



**TOWN OF ASHLAND CITY**  
Parks Advisory Board  
February 28, 2023 6:00 PM  
Minutes



Call to Order	Michael Smith called meeting to order at 6:00 pm.
Roll Call	Present: Michael Smith, Matt Waldron, Renee Cannon Absent: Brandy King Present: Mayor Smith and AC Clark
Approval of agenda	Matt Waldron made motion to approve Renee Cannon seconded motion Approved by voice vote
Approval of minutes	Michael Smith tabled approval of minutes until we have them next month.
Partner reports	<u>Soccer</u> Renee Cannon reported that soccer has 250 kids, 28 teams and 8 TOP soccer Kids. Season starts March 18 through May 20  <u>Baseball/Softball</u> Matt Waldron reported that softball numbers are low, looking at having 3 teams. Baseball numbers are looking good, will have 9 teams. They are a part of the Babe Ruth sanction now which will hopefully bring more opportunity for the league.  <u>Basketball</u> Matt Waldron reported that basketball just finished, 5 <sup>th</sup> grade girls won 1 <sup>st</sup> place.  <u>Football</u> Off season for football – no report
Parks Reports	AC Clark reported that new mulch was received for Johns Park. They have been meeting with Josh Wright on the new park plan, hope to have more information next month.
Old Business	
Secretary	Matt Waldron would like to fill the vacant spot before we appoint a secretary. Mayor Smith made a motion to fill secretary spot once vacant spot is filled, Renee Cannon seconded. Approved by voice vote.
Minutes/Agenda upload	Michael Smith tabled process update until vacant spot is filled and secretary is appointed.
New Business	
Review of Members	Michael Smith tabled until vacant spot is filled. He believes that we have 3 members on a 3 year term and 2 members on a 2 year term.
Vacant position	Mayor Smith report that Roy Mangrum is interested in joining the board, Mayor Smith will reach out to him.
Bicentennial Trail	Michael Smith reported that we are waiting on TDOT to approve plans and start the construction process. Grant has been awarded just waiting on final approval steps to begin. AC Clark reported that it is an 18 month construction process with a 6 month approval process.

Mayor Smith reported that we have to do the process exactly how we proposed in the grant. If we alter or start without TDOTs approval we would lose the grant money.

Questions/Answer from Ashland City residents.

1. Q: Will businesses need to be moved?  
A: No, will need to work with Midway and Co-op.
2. Q: Is there a TDOT contact we can push on to get this approved?  
A: Mayor Smith reported that he has been emailing TDOT to see where we are on getting approval. Mayor has number for a contact at TDOT that he was going to share with residents. Mayor Smith reported that he attended TDOT meeting where they reported that they are behind and shorthanded/funded. They do have a new way of assigning projects which will give us a start date but no finish date.
3. Q: Is this state money or federal money?  
A: This is state money. Matt Waldron stated that it maybe time to push on our state representatives to get them involved in getting TDOT to approve and start Construction. Michael Smith stated that a call from a resident may go further than the board reaching out.
4. Q: How long have we been waiting on this approval?  
A: AC Clark reported that it was granted in late 2019/early 2020. It is a 5 year plan to finish and needs to start Spring 2023.
5. Q: Any guess on when TDOT will approve?  
A: AC Clark reported that we do not have a timeline of when it will start.
6. Q: What are we waiting on to be approved?  
A: AC Clark reported that paperwork and money have been approved by TDOT. We are just waiting on final approval and for them to sign off.
7. Q: Where are we on the new park by the River?  
A: AC Clark and Matt Waldron both stated we are still in the early phases of the project. Plans for the park have not been finalized. Mayor Smith did report that we are also approved for a grant from TDOT for sidewalks. We are also waiting for approval on that for TDOT to begin.
8. Q: Is TDOT awarding more money than they have and that is causing the hold up on approval?  
A: No we don't believe that is the issue. Matt Waldron reported that it just takes time for them to approve and get started. He stated that we had requested that a new fire truck be put in the budget 3 years ago and we are just now receiving the funding to get the truck. It just takes time.
9. Q: If the timeline of 5 years expires do we lose the grant?  
A: AC Clark stated that as long as they start before the 5 years is up then we should be ok and if we needed could file for extensions.
10. Q: Who will oversea the project/construction? Do bids need to be done?  
A: AC Clark reported that TDOT will do the construction and the town will oversea. We are not sure if bids need to be done, TDOT will handle that part.
11. Q: What does this process cost?  
A: AC Clark reported that it is an 80/20 grant. Once TDOT spends their 80% of the project the town will step in and pay the final 20%. The 20% has been put in the budget and been approved by the town.
12. Q: Bridge or ramp over road?  
A: A ramp was put in the plan with TDOT so that is what we will do.
13. Q: What/Who will get the rails that are on the trail now?  
A: Mayor Smith report that they belong to the railroad and they will pick them up.
14. Q: Is the TDOT meeting publicized?  
A: Cheatham County Rail Authority will publicize meeting you could contact them.

