

**SMYRNA PARKS AND RECREATION
PARKS ADVISORY BOARD MEETING**

MINUTES OF AUGUST 18, 2020

The monthly Smyrna Parks and Recreation Parks Advisory Board Meeting was held August 18, 2020 at Smyrna Outdoor Adventure Center, Smyrna, Tennessee. Chairman Mark Hardy called the meeting to order at 5:00pm.

PRESENT Thirteen people were present: Mark Hardy; Michael Potts; Ernie Felts; Scott Poston; Jerry Bradley; Councilmember H.G. Cole; Tommy Williams; Mike Moss, Director; Jimmy Stitt, Courtney Morgan, and Kay Arnold, staff; Brian Hercules, Town Manager; Charles King, Engineer

ABSENT Holly Phillips, Carlos Rawls, Sr., Mayor Mary Esther Reed

SUMMARY Prayer: Jerry Bradley

Citizen's Comments: None

Review and Approval of Minutes of Previous Meetings: Mark moved to approve July's minutes; Tommy seconded. Minutes approved unanimously.

Old Business: Concerning Watercraft Rental Update, Mike informed the board that the SOAC staff is ready to offer Watercraft Rentals to the public. They have kayaks, canoes, and paddle boards for rent on daily, weekend, and weekly basis. All rentals include paddles and PFD's. The renter will have to watch a watercraft safety video and sign a waiver prior to taking the equipment.

New Business: Concerning Overview of Tennessee Recreation Award Submittals, Mike explained that our state agency, Tennessee Recreation and Parks Association, presents an annual conference. Although this year's conference will be offered virtually instead of in-person, they are still accepting Four Star Award Applications in the following categories:

- Renovated Facility
- New Facility
- Innovative Program
- Special Event
- Public Relations

The New Facility Award is two actually; 1) under \$500,000, and 2) over \$500,000. The department will submit an application for Cedar Stone Community Park in the Over \$500,000 category and we will submit the Depot Canopy project in the Under \$500,000 category. We are also working on an application for the Special Event category, and perhaps the Public Relations category as well.

Concerning Request for future Agenda Items, Mike informed the board that while looking at other cities' Parks and Recreation Park Board Agendas, he noticed some of them include "Request for future Agenda Items" on their agendas. Mike invited board members to submit topics of discussion for inclusion on our monthly meeting agenda if they would like to, adding to give your ideas to Mike or Kay.

Council Member Cole asked if the Kuss 6k would take place this fall. Mr. Hercules replied that it will be held in 2021.

Reports of Officers, Committees, or Staff: Mike reviewed upcoming events listed on the agenda. He stated that "Sonic the Hedgehog" will be the movie shown at the two Family Movie Nights, scheduled for September 4 and 5. We will accommodate up to 50 guests per event. A Sunset Kayak Float will be held on September 25, and we have home school programs starting again at the SOAC on September 9.

Director's Report: Mike reviewed his monthly report. He added that SOAC hosted four Summer Camps in July and he displayed pictures from camp to the board members. Mike gave an update on Zama Park completion and stated that the Grand Opening Ceremony will be held in September. He displayed drawings of the new Rotary Soccer Park restroom/concession building in the annex area. Mike reviewed fall league registration numbers. He also displayed pictures from the Cedar Stone Ribbon Cutting ceremony.

Jimmy spoke about the recent Spiderz Batting Gloves Tournament held last weekend at Volunteer Park. There were 850 men and women participants and they played at various ball parks in the area. They brought approximately 1,500 people to the Smyrna area during the tournament.

Mike added that ball field rentals and tournaments are generating some revenues for the department.

Mike stated that he and Kay met with Brandon Whitt, of Batey's Farms, last week about the possibility of planting crops at Sharp Springs to provide agricultural education aspects. Greg Rhoades has farmed the area for years but has been unable to plant crops for the past two years. More to come on this.

Council Report: Councilman Cole reviewed highlights from the latest meeting. The town entered a contract with Barge Solutions to design the second entranceway to Lee Victory Recreation Park. Brian spoke about the "Flock" camera system that will be installed at all roadway entrances into Smyrna to monitor for stolen vehicles and/or people that are on the national sex offenders register that might enter Smyrna city limits. Brian also stated that town representatives will be presenting a \$250,000 grant request to the Christy-Houston Foundation for use on the All-Inclusive Playground at Lee Victory Recreation Park. Charles spoke about the Downtown Revitalization Project Phase I bid. He also informed the board that the railroad

crossing area has been approved by CSX to be able to safely cross over the railroad from Zama Park to the depot area.

Other: Jimmy complimented the Mayor and others involved on the State of the Town presentation held last Friday at Hunter Fans Corporate Office.

September's meeting will be held at the O'Connor Shelter at Sharp Springs Natural Area.

Meeting adjourned at 5:56pm.