

MINUTES OF CARTER COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD

MEETING HELD April 27th, 2021 at 801 East Elk Ave, Elizabethton, TN 37643

OPENING: Chairman Ken Gough called the meeting to order at 6:03 PM.

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

Patty Woodby (Mayor)	Present	Randall Jenkins (Commission Liaison)	Present	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: Chris Schuettler, Carter County Director of Planning and Zoning; Wes Bradley, APES and SORBA; Tim Barr, Milligan University Disc Golf Coach

PREVIOUS MINUTES: Minutes of the March 23rd, 2021 meeting were provided to members before the meeting. The minutes of the March meeting were approved as presented by common consent.

PRESENTATIONS:

- 1. DISC GOLF INTRODUCTION:** Tim Barr, Milligan Disc Golf Coach gave the Board a thumbnail description of Disc Golf activities in Northeast Tennessee. Highlights included 11 members of the Milligan University recently went to the NCAA national. This was their first championship Tournament. One of the ladies placed 5th. The Milligan team will use the Roan Mountain Disc Golf Course as their second home starting this fall. Tim is also President of Lakefront Disc Golf Club which is based at Warriors Path State Park. They have been in existence since 1984 and have over 100 active members. They will work with the Roan Mountain Recreation Foundation to investigate a charity Disc Golf Tournament in the winter. Two Disc Golf Professionals live in the Tri Cities. They are ranked #5 and #20. Tim is also the organizer for the 2021 PDGA Pro Masters Disc Golf World Championships will take place in our area on August 3-7. Hole sponsorships are available at a cost of \$250. **Erik made a motion that Carter County Parks and Recreation disburse \$250 for a hole sponsorship at Wing Deer Park to highlight Disc Golf in Carter County.** 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)	Absent	Lisa McGinnis (4)	Yes
Ken Gough (5)	Yes	JR Campbell (6)	Yes	Charlie Mattioli (7)	Yes
Mike Melton (8)	Yes				

The motion to disburse \$250 for hole sponsorship was approved unanimously. Erik will work with Mr. Barr on the wording of the hole sponsorship signage.

- 2. BOY SCOUT ACTIVITIES:** Michael Warren gave an update on recent activities by the Boy Scouts in Carter County. Approximately 20 scouts worked on the War Memorial in Elizabethton. They removed grass and emplaced gravel to enhance the Memorial presentation and improve maintenance. Later the Board discussed the potential that the Boy Scouts could help with removing rocks in the future Gap Creek Dog Park. Michael will coordinate with the Boy Scouts.

