this year. As a result significant funds will be carried over to next year. The resulting draft budget will be sent to partners and Board Members for review and input. The Board will finalize its budget submission at the February 23rd meeting.
2. **Board term expirations** – Terms for Mel McKay (District 3) and Lisa McGinnis (District 4) end in September. The mayor has been alerted and will start the process of soliciting applications soon. Lisa is applying for another term, Mel will be contacted to ascertain his interest.
3. **Next Meeting:** The next meeting will be Tuesday, February 23rd at 6:00 PM in the Mayor's conference room.

ADJOURNMENT: The Chairman closed the Meeting at 7:50 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Erik Anderson
Secretary

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