



**OAK RIDGE PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING
SPECIAL CALLED MEETING
FEBRUARY 27, 2013 - 7 P.M.
OAK RIDGE TOWN HALL**

MINUTES

Members Present

Bill Edwards, Chair
Tracy Street, Vice Chair
Tony Cooler
Barry Knight

Staff Present

Sandra Smith, Town Clerk
Terry Lannon, Parks & Recreation Director

Members Absent

Marcy Cook
Paul Beitz, Alt.

Teen Advisor Absent

Marisa Baker

Walkability Sub-Committee Absent

Ellen Langlois, Chair

1. CALL TO ORDER

Bill Edwards called the Parks & Recreation Commission meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

2. APPROVE FEBRUARY 27, 2013, AGENDA

Barry Knight made a **motion** to approve the agenda of the February 27, 2013, special called meeting. (The regular monthly meeting, which was scheduled for February 21, did not have a quorum present, which resulted in the need for the special meeting.) **Tracy Street** seconded the motion, and it was passed unanimously (4-0).

3. APPROVE MINUTES OF JANUARY 24, 2013

Edwards said he had submitted some minor changes to the minutes. Because Town Clerk Sandra Smith had not received those revisions, the Commission decided by consensus to approve the minutes at the March meeting.

4. STAFF REPORT

Parks & Recreation Director Terry Lannon presented the staff report:

- **Finances and budget.** Revenues are currently at 78.14 percent of what was budgeted for the year, and expenses are 60.95 percent or 13.6 percent below budget for this time of the year. Lannon estimated coming in at or below budget for the current fiscal year.
- **Dog park subcommittee.** Minutes from the last dog park subcommittee meeting were available. Lannon reported that the group had discussed fencing and felt firmly that

chain link was best, even though it is more expensive. Lannon also presented a scaled-back budget to be submitted for the dog park; a fundraiser called Canine Capers is being planned by the subcommittee to make up the difference in what was originally going to be requested. The fundraiser will include a dog show for both pure and mixed breeds, and will be headed up by Sharon Smith. The group may also set up something about the dog park at RidgeFest, even if it is just an information booth.

- **ORYA.** Spring sports registration is finished and user fees should be paid to the Town soon. ORYA is offering a multi-season discount for players who sign up for both spring and fall soccer. The Commission discussed whether ORYA should pay the \$8 nonresident surcharge once for players who sign up for both soccer seasons, or if they should be required to pay it for each season as required in the contract.

Tracy Street made a **motion** that ORYA pay the nonresident surcharge of \$8 per player for each sport/season that a player registers. **Tony Cooler** seconded the motion, and it was approved unanimously (4-0).

Lannon said Dave Maxson, president of ORYA, had asked to attend the Commission meeting in March to address some issues. ORYA may want to discuss the fact that the 2013 contract says that Town staff will no longer line the fields, something Lannon said had been taking about 10 man-hours per week. He said staff would continue to paint the foul lines on the baseball fields because they are used for town-sponsored adult leagues and for tournaments. Lannon provided a sheet showing the approximate benefit to ORYA for using the Town park, something he had recently provided to Maxson as well.

- **Other.**
 - Laser grading is currently being done on the baseball fields. Although it is expensive, it will largely prevent rainouts. It will be less expensive if done every couple of years.
 - Some clearing is being done in the dog park area; a chipper was scheduled to be used the following week.
 - Mulching, which is quite labor intensive, will be done at the park and the town hall before summer.
 - A third quote has been received on the fountain for the pond. Oak Ridge Electric was the lowest bidder.
 - Adult leagues were to start that week, shelter rentals are picking up, and the tournament schedule is starting. The Run for Ray fundraiser to benefit Ray Parrish is scheduled for March 9.
 - An adjusted proposed capital expenditure sheet was provided; the amount shown represented removing the previously proposed improvements to the Redmon field area.

