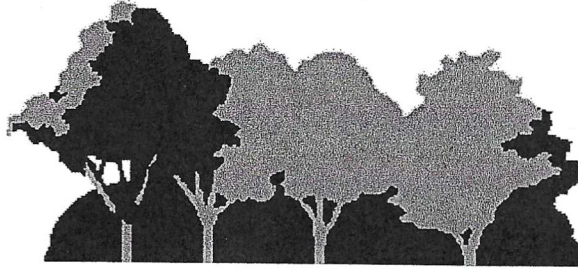


ADVOCATES FOR THE OAK RIDGE RESERVATION

136 West Revere Circle, Oak Ridge, Tennessee 37830



NEWSLETTER – January 2015

Tim Myrick

AFORR will sorely miss Tim Myrick, who lost his battle with cancer on December 15. He served as The Nature Conservancy representative on our board of Directors since 2006. Tim's enthusiasm, intelligence, and positive attitude marked every activity in which he was involved.

AFORR Annual Meeting Announcement

Ron McConathy will offer a slide presentation of his nature photography, emphasizing the Oak Ridge Reservation, at our next meeting, scheduled at 7:00, February 19, in the Social Room at the Oak Ridge Civic Center. At the meeting there will be opportunity to discuss the various opportunities and challenges for the Oak Ridge Reservation. We will also vote to affirm the Board of Directors. AFORR members and the general public are encouraged to attend.

Environmental News

Proposed Oak Ridge General Aviation Airport - Studies are underway for a proposed airport at Heritage Center (K-25) requiring approximately 200 acres of level land that might otherwise be available for economic development. The land for the proposed Oak Ridge Airport is DOE property previously designated for transfer to CROET in the Environmental Assessment for Development Parcel ED 3. AFORR will monitor the progress of the airport proposal to ensure that appropriate and required environmental analyses are conducted.

Environmental News (continued)

Horizon Center – The areas designated natural areas in and around the City Of Oak Ridge Industrial Development Board-owned Horizon Center continue to be threatened by development proposals. The IDB requested and was granted a DOE easement to construct a high-voltage overhead electric line along the Greenway (East Fork Road) on the north side of the Horizon Center. Powerline construction will require removal of trees in the DOE-designated natural areas along East Fork Poplar Creek and on the southern edge of the Black Oak Ridge Conservation Easement. IDB justifies the powerline to satisfy the requirement for additional electrical service by interested, unnamed, potential purchasers of property within Horizon Center. Other cost effective routes across Horizon Center/IDB property exist but are not desirable to IDB because self-imposed Horizon Center covenants do not allow overhead lines. The IDB prefers to construct the overhead power lines in designated natural areas and along established greenways rather than building them on their own property because they are unwilling to change their covenants. In addition to environmental insult from the electric line installation, IDB recently voted to request that DOE transfer 10- to 20-acres of riparian natural area from DOE to the City of Oak Ridge. The purpose of the transfer would be to combine two IDB/Horizon Center parcels into one larger parcel to facilitate marketing the larger combined parcel to satisfy unnamed prospective industrial buyers. AFORR reminded DOE by letter that the parcel in question was part of the mitigation package for the original Horizon Center land transfer, and that NEPA review would be required prior to any land transfer.

Environmental News (continued)

Manhattan Project Historical Park Designation.

The recently enacted federal omnibus spending bill included provision for establishment of the multi-site Manhattan Project National Historic Park, of which Oak Ridge is one of three sites. AFORR is exploring the possibility of adding scenic, recreational, educational, and historical acreage to the newly designated National Historic Park. Key players who could help push this idea to fruition include City of Oak Ridge, those responsible for the Manhattan Project Park, supporters of the American Museum of Science and Energy, Tennessee Congressmen and Senators, ORNL leadership, and environmental groups across the state.

Clark Center Park – In late summer, DOE notified the City of Oak Ridge its intention to declare Clark Center Park excess property. It is now expected that DOE will declare the 80-acre property on the shore of Melton Hill Lake to be excess to the agency's needs, then allow the National Park Service (NPS) to offer it to the city through the Federal Lands to Parks Program. The future use of the property would be limited to recreation, and NPS would enforce the use restriction. Two sticking points are 1) the funding to support operation of the park, and 2) DOE's requirement that the park property be transferred with deed restrictions that limit use to recreational use. The City would like to accept ownership with DOE financial support and no deed restrictions. AFORR supports preservation of Clark Center Park as a recreational facility with recreation use deed restrictions in place.

Questions to be answered include:

- 1) What kinds of recreation will be allowed under the NPS restriction? Changes that have been suggested include the addition of camping or a marina.
- 2) Where can the city find the money to pay for park maintenance and operation? DOE reports spending \$300,000 a year. The city cost would be less (more like \$200,000), but it's still expensive. Various kinds of user fees and commercial concessions have been suggested.
- 3) How will city operation of Clark Center Park affect adjacent Freels and Gallaher Bends (parts of the Three Bends Area of the Oak Ridge Reservation)?

Financial Support

AFORR requires membership dues and donations to support various activities, especially meetings and mailings.

We offer different membership levels as follow:

Individual Membership	\$15
Family Membership	\$20
Supporting Membership	\$50

Please use the form at the back of this newsletter to accompany your membership dues.

A special opportunity for ORNL employees to help AFORR is the ORNL Matching Gifts Fund. <http://www.ornl.gov/ornl/news/communications/community-outreach/matching-gifts-fund>. The Matching Gifts Fund is open to current UT-Battelle employees with a minimum of one year of service and will provide a minimum match of \$50 and a maximum match of \$250 per employee. To request a matching gift, employees should complete Section A of the form and mail it, along with their gift, to AFORR. Questions should be directed to the ORNL Matching Gifts Program Coordinator at 865-241-9309 or community@ornl.gov.

The AFORR Board of Directors

Virginia Dale, President;
Ellen Smith, Vice President;
Frank Hensley, Treasurer, TCWP representative
Bill Johnston, at-large Board member, acting Secretary
Katherine Medlock, The Nature Conservancy, Tennessee Chapter representative
Wolf Naegeli, Foundation for Global Sustainability representative
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