

SMYRNA PARKS AND RECREATION PARKS ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

MINUTES OF DECEMBER 15, 2020

The monthly Smyrna Parks and Recreation Parks Advisory Board Meeting was held December 15, 2020 at Smyrna Event Center, Smyrna, Tennessee. Chairman Mark Hardy called the meeting to order at 5:04pm.

PRESENT Thirteen people were present: Mark Hardy; Holly Phillips; Tommy Williams; Michael Potts; Carlos Rawls, Sr.; Ernie Felts; Councilmember H.G. Cole; Mike Moss, Director; Jimmy Stitt, Marty Smith, and Kay Arnold, staff; Brian Hercules, Town Manager; Charles King, Engineer

ABSENT Scott Poston, Mayor Mary Esther Reed

SUMMARY Prayer: Brian Hercules

Citizen's Comments: None

Review and Approval of Minutes of Previous Meetings: Ernie moved to approve November's minutes; Councilman Cole seconded. Minutes approved unanimously.

Old Business: Concerning Review of Current Fee Schedule, Mike explained that he would like to review the FY2021-2022 Fee Schedule for any input the board members may have on increasing prices. We had several raised fees become effective January 1, 2021 such as Pool Admittance Fees, Pool Party Fees, Large Group Shelter Rentals, Paint Ball Tournament Fees, Ball Field and Tournament Fees. After reviewing the Fee Schedule, the board agreed to keep current prices the same for the upcoming fiscal year.

New Business: Concerning Discussion of Neighborhood Parks and "Healthy Access to Parks", Mike began the discussion stating that he recently participated in the TRPA Virtual Conference. There was an interesting session, presented by healthyknox.org, on neighborhood parks, emphasizing their tremendous utilization by the public during the pandemic. Parks helps people fulfill their mental, physical, social, and fitness needs. Outdoor Workout Stations are the latest trend in park amenities.

Mike reviewed some of Smyrna's existing neighborhood parks:

- The J.J. McWilliams/Old Rock School Park has a lighted .5 mile perimeter walking trail, pavilion, playground, and is linked to downtown area via sidewalks.
- Paul Johns Neighborhood Park has basketball, playground, pavilion, and .5 mile walking trail.
- Pioneer Park has basketball, pavilion, and will have a new playground installed this year. We would like to build a perimeter trail too.
- Westfork Neighborhood Park has .4 mile walking trail, pavilion, and playground.

Councilman Cole stated that with all the new residential areas being built currently in Smyrna, we may need to consider providing additional larger/community parks. The Town can help influence new developments in setting aside greenspace for its resident's use. The town has been fortunate in the past in acquiring some park property in lieu of receiving impact fees.

Ernie stated he would like to see more multi-purpose parks where a lot of different kinds of activities can take place, not only ballfields or a playground. Have open greenspace available for any kind of play.

Concerning Selection of the Kenneth "Coon" Victory Lifetime Service Award Recipient, we received six nominees for 2020:

- Danny Brewer
- Ken Dalton
- Ed Gleason
- Marci Jameson
- Carolyn Peebles
- Scott Snyder

Mike opened the floor for discussion pertaining to any of the nominees. Ernie spoke about Ken Dalton. Mark spoke about Ed Gleason. The final vote tally:

Ed Gleason = 5
 Marci Jameson = 1
 Ken Dalton = 1

Ed Gleason was selected as 2020 Kenneth "Coon" Victory Lifetime Service Award Recipient.

Concerning Selection of the Young Leader Award Recipient, we received five nominees for 2020:

- Harrison Falcofsky
- Jady Hayes
- Sandra Kamel
- Zanko Idres Jalal
- Youstina Saber

Mike opened the floor for discussion pertaining to any of the nominees. Councilman Cole stated that the Young Leader Recipient is typically a well-rounded individual, and being a recipient of the award is usually resume-worthy material. SiMA presents a \$500 scholarship award to each year's recipient.

The final vote tally:

Harrison Falcofsky = 2

Sandra Kamel = 4

Youstina Saber -= 1

Sandra Kamel was selected as 2020 Young Leader Award Recipient.

Marty will notify both recipients tomorrow. Mike stated that the Volunteer of the Year Virtual Ceremony will most likely be filmed on February 19th, and then aired on a later date through a virtual platform on Smyrna TV.

Reports of Officers, Committees, or Staff: Mike reviewed upcoming events listed on the agenda. He added that we are working toward re-opening SOAC in late December but may have to push farther out due to COVID-related quarantine cases with staff members. We have a new exhibit, Harley Davidson, installed and ready for the public to enjoy.

The Town recently received two 2020 Local Government Awards presented by The Greater Nashville Regional Council, recognizing excellence in Economic Development and Recreation and Youth Engagement. The Economic Development category featured the enhancements to the Smyrna Train Depot. Cedar Stone Park was selected in the Recreation and Youth Engagement Category.

Director's Report: Mike reviewed his monthly report.

Tommy spoke about the recent Winter Classic Soccer Tournament.

Marty provided draft copies of the 2021 Tournament Calendar covering January through November. There will be some additional entries before it is finalized for the year.

Councilman Cole asked if Parks staff members ever have to work concession stands during tournaments if the tournament organizers cannot cover it. Marty replied, in that case, that either the home league for that particular park will work the concession stand, or if they cannot, then the opportunity is offered to other leagues or local organizations.

Council Report: Councilman Cole reviewed highlights from the latest meeting.

Other: Mr. Hercules stated that he had a few words. Because of the gathering limitations due to COVID-19, the Town was not able to hold its annual Employee Christmas Luncheon this year. During the year 2020, there were 40 town employees that achieved milestone years of service anniversaries. Mr. Hercules presented Kay Arnold with a 30-year Service Award.

On behalf of the Town of Smyrna, Mike thanked the board members for serving on the Parks Advisory Board this year.

Charles stated that the Parks Department did a great job moving the Veterans Memorial from Town Hall to the Kuss Memorial. It looks really nice. Mr. Hercules agreed, adding that the Kuss Memorial is a great place to go and sit and reflect.

Mr. Hercules stated that he enjoys working with the various citizen boards and they provide a lot of input and guidance. Rex Gaither and his team have done a tremendous job keeping

Smyrna financially secure and able to progress. Mr. Hercules enjoys bringing out of town guests to the Event Center and also showing off the town's park facilities. He closed by wishing everyone a Merry Christmas and Great New Year.

Mark thanked everyone and stated that he is honored to have served with everyone on the board. His term will be ending March 2021.

Meeting adjourned at 6:12 pm.