



**OAK RIDGE PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING  
MARCH 17, 2016 – 7 P.M.  
OAK RIDGE TOWN HALL**

**MINUTES**

**Members Present**

Bill Edwards, Chair  
Tracy Street, Vice Chair  
Phyllis Anders  
Phyllis Clodfelter  
Phillip Hanks, Alternate (Sitting)  
Micah Spencer, Alternate (Not sitting)

**Staff Present**

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

**Members Absent**

Barry Knight  
Jasmine O'Connell, Alternate  
Tom Smith, Alternate  
Michelle Davidson, Alternate

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

**Bill Edwards** called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

**2. APPROVE AGENDA**

**Tracy Street** made a **motion** to approve the meeting agenda after removing approval of the minutes of the February 18, 2016 meeting and the March 10, 2016 special called meeting. **Phyllis Clodfelter** seconded the motion, and it was passed unanimously (5-0).

**3. NEW BUSINESS**

- **Presentation/proposal for ORMA 5K on April 16.** Gerald Wofford said the Army had tasked the Junior ROTC with holding a 5K run to celebrate the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of JROTC. He asked permission to hold the event at the Oak Ridge Town Park on April 16 beginning at 8 a.m. Those who register will receive a free T-shirt. He said the cadets would also be conducting a canned food drive for Greensboro Urban Ministry. He said about 95 cadets and a few additional people were expected to participate. Oak Ridge Military Academy would shuttle cadets to and from the school in buses.

After discussion by the Commission, **Phyllis Clodfelter** made a **motion** to allow the 5K to be held at the park as requested. **Phillip Hanks** seconded the motion, and it was passed unanimously (5-0).

**4. STAFF REPORT**

Parks & Recreation Director Terry Lannon presented:

- **Financial report.** The report is hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of the minutes.

- **Bark Park infrastructure.** The equipment that was ordered has been delivered. The subcommittee was scheduled to have a meeting at the park the week of March 21 to determine its placement. The equipment should be installed by the Canine Capers event on April 30.
- **Proposed FY 2016-17 budget.** Per the discussion at the last meeting, the budget request was increased slightly to include beautification at the Redmon House. The request is hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of the minutes.
- **Mountains to Sea Trail.** Lannon said he, Town Manager Bruce Oakley and Planning Director Bill Bruce had met with the representatives of the Mountains to Sea Trail (MTS) as well as Friends of the Mountains to Sea Trail. The Town of Stokesdale leaders had said they were not interested in having the trail come through Stokesdale, so Segment 8 – which originates at Stone Mountain – will be rerouted through Oak Ridge. Parts of the route will be along roads, and there was some talk of trying to tie it in with the Cascades and the Haw River Trail. In 2015, there were only 14 through hikers, which are people who walk the entire trail and who are different from section hikers. Lannon said it is fairly common to have campsites available for hikers, and the executive director of MTS had toured the park and said the Scout campground would be sufficient. Lannon said the Commission may want to create a different site, and discussion was held considering alternate locations, including at The Grove. Lannon said they had discussed an online permit system so the Town will know when someone is spending the night in the park. He added that Guilford County had said the Cascades Preserve could not be used as a campground.

Discussion ensued regarding the location of the campground and its proximity to the restrooms, what would be needed/required at the campsite, whether a fire ring would be needed/required, the permitting system, etc.

**Bill Edwards** made a **motion** to allow the Scout camp to be used by MTS hikers if it is not feasible to locate them in The Grove. **Phillip Hanks** seconded the motion, and it was passed unanimously (5-0).

- **Map and signage.** Lannon said the Commission needed to decide what would be on the brochure, which would likely be printed on an 8½-inch-by-11-inch piece of paper. Once the exact size, verbiage and pictures are determined, they would be printed in color and would hopefully be something people would keep. Regarding signage, Lannon said money was not in this fiscal year's budget, but would be in the 2016-17 budget for metal signs at a cost of at least \$200 to be placed on the kiosks in the park.
- **Other.**
  - **Blue Ribbon 5K.** The event had been held the previous year at the park as a fundraiser for Alight, which raises money to benefit people with breast cancer. A request had been submitted to hold the event again this year on August 20 at 9 a.m. Several other events are being held in the park that day, so Lannon had suggested setting the 5K event up in a different area of the park with awards being given at Shelter 2.
  - **Spring Arts & Crafts Fair.** A flyer was available, which is hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of the minutes. This event will be held by the same people who held one last fall in the park.
  - **Concession operations.** ORYA had farmed out its concession operations and was still in the process of getting background checks done for this year. Since they were not ready to open the weekend of March 19, they asked permission to have a food truck on March 19. The Commission agreed by consensus to allow the food truck, which would be set up in the parking lot.

- **Phase II.** Lannon said two items remain from Phase II construction, which include the broken drain box and the silt fence that is still on the property. He said the contractor was going to handle them and also replace the capstone at the new restroom, and all items should be completed by the week of March 21.
- **Amphitheater landscaping.** Lannon and Philip Hanks had met at the site, and Hanks was drawing up a landscaping plan. The work should be completed by the grand opening on April 9.
- **Canine Capers.** The event will be held April 30, and volunteers are needed.

## 5. OLD BUSINESS

- **Longboarding/skateboarding program.** Discussion continued on the request to allow an afterschool skateboarding or longboarding program in the park. The Commission's consensus was to allow the company to set up at RidgeFest on a trial basis. Edwards said he or Lannon would talk to Randy Floss, who is organizing RidgeFest for the Merchants of Oak Ridge, to see if he is OK with that and work out the details.
- **Playground preferences.** Tracy Street said she had taken an informal poll of teachers at Oak Ridge Elementary on whether they would prefer to have the existing playground expanded or a new one constructed. Street said those polled overwhelmingly said that they thought the Town should construct a new playground near Shelter 2. She said they also stated they did not think it would be a good idea to have separate playgrounds for different age groups, since that would make it hard on families with children of different ages.
- **Music in the Park.** Phyllis Anders gave an update and discussion was held on decorations, the concession trailer, food, flyers, prizes, etc., for the grand opening of the amphitheater on April 9.

Edwards said he had emailed a link to the Commission regarding another group that wants to perform in the park. Street suggested listening to the group's lyrics before making a decision. The Commission's consensus was to discuss the issue at another meeting.

## 6. OTHER DISCUSSION ITEMS/ANNOUNCEMENTS/REMINDERS

- **Next scheduled P&RC meeting:** April 21, 2016, at 7 p.m.

## 7. PUBLIC COMMENTS

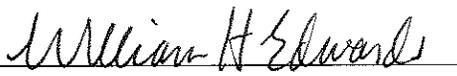
- Lannon said had sent the Commission an email regarding proposed amphitheater policies and a fee schedule, which he would bring back up at the next meeting.

## 8. ADJOURNMENT

Tracy Street made a **motion** to adjourn the meeting at 8:40 p.m. **Phyllis Anders** seconded the motion, and it was passed unanimously (5-0).

Respectfully Submitted:

  
Sandra B. Smith, CMC, Town Clerk

  
William H. Edwards, Chairman