

# MINUTES OF CARTER COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD

**MEETING HELD November 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2017 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.

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

**Guests were introduced:** Wes Bradley (Appalachian Paddling Enthusiasts) Chris Schuettler (Carter County Planning Office), Bill Watson and Russ Sutton (Back Country Horseman of East Tennessee - BCHET); Chris Lennon, Jeff Wright and Ryan Targeon (Overmountain Chapter of Trout Unlimited)

**PREVIOUS MINUTES:** Minutes of the October 5<sup>th</sup>, 2017 meeting were provided to members before the meeting. The minutes were approved unanimously.

## PRESENTATIONS:

- 1. Trout Unlimited (TU)** Jeff Wright of the Overmountain Chapter of Trout Unlimited informed us that his Board had approved the draft MOU for the promotion of Fishing and Fisheries in Carter County. Mike Melton made the motion that we also approve the MOU. Michael Warren seconded. The Board approved the MOU unanimously. Ken and Jeff then signed the MOU. Jeff wright added that one area of immediate interest is to expand native brook trout fisheries along the Doe. Cove Creek in Roan Mountain is of specific interest.
- 2. BCHET:** Ken invited our partners to provide a budget submission as this meeting starts our 2018 budget process. The BCHET brought a submission for the initial establishment of the Happy Trails Park. The Happy Trails Park would support 10 horse trails. Bill Watson and Russ Sutton detailed the Horse Trail network that would be accessible from the parking lot. Their proposal was for the initial preparation and establishment of a parking lot. The major cost elements included grading (\$3,000) and gravel (\$2,000). Their total request was for \$5,854. Erik added that this was more of a Phase 0 and that his estimate which built off of the BCHET was \$11, 8000 which included signage, lighting, trash receptacles and several other items , The Board also noted that at a previous budget workshop the APEs had requested \$1,500 in next FY budget for a river ingress at this location.
- 3. RMCP 23 October Flood:** Erik gave a presentation on the damage to the park which occurred during the 23 October flood, the remediation efforts to date, and a funds request to complete the remediation. Most damage was deposition of debris and the destruction of fences. TN DOC work annex crews and local citizens have contributed approx.374 hours of labor and the debris and destroyed fencing have been removed. Some fences and benches will not be replaced. For those that will be replaced the turn key replacement cost is \$6,214. An estimate to remove and replace the handicap fishing pier is not yet available. An assessment of river bank stabilization has not been completed but initial looks are that the banks may have held up. The Chairman has arranged for us to present an emergency funding request to the next

Finance Committee meeting on November 13<sup>th</sup>. The Board endorsed the RMCP report, the presentation, and a request for \$15,000 for the Finance Committee.

### OLD BUSINESS:

1. **Green Bridge Landing Park:** Flood damage was not extensive – actually washed away a lot of debris, created 1000 sq.ft. of new river bank, and didn't touch the parking lot or steps. Kayak landing damaged, but easily repaired. Chris Schuettler has finished the heavy equipment work. Reinforced the jetty and steps with more large rock. Created river access for Hampton volunteer fire department. Some hand work needed to finish ground prep – Randall will arrange a prison crew. Seeding mostly done. Some tough weeds still to kill – Chris working. Ready to mulch walking path – Jeff Smythe thinks he can supply mulch, will arrange. Entrance sign in the works. 4 benches being made. Green Bridge historic marker being made. Randall Jenkins and Chris Little working on parking lot lighting. River APES working on changing booth. Decision on trash can and picnic tables TBD. We're getting close, but progress from here on out will be slow. Approximately \$1,000 will be needed for materials to complete the park. We also need to schedule a dedication ceremony.

Randall made a motion that we move \$4,000 from Road Cycling to a new expense item for Parks. First priority will be completion of Green Bridge Landing with remaining funds going toward the Happy Trails Park. Mel McKay seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken.

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

The motion was approved unanimously. Mike Melton made a motion that the Chairman be authorized to disburse these funds and Charlie Mattioli seconded. That motion was passed unanimously.