4. NEW BUSINESS

None

5. OLD BUSINESS

- **Mountain bike trails.** A presentation was given on February 21, but a quorum was not present at that meeting. Edwards showed the diagram for where the trails have been

constructed. Lannon said some of the trails had slightly veered off the Town property; Bart Wellisley, who worked on trail construction, said he would be glad to adjust the trails in those areas. Edwards said Wellisley and others involved wanted to know if the trails could now be opened to the public and if they could be used at night.

- Tony Cooler and Barry Knight expressed concern about the trails being open before signage had been installed and rules for use made. Barry Knight also expressed concern about opening the trails before the bridge/creek crossings are in. Conversation on issues including pedestrian safety, environmental impact, volume and various rules ensued. The Commission's consensus was to have Wellisley submit rules and proposed signage at the March meeting; the grand opening for the trails would be in conjunction with RidgeFest.
- Various options for opening the trails at night were discussed, including:
 - No night riding
 - Allowing riding on designated nights only
 - Allowing riding at night only at special events
 - Allowing unrestricted riding at night.

Safety issues and the fact that the park is generally only open during daylight hours were discussed.

Barry Knight made a motion not to allow use of the mountain bike trails at night due to safety concerns. **Tracy Street** seconded the motion, and it was passed 3-1 (Bill Edwards voting in opposition).

- **Sand volleyball courts.** Edwards asked if the Commission wanted to proceed with constructing sand volleyball courts or wait and include them in the PARTF grant application. Issues such as how many courts were desired, whether they should be lighted and when they should be built were also discussed.
 - Lannon said perhaps one court could be put in to see how well it is used. He added that the courts would likely receive a higher score on a PARTF grant application if they were a new activity for the park. When asked about cost, Lannon estimated a court could cost anywhere from \$12,000 to \$30,000, with issues regarding drainage having a major impact on the cost.
 - After additional conversation, Barry Knight agreed to contact someone he knows to get additional information.
- **Park master plan/Final 2013-14 capital budget recommendations.** Edwards said the Commission had been asked to remove several items from its initial \$167,697 budget recommendation. The Commission's recommendation at this point would be taken to the Finance Committee in the form of a request for the 2013-14 fiscal year.
 - Lannon again said that all items regarding the Redmon field were removed from the request, which reduced the request by about half. Edwards said the pared-down capital request was not what he would like to see, but was reality; he added that the items removed would likely now be added to the PARTF grant request. Street asked if the items were removed because of the financial concerns, not because the Council didn't want to see those items in the park; Lannon said it was a financial issue.

Tony Cooler made a motion to approve the budget request for capital expenditures of \$84,197. **Barry Knight** seconded the motion, and it was passed unanimously (4-0).

6. OTHER DISCUSSION ITEMS/ANNOUNCEMENTS/REMINDERS

- Ray Parrish Charity Walk/Run ORTP Event – Saturday, March 9, 2013
- Next scheduled monthly P&RC meeting – Thursday, March 21, 2013
- Other.

Knight asked if anyone had spoken with Paul Beitz recently, as Beitz had been unable to attend the Commission's meetings for some time due to his schedule. Edwards said he had emailed him but received no response. Knight said he understood Beitz might be going into the military, and that perhaps the position on the Commission should be filled by someone else. Edwards said the process would be asking the Town Council to remove Beitz from the Commission. Knight said he would try to contact Beitz again.

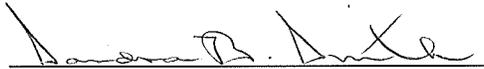
7. PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

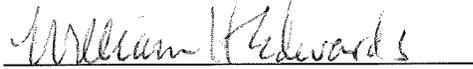
8. ADJOURNMENT

Tracy Street made a **motion** to adjourn at 9:00 p.m. **Barry Knight** seconded the motion, and it was passed unanimously (4-0).

Respectfully Submitted:



Sandra B. Smith, Town Clerk



Bill Edwards, Chairman