

MINUTES OF CARTER COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD

MEETING HELD May 25th, 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 rollcall. A quorum was present.

Patty Woodby (Mayor)	Absent	Randall Jenkins (Commission Liaison)	Absent	Michael Warren (1)	Absent
Erik Anderson (2)	Present	Mel McKay (3)	Present	Lisa McGinnis (4)	Present
Ken Gough (5)	Present	JR Campbell (6)	Present	Charlie Mattioli (7)	Absent
Mike Melton (8)	Present	Eliz Park and Rep	Absent		

GUESTS: Mr. Doug Slagle, private contractor.

PREVIOUS MINUTES: Minutes of the April 27th, 2021 meeting were provided to members before the meeting. The minutes of the March meeting were approved as presented by common consent.

PRESENTATIONS: NONE

OLD BUSINESS:

- Green Bridge Landing (GBL)** – Mike Melton introduced Mr. Doug Slagle, a private contractor. Mr. Slagle provided an approach on how he might stabilize the bank at Green Bridge Landing. His approach would be to clear out the brush upstream by the bridge and smooth that area out. Then he take the large boulders on the property and line the remaining walking path by the parking lot and on downstream. This approach would stabilize the bank but not prevent flooding. Mr. Slagle has experience with this kind of work. He expected that we may have to get permits before undertaking this approach. Mel added that most of the park is in the Floodway and may require even more extensive permitting. Mr. Slagle estimates that the cost would be between \$14-15K. In summary, the Board has now investigated several approaches to replacing the walking trail. None of the approaches can stop the periodic flooding and prevent damage to a replaced trail. The approaches are: the pervious concrete trail by Summers/Taylor at approx. 40-45K; bank stabilization by Mr. Slagle which will not prevent the trail from being washed away; a very short trail above the flood lines we have observed in the last three years; and abandoning the walking trail at Green Bridge Landing for the foreseeable future. The Board will decide on an approach at the June meeting.
- Shooting Park** – Nothing Significant to Report. JR suggested we may want to reengage with the National Forest Service about the potentiality of a shooting park.
- Mountain Biking** – 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. We have budgeted 10K in matching funds.
- Gap Creek Park** – Ken broached the subject of a trail from the Tweetsie Trail to Gap Creek Park with Mike Mains. Mel added that he thinks TDOT had an obligation to provide a 4 ft path along Mary Patton Highway. One of the items that need to be addressed is potential access to the park by emergency vehicle if needed. The idea was brought up that perhaps the owner of the trailer park would allow emergency vehicle access if they would not allow a connector to the Tweetsie through the trailer Park. Charlie reported that he has a Request

for Performance at the Finance Office for the incremental build-out of the Gap Creek Park. He also reported that Chris plans to work on the dog park and the pedestrian bridge next week.

5. **Overmountain Victory Trail** – Nothing Significant to Report
6. **Elizabethton P&R** – Mike Melton reported they postponed their May meeting until June. Ken reported that in his discussions with Mike Mains that Elizabethton Park and Rec top priorities are repair of the Covered Bridge; rehabilitating the park by the Covered Bridge; the Hampton Bicycle Trail expansion; and a Surf Betsy Engineering Study. All the Banners at the Covered Bridge festival will acknowledge Carter County Parks and Recreation as a sponsor.
7. **Birding** – Nothing Significant to report
8. **Erik Anderson Community Park** – Erik reported that Hikerpalooza Appalachian Trail Days was successful. Disruption to Hole # 1 of the Disc Golf continues due to TDOT work on the neighborhood bridge. The Community Garden is in full swing. Picnic reservations are picking up.
9. **Website update** – Nothing Significant to Report
10. **Road Cycling** – Ken will do final coordination with Reneau Dubberley for the races on 5 and 6 June.
11. **Pocket Parks – Fish Springs.** The deed has been signed. The “Friends of Fish Springs” had an organizational meeting May 24th and walked the property. They will be establishing their bank account and business registration this week. Their board will meet again on the 7th of June and hopefully approve their MOU with Parks and Rec. JR will try to get that MOU to the Park and Rec Board by June 15th so that we can approve it and disburse funds to the Friend of Fish Springs at our June 22nd meeting.
12. **Blevins Road Lighting: No change.**
13. **Valley Forge Linear Park/potential Tweetsie extension** – The deed should be signed next week. Randall reports that there is significant community interest but has yet to find an organization that will step forward as an operating partner. Ken showed the Board warning and use at own risk signage that has been approved by the County Attorney. The Highway department will put them up.
14. **Master Plan update planning:** Erik and Charlie presented the preliminary results of the Stakeholder surveys. Erik assess that the stakeholder survey results coupled with the accomplishment of the last 5 years has us postured to begin the Master Plan update. The Board discussed whether we could do this solely in house or whether we need some outside assistance. The consensus of the Board was that we should investigate getting some assistance, perhaps from Kayla Carter who has significant experience with the Board and is a journalism/communications specialist. Mel volunteered to draft a prioritization list for our projects that would also be part of the updated plan.
15. **Risk Mitigation Plan:** All Board members are reminded to review the Risk Mitigation plan. It will be voted on at the June meeting. Then, operating partners will implement.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. **Great Lakes Fishing Tournament** – Mayor Woodby reported that TWRA will stock the Great Lakes ponds and hopes to have a fishing tournament on June 12th. She is trying to identify an organization to run the tournament and provide T-shirts Hot Dogs etc to the participants. **Mel made a motion that we allocate and disburse up to \$5,000 to sponsor this event and authorize Ken to work with the Mayor to fund an organization to run the event.** Lisa seconded. A roll call vote was taken:.

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

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The resolution passed unanimously. Ken will follow-up with the Mayor.

2. **Next Meeting:** The next meeting will be Tuesday, June 22nd at 6:00 PM in the Mayor's conference room.

ADJOURNMENT: The Chairman closed the Meeting at 8:10 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Erik Anderson

Secretary

