

MINUTES OF CARTER COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD

MEETING HELD October 5th, 2017 at 801 East Elk Ave, Elizabethton, TN 37643

OPENING: Chairman Ken Gough called the meeting to order at 6:10 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)	Absent	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)

PREVIOUS MINUTES: Minutes of the September 14th, 2017 meeting were provided to members before the meeting. The minutes were approved unanimously.

PRESENTATIONS: None

OLD BUSINESS:

- 1. Carter County Hunting & Fishing Assn:** (Randall Jenkins) Randall continues to focus on a potential location. Will likely need to have a strategy meeting with the Association to plan a way ahead.
- 2. Community Tour:** (J.R Campbell). The October 14th community tour is being postponed due to scheduling conflicts with numerous board members.
- 3. Elizabethton Parks and Rec:** (Charlie Mattioli) Their next meeting is later in the month. Charlie will attend
- 4. Birding:** (Charlie Mattioli) Charlie reviewed the products that have been developed this year. The Herndon Birders continue their work on the guide to Birding in Carter County. The guide will contain both information and local maps.
- 5. Mountain Biking:** – (Jeff Smythe) Jeff accomplished an assessment of the Hampton Watershed trails and parking lot. The parking lot can accommodate 6 cars and the information kiosk is structurally sound although the paper signage posted needs to be renewed or a protective covering placed over the info. The entrance to the trails is somewhat obscure. Jeff walked two of the three trails and reported they are in good shape. Damage that occurred in an August 2016 storm has been repaired by Hampton Trails and SORBA. The trails themselves are also adequately marked. The biggest challenge for Carter County citizen usage is finding the parking lot. Randall made a motion that we develop directional road signage: "Watershed Trail →" and place on nearby roads. We would allocate \$500 for Jeff to work with the Highway Department on the development and emplacement of the signage. Michael Warren seconded. 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)	Absent	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 Mike Mains	Absent		

The motion passed unanimously.

6. **Roan Mountain Community Park:** (Erik Anderson) Erik provided and end of FY summary report and a summary report on the 2017 Farmers Market prior to the meeting. He highlighted that over 2200 hours had been contributed to maintain the park this year. They are awaiting a Carter County Work Annex crew to paint the stage and re-shingle three picnic sheds. Playground refurbishment has started. The usage area has been excavated. Next steps are ordering equipment, underlayment and mulch.
7. **Tweetsie Extension:** (Ken Gough) The highway department has emplaced the signage along Old Railroad Grade and Crabtree Road. It looks good.
8. **Overmountain Victory Trail Master Plan** – (Mel McKay) Ken and Mel will attend the kickoff meeting for Section 1 Master Plan on October 12th.
9. **Website:** (Ken Gough) Nothing Significant to Report
10. **Road Cycling:** (Ken Gough) Nothing Significant to Report.
11. **Recreation Master Plan:** (Ken Gough) Comments provided by committee members were incorporated into the Master Plan and the final draft was provided to members before the meeting. Michael Warren made a motion to approve as it was submitted. Erik seconded. 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)	Absent	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 Mike Mains	Absent		

The motion passed unanimously. Ken will add the Carter County Logo to the front page post it on the Park and Rec website.

12. **Multi-Sports Park:** (Charlie Mattioli) The County Commission approved the updated resolution to obtain the TDOT property near Happy Valley HS. The Mayor's office will work getting the resolution to the appropriate lawmakers. Charlie and Randall will take a copy of the resolution to Representative Holtsclaw.

Separately, Charlie and Mike Melton are investigating a way to obtain access to the property that we looked at on Gap Creek Road. Charlie also reported that the 9+ acre parcel may be available at a reduced cost of \$45K to the end of the year. Charlie and Mike Melton think that if access can be determined that a community group could be assembled.

13. Pocket Parks: Michael Warren and Chris Schuettler continues to work on potential opportunities in the Stony Creek area. Their current focus is Blue Springs Road

NEW BUSINESS:

1. **Green Bridge Landing.** (Ken Gough) Wes Bradley and Chris Schuettler provided a status report. Chris Schuettler, Mel McKay, the IDEAS group and the River APEs have provided hundreds of hours of work on the park. The parking lot is mostly finished. Some fill dirt and gravel is still needed. The steps have been built. The landing has been built. The walking trail has been roughed in. Mike Hill and Chris are working on the park sign. The ET&WNC Historical Society is working on a Green Bridge plaque. Wes is working with TVA to get parking lot lights as well as a trash container. Chris requested that he be allowed to rent another week of a Bobcat and fuel to finish site work. The Board concurred. If any time is available Chris will do some work at the Happy Trails Park. Next steps for Green Bridge Landing include grass seeding and mulching the trail. Ken will procure material for 4 benches and also include 4 benches for the Roan Mtn Community Park.

Wes Bradley presented a design for a proposed changing station for the river APEs. The design emulates the structure of the original Green Bridge. Michael Warren made a motion that we approve the addition of the changing station to the park. Mike Melton seconded. 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)	Absent	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 Mike Mains	Absent		

The motion passed unanimously. \$2,753.00 of the \$5,000 budget has been expended. The total estimated value of the work to date is approximately \$17,400.

2. **Trout Unlimited:** (Ken Gough) They are considering an MOU.
3. **Riverside Park Playground Equipment:** (Ken Gough). Chris and J.R will work the removal and transportation of the playground to Little Milligan.
4. **2018 Grant Application, Carter County Tweetsie Extension Phase 2.** (Ken Gough) Ken, Erik, and Chris Schuettler met with Lance Lowery of the First TN Development District to introduce the trail concept along the Doe River. They travelled the potential trail route highlighting access and right of ways and the general concept. Lance remarked that it looked like a good project. Lance added that as a Recreational Trails Program (RTP) federally funded (80/20) project there will be additional planning and engineering steps. If awarded implementation could take years. Lance and Chris will begin work on the request. Ken will alert potential partners to solicit support.

5. **Small Projects Discussion:** (Ken Gough) We deferred discussion on this subject to the November meeting. Mel will be asked to give us a primer on what we need to do to be prepared for grants.

6. **FY 18/19 Budget:** (Ken Gough) Ken provide an initial budget worksheet. We will have a workshop in November to develop a final budget request in January
7. **Remainder of FY meetings:** (Erik Anderson) The following meeting dates were agreed to by common consent for the remainder of the FY:
 - November 2nd 6:00 PM Courthouse
 - January 11th 6:00 PM Courthouse
 - February 1st 6:00 PM Courthouse
 - April 5th 6:00 PM Courthouse
 - May 3rd 6:00 PM Courthouse
8. **Next Meeting:** The next meeting will be Thursday, November 2nd at 6:00 PM at the Courthouse

ADJOURNMENT:

The Chairman closed the Meeting at 8:20 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Erik Anderson
Secretary