

**MINUTES OF CARTER COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD****MEETING HELD March 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2022 at 801 East Elk Ave, Elizabethton, TN 37643****OPENING:** Chairman Ken Gough called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.**ROLL CALL:** Erik Anderson conducted a roll call. A quorum was present.

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

**GUESTS:** None**PRAYER:** Mike Melton provided an opening Prayer.**PLEDGE:** Mel McKay led the Pledge of Allegiance.**PREVIOUS MINUTES:** Minutes of the February 15<sup>th</sup>, 2022 meeting were provided to members. They were approved by common consent.**PRESENTATIONS: NONE****OLD BUSINESS:**

- Financial Report:** Ken provided a written report on expenditures thru March 17<sup>th</sup>. Expenditures were \$34,200 out of a budget of \$160,000. Aaron provided clarification that funds that are associated with an active purchase order at the end of the FY do roll over to the next FY.
- Birding:** Nothing Significant to Report
- Website:** Nothing Significant to Report
- Shooting Park:** Nothing Significant to Report
- Road Cycling:** We need at least two volunteers to assist with the Carter County Omnium which will take place on June 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>. During the Roan Groan on June 4<sup>th</sup> we need two people to assist with traffic on Highway 19-E. On the 5<sup>th</sup> during the race in Elizabethton the volunteers will be helping with crowd management. Ken will check with the Mayor on the check request for our sponsorship of this years Omnium.
- Erik Anderson Community Park:** Erik provided a written report. The park is gearing up for a very busy spring. Softball is underway. Appalachian Trail festival and music concerts are in planning. Mowing will start soon.
- Elizabethton Park and Recreation:** Mike Melton reviewed his discussion on Gap Creek Park with the City of Elizabethton Park and Recreation Board. He would like to address the opportunity for a partnership with the City Council. Our Board rehashed past history to include the draft MOA that was developed several years ago only to not be approved. The City is planning a June 11<sup>th</sup> festival featuring the Tweetsie Trail. If the Tunnel Trail funding is in the State budget at that time we need to have an information booth.
- Green Bridge Landing (GBL)** – The highway department has placed gravel in the parking area entrance. Wes (APEs) has requested that we ask the Highway Department to pave the entrance to the parking lot. Aaron will contact the highway department.
- Fish Springs Park** – J.R reported that that the Friends of Fish Spring had accomplished some initial clearing on the combined properties. They have not had a meeting to complete the selection of a name for the park. With the property acquisitions complete and the initial clearing it is appropriate to produce a Master Plan for the parks development. **J.R. made a motion to disburse**

**the \$5,000 O&M supplement in this FY budget to the “Friends of Fish Springs” to assist in the development of a Master Plan. Mel seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken:**

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

**The motion to disburse this years \$5,000 to Friend of Fish Springs Park was approved unanimously.**

10. **Carter County Tweetsie Extension:** Still awaiting the States next action
11. **Mountain Biking – Hampton Watershed Trails –** Wes reported that he had a positive meeting with the City of Elizabethton last month on trail construction during the FY22/23 budget cycle. The City does not want to move forward on pump track design until they can include funding for construction.
12. **Tunnel Trail – Tweetsie Trail and Hampton Watershed Trail Extension –** We are waiting to see if this initiative will make it into the State Budget when the first amendments are considered in April.
13. **Gap Creek Park –** The Mayor’s letter of intent for the Project Diabetes grant that was discussed in our January meeting has been submitted. This is a grant for up to \$150K/yr for three years. Charlie reported that the PO for the fill shale has gone through and 20 loads of shale are stacked on the property for future use. Utility easements are being worked. Significant cost savings are possible with some approaches on easements. If a Jena Beth Drive easement could be obtained it could possibly avoid significant costs of running water and electricity underground from Gap Creek road. The Elizabethton Planning and Zoning office needs a copy of the “No Rise” certificate for Gap Creek Park or if one has not been completed we need to complete a “No Rise” study by an engineering firm as soon as possible as work within the floodway is not permitted without the certificate. Our planning office reports that they have completed a no rise certification but we need the actual certificate for the City. Bob Richards reported that we only had one bidder for the dog park RFQ. Charlie and Bob are investigating the purchase of metal ramps for the access to the pedestrian bridge versus building up a berm ramp.
14. **Roan Mountain State Park Pool Closure –** Erik reported that the working group out briefed the Mayor and TDEC regional representative on their findings. Carter County does not currently have the ability to assume operations of the State Park Pool. The consensus of the working group was to allow the closure of the Roan Mountain State Park pool to proceed.
15. **Bill Dance Lake:** TVA announced their plan to rename Watauga Lake the Bill Dance Watauga Lake

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

1. **Budget Presentation:** The Park and Recreation Budget will be presented to the Budget Committee at the April 12<sup>th</sup> budget hearings.
2. **Next Meeting:** Tuesday April 26<sup>th</sup>, 2022 at 6:00 PM in the Mayors Conference Room.

**ADJOURNMENT:** The Chairman closed the Meeting at 7:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
**Erik Anderson**  
 Secretary