

# MINUTES OF CARTER COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD

MEETING HELD May 3<sup>rd</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)	Absent
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:** Luke Freeman, new Carter County Tourism Director; Alan Ingram, Agriculture teacher Hampton High School; Wes Bradley, Appalachian Paddling Enthusiasts (APEs) and SORBA; Todd Emma, SORBA.

**PREVIOUS MINUTES:** Minutes of the April 5<sup>th</sup>, 2018 meeting were provided to members before the meeting. The minutes were approved unanimously.

## PRESENTATIONS:

1. **Luke Freeman**, new Tourism Director for the Chamber of Commerce, dropped by to introduce himself and stayed for the entire meeting.
2. **Green Bridge Landing HHS MOU:** Allen Ingram, horticulture teacher at Hampton High School, introduced himself. The APEs have approved an MOU with HHS for Green Bridge Landing to be used by the school's horticulture program as an outdoor laboratory. **Randall made a motion that we also approve the MOU. Mel seconded the motion. The motion was passed unanimously.** Alan's vision at this time is to use Green Bridge Landing as a laboratory and allow the FFA students to accomplish community service with the upkeep. The HHS will provide an annual report. Ken signed the MOU on behalf of the Board.

## OLD BUSINESS:

1. **Green Bridge Landing:** Bad weather prevented much from being accomplished last month, and various circumstances make completion date uncertain. The APEs have made good progress with the changing booth and expect to complete it this month. Chris and Mel have been working on the sign, not quite finished. 50% of the trail has been mulched. Jeff Smythe will see if Doe River Gorge can provide mulch to finish the trail. Ken will work on that. The trash can is being stored at the Carter County dump. The historic Marker is being stored in the Courthouse. For the playset, decided to use wood mulch rather than rubber mulch due to the flood risk. Mel will check with HHS to see if they can do the welding and painting on the playset. That leaves gravel, lighting, benches, historic marker, trash can, etc. Dedication delayed, we'll decide the date at our next meeting in August. Wes provided a check from Appalachian Paddling to reimburse a portion of the material expense for the changing booth. Erik will pass the check to Finance to credit our account.
2. **Community Tour:** Nothing Significant to Report
3. **Shooting Park:** Nothing Significant to Report

4. **Happy Trails Park:** The Roan Mountain Recreation Foundation is taking an active role in helping the Back-Country Horsemen. They have accepted the Happy Trails Park as a 4<sup>th</sup> component of the Roan Mountain Community Park and jointly commenced fund-raising. As of our meeting they had pledges of \$5,300 toward the estimated need of \$19,470. They provided a briefing on the way ahead. **Erik made a motion to disburse \$5,000 to the RMRF to support Happy Trails Park development. Charlie seconded. A roll call vote was taken:**

Leon Humphrey (Mayor)	Absent	Randall Jenkins (Commission Liaison)	Yes	Michael Warren (1)	Absent
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 passed unanimously.** Ken and Mel will approach TVA to see if they can provide gravel. Ready for gravel, which needs to be put down soon.

5. **Risk Mitigation Plan:** Erik reviewed the draft Risk Mitigation plan and highlighted the one change received from board members. The plan primarily provides a framework to assist our operating partners to balance risk. The plan will be reviewed annually. **Charlie made a motion to adopt the Risk Management plan. Randall seconded. The plan was adopted unanimously.**
6. **Mountain Biking:** Wesley reports that SORBA is close to final approval to build the skills park on the Sugar Hollow property (working title Bryant Ridge Park). Still trying to arrange a tour and assessment by Steve Kasacek, designer and construction manager of the Tannery Knob park in Johnson City.
7. **Gap Creek Park:** Ken and Charlie discussed the unfinished draft plan for governance, development and management. We suggest governance by a board appointed by the city and county parks & rec boards (and one member appointed by the name sponsor, if any). Our goal is independence of the board and a fixed formula for allocation of development and operating funds. Our budget request for next FY includes \$25K to start development.
8. **Overmountain Victory Trail:** OVT Section I Master Plan – preliminary results were presented to the partners by Destination by Design in mid-March. Trail corridor has been identified. Next step is to determine the final route, which requires contacting every land owner and obtaining easements. Scheduled to finish in September. Then we will have to decide how we want to go about developing the trail.
9. **Elizabethton Parks and Rec:** Charlie reported that Eliz Park and Rec are very busy. The Appalachian State Student concept for Covered Bridge Park will be presented Friday May 4, 2 – 4 PM at City Hall – please attend if possible.
10. **Birding:** Herndon Birders hosting the TOS state conference in 2019. They have established a committee to explore establishment of a birding festival in 2020. We discussed what that would involve. We suggested to Luke Freeman to establish a Chamber task force involving the parks & rec boards and NETREP to support their effort.
11. **Roan Mountain Community Park:** Erik provided a written report. The refurbished playground is getting significant use and the feedback is positive. A few things are remaining. Preparations are complete for the Appalachian trail Festival this weekend. The key event will be the “Roan Mountain Hardcore” which is a trail maintenance project by

through hikers and local interested people. Overflow camping will take place in the Community Park and music will be provided at 4:30 Pm on Saturday.

12. **Powder Branch Park:** The board discussed our approach to development. It will likely take years to develop and will be approached piecemeal as funds become available and opportunities present themselves. This will likely be a joint project with Elizabethton and probably our largest project. **Randall made a motion that we appoint Mike Melton as our project lead and liaison with Elizabethton. Charlie seconded. The motion passed unanimously.**
13. **Website:** Nothing Significant to Report
14. **Pocket Parks:** Mel will approach the Watauga town council to see if they're interested in working on a park. J.R. tells us there is serious talk of a new development in Fish Springs that may provide an opportunity – will pursue.

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

1. **Liaison to Trout Unlimited for potential Doe River Fishing Trail:** The board approved Erik to be a liaison with Trout Unlimited
2. **Doe River Trail:** The project on hold. The board discussed the possibility of building a portion of a trail on county-owned property under 19E bridge to Hogum Hollow Road. It would allow cyclists to avoid the 19E crossing at Old Railroad Grade Road and a dangerous section of the highway. It would also allow horsemen access to trails on Ripshin. No specific action taken at this time.
3. **Next Meeting:** The next meeting will be Thursday August 9<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 PM at the Roan Mountain Community Park. Major focus of the meeting will be to visit the park and work our expenditure plan for the FY.

#### **ADJOURNMENT:**

The Chairman closed the Meeting at 8:27 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
*Erik Anderson*  
Secretary