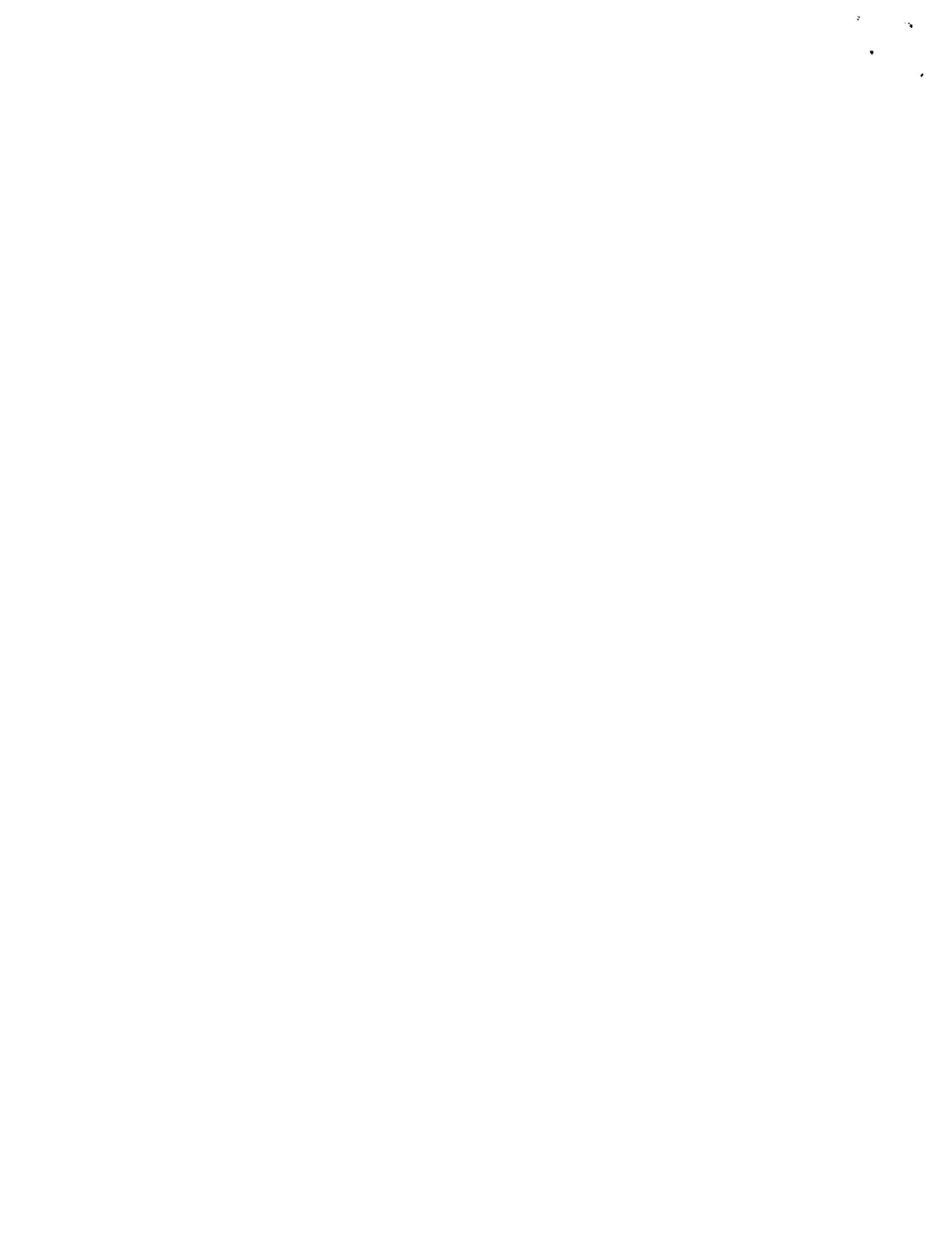
OLD BUSINESS:

- 1. Green Bridge Landing (GBL)** – The playset has yet to be painted. Wesley Bradley of the APES, our operating partner, refreshed us on their proposal to rebuild the walking trail path with pervious concrete. He passed around a previous quote by Summers and Taylor for the project at just over



\$40K. The Board had deferred action on this request earlier in the FY. Wes's new information was that the Elizabethton linear trail by the Doe River, is paved with pervious concrete and has performed well per his discussions with Mike Mains. Mike Melton raised concerns about using the pervious concrete including safety and the tendency of the material to clog with mud and debris from floods or break if heavy vehicles cross the path. He proposed that a contractor, Dan Slagle, could emplace large boulders at specific locations and the bank can be reinforced to protect the park acreage. This would permit a replacement of the hardscaped path. Some members of the Board were skeptical that emplacement of boulders would reduce flooding. Mike is to invite Mr. Slagle to make a presentation next month explaining what he would do and potential cost. The Board will then decide on what approach is best for working the walking trail at GBL.

