

MINUTES OF CARTER COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD

MEETING HELD January 25th , 2022 at 801 East Elk Ave, Elizabethton, TN 37643

OPENING: Chairman Ken Gough called the meeting to order at 6:09 PM.

ROLL CALL: Erik Anderson conducted a roll call. The Board approved Aaron Frazier participating by phone. A quorum was present.

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

GUESTS: Mr. Wes Bradley (SORBA)

PRAYER: Mike Melton provided an opening Prayer.

PLEDGE: Mike Melton also led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

PRESENTATIONS: NONE

OLD BUSINESS:

- Financial Report:** Ken reported that expenditures to date totaled a little more than \$32K. The Chairman met with the Finance Director last month. The Finance Director interprets guidance that our funds did not roll over from year to year as had been the practice since 2015. The County Commission provided an additional \$78,330 for this Fiscal Year to restore our spending plan back to \$160K. This is sufficient funding for the remainder of the FY.
- Birding:** Nothing Significant to Report
- Website:** Nothing Significant to Report
- Erik Anderson Community Park:** Nothing Significant to Report
- Elizabethton Park and Recreation:** There was not a meeting in January. **Mike Melton requested a reimbursement from the Petty Cash fund for expenditures at last years Covered Bridge Days. Erik made a motion that we approve the request. Michael Warren seconded. The board approved unanimously.**
- Green Bridge Landing (GBL)** – Wes reported that the potholes at the entrance are getting worse.
- Fish Springs Park** – No report. J.R. was not present.
- Carter County Tweetsie Extension:** TDOT has given final approval on signage. They also provided a road sign location map. Ken will validate the locations.
- Mountain Biking – Hampton Watershed Trails** – Wes will meet with the City of Elizabethton tomorrow to discuss potential timing of a pump track development. There may be an opportunity to expedite some aspects of the pump track as the contractor would be finishing up work. The Board did not take action on his request to consider a design effort at this time.

10. **Tunnel Trail – Tweetsie Trail and Hampton Watershed Trail Extension** – Support continues to build. The Johnson City Press gave the project a front-page spread 2 Sundays ago. The Chamber of Commerce put up a Facebook page. (thanks to Joy McCray and her crew). Wesley Bradley of SORBA is the Admin and posting stuff daily. The next milestone is the governor’s budget. The Board reviewed Steve Wilson’s engineering report on the 3 bridge alternatives and decided that the “Wisconsin option” is not viable. Of the other 2 – the “Howe truss option” and the “cable-stayed option” – the Howe truss option is preferred, even though it is more expensive. Everything depends on the state budget, so further discussion will wait until we have a better idea on how that is shaping up.

11. **Gap Creek Park** – The pedestrian bridge is in place. Per Charlie Mattioli, this fiscal year we expect to finish the bridge approaches on both sides of the creek, stake out the entire park, commission the walking trail, and build the dog park enclosures. Three companies have bid on the dog park fencing and gate, approx. \$19K. We may have enough money to buy the equipment for the dog parks – to be decided later. Charlie and Bob worked up an approach to build retaining walls and provide fill on the west side of the creek (the parking lot side). **Charlie made a motion to approve a contract NTE \$20,500 with Preston Construction Company to complete the west side approach. Mel seconded. A voice vote was taken**

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

The proposed contract was approved unanimously.

Charlie also made a motion NTE \$8,000 to purchase shale fill to place behind the retaining wall. Mike Melton seconded. A voice vote was taken:

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

The motion to purchase the fill shale was approved unanimously.

12. **Roan Mountain State Park Pool Closure:** Erik provided a written update for the Board. A working group has been formed to investigate three options to include: (1) closing the pool; (2) restoring the pool to operations with State operations and a County funding supplement; and (3) County assume operations and maintenance of the pool. Data gathering is underway on previous operations. Benchmarking with other local pools is also occurring. The schedule calls for a presentation to Mayor Woodby and Jan Compton (TDEC Regional representative) on 16 or 17 Feb and a presentation to Senator Crowe and Mr. Bryson on approx. Feb 18th. Initial feedback is that TDEC is not willing to discuss any option where TDEC continues the operation of the Pool.

13. **Smalling Road Bridge:** The Roan Mountain Recreation Foundation does not want the County to pursue the bridge as a solution to their requirement for a connecting bridge. There also is not support for the bridge as a pocket park. We will table discussions on the bridge at this time. As it will likely be left in place we can revisit the use of the bridge at a later time.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. **Project Diabetes Grant:** Ashley Davies of TN Dept. of Health is urging city and county to jointly pursue this grant, which could provide up to \$150K annually for 3 years – total \$450K. The consensus of the Board was to participate in a workshop with the city to decide on a project or projects, if the city is willing. Our participants will be Patty, Mel McKay, Charlie and Ken. Ken will discuss with Mike Mains of City Parks & Rec.

2. **Budget Workshop:** The Board accomplished a final review of the proposed budget for FY 2022-2023. The proposed budget provides O&M supplements to our partners for Erik Anderson Community Park, Green Bridge Landing, Fish Springs Park, Covered Bridge Days, and our other annual projects. The budget proposes the county to commit all the money needed to finish Gap Creek Park - \$1,230,000 including management fees – and place it in a separate rolling fund. It also includes \$200,000 for the Tunnel Trail - Tweetsie Trail/Watershed Trails Expansion as the county’s portion of the \$1,325,000 matching fund pledge. There is another \$25,000 specifically for the Watershed Trails project, contingent on the city’s commitment to proceed with the next phase expeditiously. There is \$175,000 for the establishment (in some form) of a Parks & Rec/Economic Development office. The total budget proposal is \$1,659,225. **Charlie made a motion that the Board approve a Budget Request of \$1,659,225. Mel seconded. A vote was taken:**

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

The budget was approved unanimously. The Chairman will do a budget presentation in April

3. **Commission Update:** The Chairman was unable to will provide an annual update to the Commission at its January meeting. He is now on the agenda for February 22nd.

4. **Next Meeting:** It will be on Tuesday February 15th, 2022 at 6:00 PM in the Chamber of Commerce.

ADJOURNMENT: The Chairman closed the Meeting at 8:18 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Erik Anderson
 Secretary