

Oak Ridge Reservation Communities Alliance (ORRCA)

Friday, September 19, 2025

Auditorium at the Oak Ridge Public Library

Meeting Minutes

Members Present: Anderson County Mayor Terry Frank, Roane County Executive Wade Creswell, Oak Ridge Councilwoman Ellen Smith (proxy for Mayor Gooch), Jane Jolley (proxy for Mayor Jacobs)

Others Present: Attendee list attached

Mayor Frank called the meeting to order at 1:02 p.m.

Approval of Minutes: Councilwoman Smith made a motion, second by Executive Creswell, to approve the minutes of the June 24, 2025, meeting. Motion carried by voice vote.

Discussion/Action Items

- 1) Amy Fitzgerald (City of Oak Ridge) provided an update about the city's nuclear zoning project. Noting there are several questions still, she said city planners are working with Bass Barry and Sims to draft a proposal for the city and ORRCA Board to review in the coming months.
- 2) The U.S. Department of Energy's Oak Ridge Office of Environmental Management will host an environmental cleanup update (public open house session) on Thursday, October 16th from 5 until 6:30 p.m. at the Oak Ridge Conference Center, 1403 Oak Ridge Turnpike. Ideas were shared about specific updates or formats that ORRCA board members and attendees thought should be part of the open house.
- 3) It was discussed that ORRCA should have its 2nd Quarter board meeting prior to the DOE/OREM open house on October 16th, at 4 p.m. Location is to be determined. **This meeting was postponed on 10/16/2025 due to the federal government shutdown.**
- 4) Executive Creswell said he has requested a joint meeting between the Roane County Environmental Review Board and the economic/community development group to discuss some constituent concerns.
- 5) Amy Fitzgerald stated that there will be a ceremony in Oak Ridge on November 13th to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the Manhattan Project National Historical Park.
- 6) Roger Petrie (DOE) provided an update on the first phase of the NRD grants. Approximately 14 applications were received, and nine recipients were selected for the first phase of grant awards.
- 7) Members were provided with budget numbers for FY25 and FY26. Members were encouraged to check with Leean prior to questionable expenditures so that verification can be completed and no issues emerge for reimbursement when quarterly reports are submitted to the State.

Public Comments: Doug Colclasure (Greenways Oak Ridge) commented about the new signage related to Oak Ridge that's located on Interstate 40 in West Knoxville. He also said he'd like to see an easement to connect the new K-25 Wilcox Interpretive Center with the K-25 History Center (see attached email).

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 1:48 p.m.



September 19, 2025: Meeting at the Oak Ridge Public Library

PLEASE SIGN IN: (Name, Organization, Phone & Email Address)

Karen Doten	Anderson Co. EMA	865 680 2435	kdoten@andersoncountyttn.gov
Dana DeLorenzo	Shawnee PR	865 983 1267	103 Monticello RD
Roger Petrie	DOE	865 316 4063	Roger.petrie@oreem.doe.gov
Tim Suter	Roane EMA	865-805-5418	tim.suter@roanecountyttn.gov
Dana Casey	TDEC	865-310-0253	dana.casey@tn.gov
KRISTOF CZABTORISKI	TDEC	865-250-9705	KRISTOF.CZABTORISKI@TN.GOV
SUZANNE SAWUSCH	TDEC		SuzanneSawusch@TN.gov
Wade Creswell	Roane Co.	865-376-5578	
Terry Frank	Anderson CO	865-457 6200	tfrank@andersoncountyttn.gov
Amy Fitzgerald	City of Oak Ridge	865-425-3554	afitzgerald@oakridgetn.gov
ERNE GONZALEZ		783-785-1858	EGGonzalez@verizon.net
Jane Jolley	Knox Co. Mayor's Office	865-254-5248	jane.jolley@knoxcounty.org
Leann Tupper	Anderson Co.	865-457-6200	ltupper@andersoncountyttn.gov

Subject: External: ORRCA Meeting Last Week:
Date: Thursday, September 25, 2025 at 5:26:08 PM Eastern Daylight Time
From: dougcolcl@aol.com <dougcolcl@aol.com>
To: Leean Tupper <ltupper@andersoncountyttn.gov>
Attachments: image001.png

CAUTION: This email originated from outside the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Leean:

If it helps any this is a writeup of my comments at the meeting during the Appearance of Citizens agenda item at ORRCA meeting last week. .

---Thanks, Doug

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Modern development planning includes multi-modal, pedestrian and recreation into the plan. With that in mind i would appreciate ORRCA support for a greenway trail easement across Heritage Center (Wheat Corner to W-BORCE) in the future of Heritage Center redevelopment.

Right now ORCDC has a contractor studying the best reconfiguration for efficient use and marketing of the remaining parcels at Heritage Center . I fear minus a explicit part of that effort future options for a trail easement across the site cannot be met.

Preserving the two Poplar Creek up-stream bridges (above the Perimeter Road bridge) at Heritage Center was a part of cleanup to leave an opportunity for connecting greenway trails. Several including Ken Rueter/UCOR have made that point over the years during cleanup.

Thanks for your interest in seeing what we can do to make that happen. Obviously it would be great for example connecting all the companies locating at Heritage Center . And the most obvious , i.e. connecting MPNHP K-25 History Center and Wilcox K-25 Interpretative Center. .

From my limited access to Heritage Center it appears quite feasible to create a trail/route/easement to connect E-BORCE and W-BORCE where these existing trail heads come close to the edge of Heritage Center . See attached "screen shot" map with the three red pointers. Showing the up-stream bridge over Poplar Creek and W-BORCE trail head pointer and E-BORCE trail access from "Wheat " corner. .

Having a trail easement through Heritage Center would be a great economic recruitment marketing asset . **Precisely a point that has been mentioned over the last few years.**

Other communities are making greenway trails a part of their strategy to recruit economic development --- See here recent news from Alcoa. And notice it is not the Alcoa City Rec and Parks department or Greenway committee doing it, but the Blount County Industrial development leadership.

<https://www.wbir.com/article/news/local/new-alcoa-greenway-trail/51-899ed4e0-bfb7-4fc8-a650-ed480f9e529b>

<https://www.wbir.com/article/news/community/blount-county-grows-its-greenways-and-plans-to-link-to-bigger-system-could-take-years/51-7f581f3f-c871-4d4b-a55d-ec22104ee7b3>

The opportunity to set aside natural areas and create trails for wildlife viewing can and already are a part of Heritage Center redevelopment. The P-1 Pond birding trail-26 acre wetlands <https://ebird.org/hotspot/L2104673> and Powerhouse wildlife trail/area are two examples at Heritage Center . Easements within Heritage Center along Poplar Creek , to connect these to the greater greenway trail system in O. R. could also be done.

<https://inlandforms.us/greenways/gps/googlegw.php?lat=35.99&lon=-84.285&scale=11&file=gw>

