

DRAFT

## MINUTES OF CARTER COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD

### MEETING HELD August 4<sup>th</sup>, 2016 at the Roan Mountain Community Park

The Roan Mountain Recreation Foundation provided a meal before the meeting. This was an opportunity for Parks and Rec Board members to meet some of the people who help with care and maintenance of the Community Park. Erik provided an update on The Framers Market, park usage and upkeep and the Community Garden.

**OPENING:** Chairman Ken Gough called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM

**ROLL CALL:** Erik Anderson conducted a roll-call. A quorum was present.

Leon Humphrey (Mayor)	Present	Randall Jenkins (Commission Liaison)	Present	Vacant (1)	Vacant
Erik Anderson (2)	Present	Mel McKay (3)	Present	Jeff Smythe (4)	Present
Ken Gough (5)	Present	J.R Campbell (6)	Present	Charlie Mattioli (7)	Present
Mike Melton (8)	Present	Bonnie Peters (Eliz Park and Rep)	Absent		

**Guests were introduced:** Kayla Carter, Carter County Tourism; Keith Kelly, US Forest Service; Bill Watson and approximately eight Roan Mountain members of the Back Country Horseman Association

**PREVIOUS MINUTES:** Minutes of the June 2nd meeting were provided to members before the meeting. The minutes were approved as presented.

**NEW BOARD MEMBER INTRODUCTION:** Mike Melton was introduced. Mike represents District 8 (Elizabethton) Among his interests is a multi-use sports complex

**GUEST INTRODUCTION:** Kayla Carter, the new Tourism Director was introduced. She provided a synopsis of the reactivated Tourism Council. She also discussed her initial efforts at developing a Tourism Asset List and a Marketing Strategy. She is looking forward to a synergistic relationship with the Carter County Parks and Recreation Board.

#### PRESENTATIONS:

Keith Kelly, US Forest Service District Ranger for Unicoi, Carter, and Johnson County introduced himself. He spoke about his agencies work in the county and, the legal restrictions imposed on them and his willingness to work with the Board. He updated us on Laurel Falls and the Pond Mountain Wilderness access. Current focus of interest to our Board is expansion of the Hampton Watershed Mountain Bike Trail onto Forest Service land.

Bill Watson of the Back Country Horseman of East Tennessee spoke about the group's volunteer work on existing trails within the County. He highlighted that in the last two years they have established horseback trails in the Roan Mountain State Park. Their current effort is to build a trail system in the Buck Mountain/Walnut Mountain area.

#### OLD BUSINESS:

1. **Community Tour:** JR is working on the next tour. Probably will take place in the fall to allow better views of the area
2. **Elizabethton Parks and Rec:** Charlie provided a written synopsis of his most recent meeting with Mike Mains. They are very busy with summer programs and working the Twins facilities issues. Engineering on the Sugar Hollow Mountain Biking efforts is a focus for this FY as well as searching for land for a future sports complex. They plan to budget approx. \$350K for a Sports Complex in the 2018 budget.
3. **Birding:** Ken reported that that the birding checklist is being distributed. The Birds of Roan Mountain is in final draft. Preliminary drafts for the children's guide and birds of East Tennessee are in draft.
4. **Mountain Biking:** – Jeff said that there was nothing significant to report.
5. **Carter County's Tweetsie Extension** – Signs were emplaced on portions of Railroad Grade. Progress was slowed by the need to use a different post driver.
6. **Roan Mountain Community Park:** Good usage and upkeep so far this year. The Community Garden experiment appears to be a success. Farmers market has an average of 8-10 vendors and has taken on more of a community gathering tone
7. **Welcome Signs:** Erik presented our concept to the incoming Tourism Director. We will support their efforts.
8. **Website:** Nothing significant to report. Functioning well.
9. **Road Cycling:** We did not receive the \$26K grant so road marking is on hold. An organizational meeting for the Carter County Cycling Club will be held later this month.
10. **District 1 Representative:** The Mayor reported that he continues to work a replacement and will re-up with District 1 commissioners
11. **Commissioner Meetings:** Ken reminded Board members of the need to keep their commissioners up to date on our activities.
12. **Overmountain Victory Trail** – Ken provided members an email for John Slaughter in advance in the meeting. After much discussion it was the consensus of the Board that Ken should reach out to John Slaughter to attempt to ascertain just how far in Carter County the Master Plan would go. The Board retained the \$5,000 in this year's budget until we get further clarification.
13. **Road cycling** – Ken reported 2 more routes being prepared for the website. Waiting on word about the grant application and may not know until July 1st.

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

1. **Budget Revisions:** Ken reported that we received \$16,209.41 out of the \$38.6K requested. Ken led a budget workshop. Several initiatives will not take place in the coming FY as a result. Reserves will be minimal. The revised budget was discussed and approved by the Board by common consent,

**2. Blevins Road Landing Lighting:** This year's budget contains a line item to fund Blevins Road Lighting. The Board conducted a roll call vote to authorize the expenditure:

Leon Humphrey (Mayor)	Absent	Randall Jenkins (Commission Liaison)	Yes	Vacant (1)	Vacant
Erik Anderson (2)	Yes	Mel McKay (3)	Yes	Jeff Smythe (4)	Yes
Ken Gough (5)	Yes	J.R Campbell (6)	Yes	Charlie Mattioli (7)	Yes
Mike Melton (8)	Yes	Bonnie Peters (Eliz Park and Rep)	N/A		

The motion to authorize the Blevins Road Lighting expenditures passed unanimously.

**3. Recreation Master Plan:** One of the prerequisites for many grant submissions is the existence of a current Parks and recreation Master Plan. Ken presented a proposal for Alpha Trace Consulting to deliver a Master Plan for \$5,000.00. The proposal was based on an estimate of 100 hours at \$50 per hour. Discussion included the ability and availability of Board Members to undertake developing a plan before the new Calendar Year, as well the PROs and CONs of an internally developed versus a professional product when grants are reviewed. Randall made a motion that we expend \$5,000 of the matching grants funding line to have Alpha Trace develop the Master Plan. Mike seconded. Ken abstained from the vote.

Leon Humphrey (Mayor)	Absent	Randall Jenkins (Commission Liaison)	Yes	Vacant (1)	Vacant
Erik Anderson (2)	Yes	Mel McKay (3)	No	Jeff Smythe (4)	Yes
Ken Gough (5)	Abstain	J.R Campbell (6)	No	Charlie Mattioli (7)	No
Mike Melton (8)	Yes	Bonnie Peters (Eliz Park and Rep)	N/A		

The motion to expend \$5,000 with Alpha Trace Consulting for a Master Plan passed with four "Yes", three "No" and one abstention.

- 4. Pocket Parks:** Several board members discussed their efforts for Pocket parks yet a candidate has yet to materialize. The Board decide to retain the \$5,000 in the budget for Pocket Parks this year
- 5. NEXT MEETING:** Per JRs request, the next meeting will be September the 8<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 PM at the Elk Mills Volunteer Fire Department. This is a regular business meeting with emphasis on the possibility of a Pocket Park at Elk Mills. **PLEASE NOTE THE CHANGED DATE AND LOCATION.**

**ADJOURNMENT:**

The Chairman closed the Meeting at 10:00 PM

Respectfully submitted,  
**Erik Anderson**  
 Secretary