2. **Shooting Park** – Nothing Significant to Report.
3. **Mountain Biking** – Wesley Bradley of SORBA reviewed the plans for the Hampton Watershed Trails Expansion. Almost all of the future trails have been flagged. The remaining work will take place next week. The City of Elizabethton Park and Rec has requested \$75K in their next FY budget to accomplish Phase 1 of the expansion. Phase 1 would add approximately 2.67 miles of one way multi use trails. This would be a 50% increase in trail mileage.
4. **Gap Creek Park** – Work continues on the pedestrian bridge, the Dog Park and other initial actions. Chris expects to spend the entire \$75K budgeted for FY 20/21. Chris presented a Gap Creek Park development approach composed of manageable projects needed to complete the Gap Creek Park. The projects would be done in phases as money becomes available. His estimate of the cost of the completed park predicated on the work being done by contractors rather than in-house – project management at a little less than \$1 million. Charlie Mattioli reported that the 1st RFQ to find a project manager was unsuccessful – the only bid received, from a company in Kentucky, was not viable. Two individuals were identified as possible candidates for a part time project manager. Charlie will work with the Finance Office to send out an RFP. It was agreed the current system, with Chris requesting release of work funds by Ken, is working and will continue.
5. **Overmountain Victory Trail** – Nothing Significant to Report
6. **Elizabethton P&R** – Mike Melton will be our new liaison to Elizabethton Parks and Recreation. We appreciate Charlie's past service in this role.
7. **Birding** – No update from the Herndon Birders. The sense of the Board was that funding set aside for the publication of a new *Birds of Carter County* should be redirected to other activities if they cannot complete the book by June 2022 . Ken will communicate with the Herndon Birders.
8. **Erik Anderson Community Park** – Erik provided a written report. Hikerpalooza, the annual AT celebration, will take place on May 8th. It will be a scaled down to a Hiker hospitality event and will include installation of AT information panels on the community stage. He added that one of the mowers has been acting up and the need for a replacement mower for next year was looking more likely. The Mayor informed the Board that the County may have two Zero Turn Mowers that are not in use. The Board asked the Mayor to designate one for the Parks and Recreation Board.
9. **Website update** – Nothing Significant to Report
10. **Road Cycling** – We now have 4 volunteers to help out with the Carter County Omnium. Ken will inform Reneau Dubberley
11. **Pocket Parks – Fish Springs**. A revised survey showed a Right of Way that we didn't know about. County Attorney is working on the completing the deed for the transfer of property– J.R. Campbell will expedite. We will quit pursuing the highway-front lot if a developer wants to build a gas station there. J.R. will request that the mentioned right of way be eliminated (doesn't seem useful to anyone, but affects our use of the land). J.R. and Erik will attempt to have the support group and MOU ready by the May meeting.
12. **Blevins Road Lighting: No change.**



- Master Plan update planning:** Erik has received 8 responses on the Stakeholders Surveys. Blank surveys were handed out to Board members who had yet to complete their survey. He and Charlie will summarize the results at the May meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Valley Forge Linear Park/potential Tweetsie Trail extension** – The County Commission accepted the donation, with some opposition over the old highway bridge. Our insurer (Tennessee Risk Management) inspected the acquisition and recommended we close the access to the bridge along with signage and some upkeep items. The Mayor is working those recommendations. The County attorney is working on completing the deed. Chris will arrange for a retired civil engineer to survey the tunnel and bridge – tunnel should be OK, bridge is a question mark. Chris presented a rough cost estimate for a pedestrian walkway across the highway bridge – \$40K-plus – and an idea to use the ET&WNC bridge piers for the pedestrian bridge rather than the highway bridge – around \$54K plus installation. Using the Tweetsie piers would also involve using the old rail bed on the Valley Forge side rather than the dirt road that begins at the end of Mill Pond Road – a much better solution, if the rail bed is usable. Randall continues to work on a supporters group – no luck yet, but will try to get it done by the May meeting. The Mayor will put out feelers to Elizabethton and Johnson City about making the future linear park an extension of the Tweetsie Trail. The sense of the Board was that an extended Tweetsie Trail that had a terminus in Hampton and proximity to the Hampton Watershed Park would be a major recreation improvement for not only our County but also for East Tennessee.
- NETREP/NOLI No-littering Campaign** – Ken referred this to Keep Carter County Beautiful, which declined because of current commitments. We reviewed and came to the same conclusion. Ken will inform NETREP.
- COVID Relief Stimulus Funds:** The Mayor reported that the County expects to receive approximately \$11 million in Covid relief stimulus money. It is not clear if there are restrictions or how the funds can be used or how the County will disburse. The sense of our Board was that a good use of one-time funds would be investment in Parks and Recreation. Projects mentioned were completion of Gap Creek Park and a replacement bridge for the Valley Forge liner trail. These projects would promote a healthier environment for our populace. **Charlie made a motion that the Budget Committee and County Commission designate 1.1M of the relief funds to the Parks and Recreation Board. Michael Warren seconded.** A roll call vote was taken to communicate the importance by all of our Board members.

Patty Woodby (Mayor)	N/A	Randall Jenkins (Commission Liaison)	Yes	Michael Warren (1)	Yes
Erik Anderson (2)	Yes	Mel McKay (3)	Absent	Lisa McGinnis (4)	Yes
Ken Gough (5)	Yes	JR Campbell (6)	Yes	Charlie Mattioli (7)	Yes
Mike Melton (8)	Yes				

The resolution passed unanimously. Ken will present it to the Budget Committee.

- Next Meeting:** The next meeting will be Tuesday, May 25th at 6:00 PM in the Mayor's conference room.

ADJOURNMENT: The Chairman closed the Meeting at 8:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Erik Anderson
 Secretary

