



OAK RIDGE PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING
AUGUST 20, 2015 - 7 P.M.
OAK RIDGE TOWN HALL

MINUTES

Members Present

Bill Edwards, Chair
Barry Knight
Phyllis Anders
Micah Spencer, Alternate (Sitting)

Staff Present

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

Members Absent

Tracy Street, Vice Chair
Phyllis Clodfelter
Jasmine O'Connell, Alternate

1. CALL TO ORDER

Bill Edwards called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

2. APPROVE AGENDA

Bill Edwards made a **motion** to approve the meeting agenda as amended to add discussion of the restroom schedule under Old Business and to table approval of the meeting minutes until the next meeting. **Barry Knight** seconded the motion, and it was passed unanimously (4-0).

3. STAFF REPORT

Parks & Recreation Director Terry Lannon presented:

- **Financial report.** The report is hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of the minutes.
- **Phase II construction.** Septic work has begun, block walls for the restroom are up and brick has been delivered, drains have been installed at the amphitheater, workers are ready to lay the water and electric lines, then the paths that have been cut will be graveled. The project is on schedule to be completed as planned, but an event will likely not be held there until next spring to give the grass an opportunity to take hold.
- **Damage repairs.** The doors on the My Little Library need to be removed and repaired, and other repair projects have been completed.
- **Old tires and trash dump.** Lannon said the items have been moved to near the barn since they were used at RidgeFest. Lannon said he had given those responsible until 1 p.m. on Friday, August 21, to remove them or staff would do it and charge for staff time, mileage and the disposal fee.

Edwards said he was not in favor of allowing the tires to be used in the Rugged Ridge obstacle course at RidgeFest next year since they have not been removed as promised.

- **Cascades.** Lannon said he had located a place on the Cascades property where the "Bridge to Nowhere" (currently located behind Oak Ridge Commons) could be moved, but the challenge would be to get the pieces small enough to get them one-fourth to one-half mile down the trail where they would be needed. He said there might be a closer way to access the area from a nearby property.

Barry Knight asked if it was possible to get a work crew from the prison farm to help, and Lannon said it might be possible. He said Guilford County is now maintaining the parking lot, had cleaned it up and planned to go back and trim around it soon.

- **Campsite signage.** The signage was approved at the July meeting and Lannon said he would order it.
- **Other.**
 - Spring dead spot, a fungus, has been found on the multipurpose fields. It was treated aggressively for the three to four weeks prior to the meeting, and Lannon said it seemed to be responding.
 - The co-ed adult softball fall season will begin on August 21.
 - ORYA fall sports will be starting soon.
 - The Summit Church is again interested in working at the park during its Big Serve event. Lannon asked Commission members to let him know if they could think of any appropriate projects.
 - The IndoAmerican Society of N.C. was again planning a 5K at the park, with proceeds going to feed the hungry.

Commission members asked about the following issues:

- Sale of tractor parts: Lannon said he needed to put the items on Craig's List to try to sell.
- Electrical repairs from RidgeFest: They will be done when the flagpole lights are replaced, and Merchants Association of Oak Ridge will pay for that portion of the bill.
- Additional lighting at Music in the Park: The issue was discussed and the Commission asked Lannon to explore installing some kind of light at the barn.
- Turf block: Neil Street, who installed the turf block, is aware of the problem.
- No Swimming signs: Lannon said he would email suggested wording to the Commission; signs would be placed in two or three locations around the pond.
- Bark Park infrastructure: Six exercise/agility apparatuses would be designed and installed on each side of the Bark Park this fall/winter.
- Alcohol and tobacco-free facility: A Music in the Park attendee had asked that the fact that alcohol and tobacco are not allowed be announced at Music in the Park events. The Commission also discussed announcing the tobacco/alcohol rules at tournaments, and telling those who sponsor events that they need to also be responsible for enforcing the rules. Edwards said all Commission members are responsible for helping to enforce alcohol/tobacco rules.

4. OLD BUSINESS

- A. **Community Movie Nights.** The Commission and staff were pleased with both movie events this year sponsored by The Summit Church. Edwards said he had sent them a thank you note and photos from the events.
- B. **Music in the Park #2 recap.** Chords of Faith played. Commission members announced that attendance was down, and it was also very hot that night.
- C. **Music in the Park #3 recap.** Sidetrip performed and Commission members said turnout was good and it was a great event. Phyllis Anders said the keyboardist also plays in another band, which he says is much better, and he would like the Commission to consider allowing that band to play next year.
- D. **Parking lot landscaping.** Lannon said someone had run into a boulder in the parking lot and wanted the Town to reimburse them for damage to their vehicle. The Town's insurance company had refused, based on how the accident occurred, and the vehicle's driver wanted the incident brought up to the Commission. The Commission discussed where the boulders are located (in the grassy medians, not in the parking lot and well outside the white lines delineating the parking spaces) and recommended not removing them until there is some reasonable alternative to keep the cars off the grass.
- E. **Restroom hours.** Some complaints had been reported to the Northwest Observer regarding the hours the park's restrooms are open. The Commission discussed issues surrounding the daily unlocking and locking of the restrooms, whether the restroom at Shelter 2 might be left open on a trial basis, and whether a security camera should be installed outside the restroom to curb possible vandalism. Edwards suggested the Commission consider the issue and make a decision at the next meeting.

5. NEW BUSINESS

Proposed new baseball/softball field. Lannon formally introduced an idea to the Commission to possibly build a youth baseball/softball field behind Field 4. He submitted a packet with a cost estimate, map, notes of support, cost to update the master plan, and list of items that would need to be implemented. He said the cost estimate was fairly expensive, but it included everything, and some items could be removed to lower the cost. He said the addition of the new field might also allow lit practice fields to be created, and he had spoken with all the sports directors with the Oak Ridge Youth Association (ORYA) and they are thrilled with the prospect. Lannon said having three baseball/softball fields would allow the park to attract tournaments that are now going elsewhere because of their size. He asked that the Commission consider updating the master plan to include the additional field, and explained that adding it to the master plan would not commit the Town to building it.

The Commission entered into a fairly lengthy discussion regarding the needs analysis survey and what items Oak Ridge citizens wanted to see in the park, the cost of the field versus the economic impact on the park, whether the addition of another athletic field would make a big difference in the number of tournaments played at the park, whether it would be a better choice to consider a full-size adult field instead of a youth field, and whether the addition of another field would create too much active versus passive recreation opportunities in the park. Lannon answered questions and said that only 12 percent of the park has been developed for active recreation. The Commission agreed to discuss the issue more at another meeting.

6. OTHER DISCUSSION ITEMS/ANNOUNCEMENTS/REMINDERS

- Memorial tree requests. Two requests have been received. Barry Knight will determine suitable trees.
- Next scheduled P&RC meeting: September 17, 2015
- Scheduled completion of Phase IIA construction: September 12, 2015
- Music in the Park: September 19 and October 3

7. PUBLIC COMMENTS

- Councilman George McClellan told the Commission it was doing a great job and thanked the members for the time and effort.

8. ADJOURNMENT

Bill Edwards made a **motion** to adjourn the meeting at 9:10 p.m. **Barry Knight** seconded the motion, and it was passed unanimously (4-0).

Respectfully Submitted:



Sandra B. Smith, CMC, Town Clerk



William H. Edwards, Chairman