Michael Smith in conclusion stated that the next step should be contacting our State Representative and see if they can push TDOT along. Mayor Smith said he would reach out to our State Representative.



Caldwell Park Center	<p>Michael Smith spoke with Josh Wright about the Nature Center that will be built on Caldwell Park. They agreed that an 800-900 square foot structure would be perfect for the space. Reelfoot State Park has about the same size structure as we want and we will use that to model ours after. The structure will be ADA compliant. We will need to look into sewer/septic tank, electricity and parking.</p> <p>AC Clark stated that it will need to be built on the high side out of the flood area. He also stated that we may need to look at someone occupying the center with an employee/volunteer.</p> <p>Questions/Answer from Ashland City residents.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Q: Will this be an educational center as well, field trips? A: Yes, we want to do all of that in the center.</li> <li>2. Q: Will there be a brainstorming session to decide what is done in the center? A: Yes, we will have a session to see what all we can offer once building gets started.</li> <li>3. Q: What is the size of Caldwell Park? A: 80-90 acres, there are 3 meadows past the gates.</li> </ol>
Sound System	<p>We would like to purchase a sound system to use at Music on Main, Movie in the Park and Music in the Park events. It will need to be similar to the size we had at Music on Main. AC Clark reported that we spend \$5000 on a sound system for Summerfest and \$3500 for Music on Main. AC Clark stated that he has put it in the budget for this year for us to purchase. Mayor Smith and Michael Smith stated they will work on getting bids to present to the council.</p>
Parks Events	
Food trucks	<p>Mayor Smith wants to do Food Truck Mondays between May and September from 11am to 2pm. He has been in contact with 4 or 5 trucks that are interested in setting up. We will work at the next meeting to set up dates and trucks that will join.</p> <p>Questions/Answer from Ashland City residents.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Q: Does Ashland City have a Commercial Kitchen someone could use to cook and then setup at the Food Truck Events. A: No we do not have a commercial kitchen available.</li> <li>2. Q: Could a chef setup in a tent for the food truck event if they don't have a truck? A: Yes as long as they have all the permits needed.</li> </ol>
Music in the park	<p>AC Clark reported that he would like to have Music in the Park on the 3rd Saturday of the month during May and September. This would be a free event held at Riverbluff park.</p>
Movies in the park	<p>AC Clark reported that he would like to have Music in the Park on the 1st Saturday of the month during May and September. This would be a free event held at Riverbluff park. AC Clark said that someone reached out to him about doing a Kids Market. They usually have around 75-100 booths that kids would set up with their own product. This could be done before the movie. He did state that they are booked until Fall, but we would reach out to them and see what we can do in the Fall.</p>
Dates	<p>May 6th Movie, May 20th Music June 3rd Movie, June 17th Music July 8th Movie, July 22 Music August 5th Movie, August 19th Music</p> <p>Summerfest is June 6th - 10th</p> <p>Matt Waldron made a motion to approve the above dates for the movie and music, Mayor Smith seconded motion. Approved by voice.</p>
Music on Main	<p>Music on Main will be the first week in October (October 7, 2023) from 10-4 Matt Waldron will check to see when CCCHS homecoming is this year.</p>
Other Items	

Softball/Baseball Fields	Matt Waldron stated that he needs dirt for Softball and Baseball fields. AC Clarks said he would look at getting some pricing for dirt. Matt Waldron said they usually have the city pay for the dirt then the league gets someone to laser and grade it on the fields.
Farmers Market	<p>Ashland City Resident questioned the board on what the plan is for growth of the Farmers Market. Could we do longer hours, more vendors and maybe food trucks?</p> <p>AC Clark stated that he is currently taking applications for a Farmers Market Manger which would help push the growth of the market. He also stated that farmers are able to set up between 7am and 7pm, 7 days a week as long as they have paid their fee for the year. This currently is not promoted by the city but hopes that the new manager can help push this information out.</p>
Easter	<p>Ashland City Resident asked if the City has anything planned for Easter.</p> <p>AC Clark reported that the city does not have an event for Easter. Matt Waldron stated that the Mason Lodge usually does an egg hunt at Riverbluff Park.</p>
McDonalds	<p>Mayor Smith stated that McDonalds is under new ownership and plan do to a ribbon cutting on April 15th. They are trying to get Ronald McDonald to make an appearance so the owner has made a donation to the Cheatham High School Marching Band so they join them on the ribbon cutting.</p> <p>Ashland City Resident brought up concern for public health and safety. That it is a concern for the safety of the public to have fast food pushed upon them.</p> <p>Matt Waldron reported that McDonalds reached out to him for Softball/Baseball wanting to make a donation to their league. Renee Cannon also reported that McDonalds reached out to them about sponsorship as well.</p>
Adjournment	<p>Next meeting will be March 21st at 6pm at the Senior Citizen Center.</p> <p>Renee Cannon made a motion to adjourn at 7:15 pm, Matt Waldron seconded motion. Approved by Voice.</p>



Chairman Michael W. Smith



Recorded By Renee Cannon