2. **Shooting Park:** (Randall Jenkins) Ken will arrange a meeting with the National Forest Service. Bill Darden, Representative Roe's aide, has offered his help.
3. **Community Tour:** (J.R Campbell). Nothing planned at this time. Ken invited all members to participate in a tour of Johnson City's new Tannery Knob Mountain Biking Park on Wednesday Nov 15<sup>th</sup> at 1:30 PM. RSVP as soon as possible.
4. **Elizabethton Parks and Rec:** (Charlie Mattioli) Their next meeting is November the 6<sup>th</sup>.
5. **Birding:** (Charlie Mattioli) Nothing significant to report.
6. **Mountain Biking:** – (Jeff Smythe) We decided to hold up on signage for the Watershed Trail Park at this time. The tourism board is considering county wide wayfinding signs and their effort would likely encompass our effort for Hampton Watershed Trail.
7. **Roan Mountain Community Park:** (Erik Anderson) The three picnic sheds have been re-shingled. Painting/weatherproofing of the stage is underway and should be completed next week. Work on the handicap parking will be postponed until the Highway Department

completes its flood recovery efforts. The playground swing set is in manufacturing. Other materials have arrived. Work on the playground will recommence as soon as the swing set is delivered.

8. **Overmountain Victory Trail Master Plan** – (Mel McKay) Work has started on the Master Plan. It will be approximately a year before results will be available.
9. **Website:** (Ken Gough) Nothing Significant to Report
10. **Road Cycling:** (Ken Gough) Nothing Significant to Report.
11. **Recreation Master Plan:** (Ken Gough) The updated plan has been posted on the Park and Recreation website.
12. **Multi-Sports Park:** (Charlie Mattioli) Charlie and Chris S. presented a plan for a 9.9 acre Gap Creek property. When developed the property could encompass two ball fields as well as walking and biking trails. It also could accommodate between 30 and 40 parking spots. Chris discussed an approach that would allow pedestrian, bicycle and maintenance only access to the property over Gap Creek. The County and City need to move before the end of the year to get concessionary pricing for this property. Charlie made a motion that we give \$6,000 of our funds to the County Commission towards the purchase of the property. Mike Melton seconded. A roll call vote was taken.

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Erik Anderson (2)	Yes	Mel McKay (3)	Yes	Jeff Smythe (4)	Yes
Ken Gough (5)	Yes	J.R Campbell (6)	Absent	Charlie Mattioli (7)	Yes
Mike Melton (8)	Yes	Eliz Park and Rep	Absent		

The motion was approved unanimously.

Charlie will present the initiative to Elizabethton Parks & Rec Board and several county committees and solicit their support and contributory funding.

Separately, Mayor Humphrey is working with legislators to obtain TDOT land. All of our legislators have been contacted.

#### NEW BUSINESS:

1. **Keep Carter County Beautiful.** (Ken Gough) Carter County Proud is requesting affiliation with the Carter County Chamber of Commerce. Ken presented a draft resolution for the Park and Recreation Board to endorse Carter County Proud request. Randall made a motion that we approve the resolution and authorize the Chairman to represent the Board at the Chamber meeting. Charlie seconded. The motion passed unanimously.
2. **Doe River Trail Grant:** Lance Lowery of the FTDD will attend a workshop in Farragut TN later this month. Chris and Mel will make plans to attend.

3. **Small projects/Grant application planning:** Planning sheets were provided to Board members before the meeting. The worksheets were provided in both an Excel and a Word format. Members were encouraged to prepare one or more worksheets for the coming year.

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4. **Department of Health Grant:** The potential grant is for up to \$80K. The grant emphasizes trails and health related benefits. Matching funds are desirable but not required. Randall made a motion that we submit a letter of intent for pocket parks. Charlie seconded. The motion passed unanimously.
5. **2018-2019 budget workshop:** Ken led an initial budget workshop. Each member proposed potential projects for inclusion in next year's budget submission. The initial total was \$85K.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

The Chairman closed the Meeting at 9:20 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
*Erik Anderson*  
Secretary