

APPROVED

## MINUTES OF CARTER COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD

MEETING HELD February 8<sup>th</sup> 2018 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)	Present	Charlie Mattioli (7)	Present
Mike Melton (8)	Present	Eliz Park and Rep	Absent		

**Guests were introduced:** Chris Schuettler (Carter County Planning Office); Reneau Dubberley, (Tri Cities Road Club Race Director); Jeff Wright, Overmountain Trout Unlimited; Bill Watson, Back Country Horsemen of East Tennessee, Jerry Griffin, Appalachian Paddling Enthusiasts

**PREVIOUS MINUTES:** Minutes of the January 11<sup>th</sup> 2018 meeting were provided to members before the meeting. The minutes were approved unanimously.

**PRESENTATIONS:**

- 1. Bill Bezell Watauga River Clean-up:** Jeff Wright of the Over Mountain Chapter of Trout Unlimited informed the Board of an upcoming clean-up day for the Watauga River. The Clean-up will be, Sat. Mar. 17<sup>th</sup>, 8:30 – 12:30. Volunteers can meet at Ingles parking lot. Ken will post info on the web site. Jeff will be at the April meeting to discuss possible collaboration on a project next year.
- 2. Roan Groan Supporting Sponsorship:** Reneau Dubberley asked that the park and Rec Board be a supporting sponsor of the 2018 Roan Groan Cycling race. **Charlie made a motions that we fund a \$500.00 sponsorship. J.R. seconded the motion.**

Leon Humphrey (Mayor)	Absent	Randall Jenkins (Commission Liaison)	Absent	Michael Warren (1)	Yes
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	Eliz Park and Rep	Absent		

**The motion was approved unanimously.**

**OLD BUSINESS:**

- 1. Doe River Trail Grant submission:** Chris reviewed the proposed trail route. He will be finalizing it in time to include in the public presentation. Ken reviewed a draft presentation for the public meetings. Public meetings are scheduled as follows:

Thurs Feb. 15, 6:00 Mayor's conference room, Carter County Court House

Tues Feb 27, 9:00 AM Rm 205 Carter County Court House

Thurs, March 1, 7:00 PM, Roan Mtn. Citizens Club, State Park Conference Center

Mon, March 5, 6:00 PM, Roan Mtn Rec Foundation, Highlander BBQ, Roan Mountain  
Fri, March 16, 1:00 PM Mayor's conference room, Carter County Court House

Thurs, March 22, 12:00, Eliz. Lions Club, O'Brady's

We will have a planning session after Feb. 15 meeting -- Lance, Ken, Chris, Erik, others if they wish to attend. Ken will appear before County Commission in March to request grant match (\$40K - \$50K). We also need to line up partners' letters of support.

2. **Green Bridge Landing:** Final tasks were discussed and scheduled for this spring, responsibilities assigned. Ken to talk to Hampton High School horticulture teacher. Ken to talk to Mike Hill about the Highway Department spreading gravel. Chris reported that additional Mulch will be delivered soon. He will also be picking up the TVA donated Trash receptacles next week. Chris needs to rent some equipment to complete the re-work of a portion of the parking lot. The River APES plan to construct the Changing House in March. A decision to emplace a picnic table was deferred. Dedication ceremony tentatively scheduled for Saturday, May 12.

**J.R. made a motion to transfer the playground equipment pledged to Little Milligan to Green Bridge Landing. Mel seconded. The motion passed unanimously.**

3. **Community Tour:** We will pick a location at our April meeting.
4. **Shooting Park:** Nothing Significant to Report
5. **Elizabethton Parks and Rec:** Charlie reported that Eliz Park and Rec are completing their Covered Bridge park renovation concept. They will also have a public meeting on February 15<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 PM at City Hall to review the planned summer program.
6. **Birding:** Charlie reported that the Roan Mountain State Park was not able to sell their Guide to the Birds of Roan Mountain. It was suggested that the birders contact the Drug Store, Highland BBQ, the Chamber, the Carter County Bank, and Sycamore Shoals as potential outlets.
7. **Mountain Biking:** -- Steve Kasacek of IMBA will tour Sugar Hollow with us in the spring, probably April, to evaluate and give us a ballpark estimate.
8. **Roan Mountain Community Park:** Erik provided a written report. Softball & baseball practices begin February 12th. Work on the playground will resume when the weather warms up, probably March -- won't take long to finish. Planning for AT Days underway -- to be held weekend of May 5.
9. **Overmountain Victory Trail Master Plan** -- Mel reported there will be a meeting at the end of February and will provide an update at the April meeting.
10. **Website:** (Ken Gough) Nothing significant to report
11. **Road Cycling:** See presentations.
12. **Gap Creek Park:** Chris provided an updated concept for the park. The concept included: a 300 ft. softball field, a children's playground, an adventure playground, large and small do parks, a gazebo, a multi-purpose building and an Over Mountain Monument. Parking would use the same construct as presented at the January meeting. Chris provided an initial rough order of magnitude of \$300K to \$400K to develop the park. **Charlie made a motion**

that we approve the updated concept. Michael Warren seconded. The vote was unanimous. There is a concern why Elizabethton has not yet paid the \$4K it pledged toward purchase of the land – Ken will pursue the issue with Mike Mains and report to the Board. There was a discussion on next steps and how to proceed but no consensus was achieved. Chris discussed the need to do some prep work however we proceed to prevent growth overtaking some of the fields. Erik made a motion to authorize the Planning Office to expend up to \$4,000 on equipment rental and fuel for maintenance and preparation on the property as well as work on Green Bridge Landing and Happy Trails Park, at their discretion after consultation with partners (Charlie, Bill Watson, etc.).

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)	Yes	Charlie Mattioli (7)	Yes
Mike Melton (8)	Yes	Eliz Park and Rep	Absent		

The motion was approved unanimously.

**13. Happy Trails Park:** – Bill Watson requested we complete horse trailer parking lot as soon as possible. Chris to grade and do other work as mentioned above. If money is available, Ken will authorize gravel purchase once an estimate is determined. Bill will arrange for spreading.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

- 1. Risk Management and Insurance:** Erik presented information that he and Mel had developed on Risk and Insurance. Mel has gotten 911 addresses for our County Parks. Erik handed out the initial draft of a Risk Management plan. Mel and Erik will continue to work on the plan and discuss it at the April meeting.
- 2. Next Meeting:** The next meeting will be Thursday April 5<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 PM at the County Courthouse.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

The Chairman closed the Meeting at 8:20 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
**Erik Anderson**  
 Secretary