



ROANOKE
PARKS AND RECREATION

PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Date:	June 9, 2020	Location:	Conference Room
Chair:	Joshua Dietz	Recorder:	Michael Clark
Call to Order:	5:30 p.m.	Adjourn:	7:00 p.m.

Section I - Attendees

Name	Position
Joshua Dietz	Board Chair
Lauren Hartman	Board Vice-Char
Chris Bryant	Board Member
Melanie Crovo	Board Member
Pete Eshelman	Board Member
Matthew Kelley	Board Member
William Modica	Board Member
Luke Priddy	Board Member
Jared Rigby	Board Member
Jerome Stephens	Board Member
Sue Williams	Board Member
Michael Clark	Director of Parks and Recreation
Patrick Boas	Recreation Manager
Steve Ambruzs	Guest
Liz Belcher	Guest
Megan Cronise	Guest
Matthew Hilmer	Guest
Cole Inman	Guest
Kyle Inman	Guest
Ann Kohinke	Guest
Stuart Lamanna	Guest
Lindsey Webb	Guest

Section II - Standing Agenda Items

Item	Discussion
Call to Order	Mr. Dietz called the meeting to order.
Roll Call	Mr. Dietz called roll.
Approval of Minutes (Action Required)	N/A
Public Comments	See below in E-Bike Discussion
Member Comments	See below in E-Bike Discussion
Director Comment	See below in E-Bike Discussion

Section III - New Business Items

Item	Discussion
E-Bike Discussion	<p>Mr. Kyle Inman states that he supports the use of e-bikes. He mentions that e-bikes are being utilized all over the country. E-bikes would blend in very well with regular bikes. He states that e-bikes can be beneficial to those with health limitations.</p> <p>Mr. Cole Inman states that he also supports the use of e-bikes. He states that e-bikes could be very beneficial to people with disabilities or to anybody with injuries. Mr. Inman also mentions that utilizing e-bikes during races in locations like Carvins Cove and have medical staff use them to help assist in</p>

case of any accidents while riding.

Mr. Stuart Lamanna states that he supports the utilization of e-bikes. Mr. Stuart states that he personally has struggled with knee surgeries and has benefited from the e-bikes.

Ms. Ann Kohinke states she has a few concerns with e-bikes utilization. Ms. Kohinke has concerns about trail maintenance and how utilization of e-bikes would impact the maintenance up keeping. Ms. Kohinke also states that another concern would be safety for the elderly and people with disabilities, and she states that there are probably safer things to do.

Mr. Matthew Hilmer states that he is a 65 year old who has benefited from e-bikes, he now has the opportunity to ride longer and safer. Mr. Hilmer mentions that his wife who is also in her 60's would have not had the opportunity to ride if it wasn't for her e-bike.

Mr. Steve Ambruzs states that e-bikes are not going anywhere and that they are the future for riding. Mr. Ambrose states that many of the issues with e-bikes are behavioral issues.

Ms. Lauren Hartman states that she was initially against e-bikes but after doing some research she has become more open to them. Ms. Hartman states some of her main concerns are speed, safety, and behavioral issues. Ms. Hartman made some suggestions to having clear signage.

Chris Bryant supports the use of e-bikes and class 1/class 2 bikes in various parts of the city. Class 3 bikes should be allowed with provisions. Allowing the use of these bikes will reinforce the City's promotion of outdoor activities.

Melanie Crovo states bikes should be allowed in order to remain competitive with other localities. However, there is a safety concern regarding bike riders and dogs on retractable leashes. Leash regulations may need to be in place to prevent accidents. Ms. Crovo adds that a moped, based on a convoluted definition, may be considered an e-bike. A moped, in Ms. Provo's opinion, should not be allowed on the trails or greenway.

Pete Eshelman asks about the reasons e-bikes would not be allowed; reasons other than trail impact and speed. Mr. Eshelman continued by stating education is key to understanding e-bikes. Mr. Eshelman added that state legislation was passed defining e-bikes a class 1, 2, or 3. This legislation is effective beginning July 1, 2020.

On June 15, 2020 there is a required public hearing with the General Assembly proposing modification to the code that will impact the prohibition of e-bikes.

Matthew Kelly encouraged the board to consider safety issues such as the greenway being too narrow for dense usage of E-bikes and operator behavior and error. In addition, Mr. Kelly suggested collecting data during a probation period. Mr. Kelly emphasized that demarcation and speed limits need to be in place for the greenways and trails.

Luke Priddy recommends having a ban in areas where it has been determined that it is unsafe to use e-bikes. Mr. Priddy suggests making recommendations to city council after public feedback is received.

Jerome Stephens stated he supports the use of e-bikes because it provides an alternative to working out in the gym. Mr. Stephens stated people may be

	<p>reluctant to attend the gym during a pandemic.</p> <p>Jared Rigby's concern is increased density on crowded trails.</p> <p>Sue Williams has safety concerns regarding the greenway. Primarily when citizens are not aware of greenway rules and etiquette. Ms. Williams supports the use of speed limits being placed on the greenway.</p> <p>Michael Clark contacted 80 directors in different localities and asked for feedback regarding their e-bike regulations. Mr. Clark received a response from approximately half of the directors. Thirteen of the agencies that responded had a full prohibition of E-bikes. Nineteen had no prohibition or a partial prohibition. Five agencies were either undecided or had no trails. Those agencies with partial prohibition allowed class 1 or class 2 bikes on all trails or some trails or some other combination.</p> <p>Michael Clark recognizes there are steps needed to ensure public safety.</p> <p>In a motion made by Luke Priddy and seconded by Matthew Kelley, the PRAB voted 10-0 to recommend the allowance of all classes of e-bikes on all trails and shared-use paths. Chairman Dietz will draft a letter to City Council informing them of the Board's recommendation.</p> <p>Pete Eshelman moved that meeting be adjourned and it was seconded by Chris Bryant.</p>
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Section IV – Old Business Items

Item	Discussion
N/A	N/A

Section V – Other Business Items

Item	Discussion
N/A	N/A

Section VI Next Meeting

Title	Name	Position
Chair	Joshua Dietz	Board Chair
Recorder	Michael Clark	Director

Date	Time	Location
16 June 2020	5:30 p.m.	Conference Call