

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

MINUTES OF JANUARY 21, 2020

The monthly Smyrna Parks and Recreation Parks Advisory Board Meeting was held January 21, 2020 at Smyrna Outdoor Adventure Center, Smyrna, Tennessee. Chairman Mark Hardy called the meeting to order at 5:02pm.

PRESENT Fifteen people were present: Mark Hardy; Ernie Felts; Doris Sullivan; Carlos Rawls, Sr.; Michael Potts; Holly Phillips; Scott Poston; Councilmember H.G. Cole; Mayor Mary Esther Reed; Tommy Williams; Mike Moss, Director; Jimmy Stitt, Kay Arnold and Courtney Morgan, staff; Brian Hercules, Town Manager

ABSENT

SUMMARY Prayer: Mike Moss

Citizen's Comments: None.

Mike introduced Charles King, the Town's new Engineer, to the board members.

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

Old Business: None

New Business: Concerning Review of DRAFT Calendar of Events, Mike distributed copies of the 2020 Calendar of Events to the board members, mentioning that the blue text items are the sports events we have scheduled in the Park System this year, which equate to 31 separate athletic events, in addition to regular league games. The department is still receiving inquiries asking to schedule more athletic events this year. Councilman Cole asked if events other than baseball will be held at Cedar Stone Community Park too. He believes there is a water-based paint that can be used to paint different sports fields on the synthetic turf.

Concerning Discussion of DRAFT of 2020-2021 Fee Schedule, Mike distributed copies for the board members to review. Mike also distributed handouts containing information of neighboring municipalities' Pool Fees and Ball Field Rental Fees as comparison to Smyrna's.

Councilman Cole asked if local schools use the tennis courts at Lee Victory Recreation Park. Mike replied that the schools use the town's tennis courts a lot and that Smyrna is well below NRPA's recommended recreation facility to population ratio of recommended national standards. He added that Phase II of Cedar Stone includes building more tennis courts.

Councilman Cole asked if the tennis courts could be built before we are ready to proceed with Phase II. Mr. Hercules stated that he would like to wait and build them as per the Phase Plan for developing Cedar Stone Community Park. Mike added that he feels we should ask the county to help the Town in providing additional tennis courts for our citizens.

Mike reviewed the Fee Schedule. Since we have the band space at the Depot now, Mike anticipates more requests to use that area. We will assess the Special Event Fee to utilize that area as needed.

Mike asked the board members their thoughts on \$250 per day per ballfield at Cedar Stone. There was some discussion regarding profit being made off hosting tournaments. Tommy asked if we had considered working in last minute requests at Cedar Stone if asked. It could possibly be a good money-maker for the Town if we assess an upcharge for “Last Minute” use of fields. This could happen if tournament directors lose their planned playing fields due to inclement weather or other unforeseeable circumstances.

Concerning Concession Stand operations at Cedar Stone, Mike stated the options are: 1) Smyrna Baseball run the concessions, 2) we outsource it, or 3) Parks Department runs it. For now, Smyrna Baseball League will operate the concessions.

Councilman Cole asked how we plan to rent the watercraft equipment. Courtney state that the Town’s Risk Manager advised her that our staff cannot help strap the rented equipment onto a customer’s car because of liability issues. She is also working with the Town’s Legal Department to make sure all bases are covered when renting equipment. Mr. Hercules recommended assessing a deposit upfront from the renting customer to cover any equipment damage incurred while in their possession. More to come in the future and the rental process will be finalized before implementation.

The board also discussed the rental fees on Pool Parties. Mayor Reed and Mr. Hercules felt the current rates might be too low. *Ernie moved to raise the Semi-Private Pool Party Fee to \$250 and the Private Pool Party Fee to \$400, effective January 1, 2021. Carlos seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.*

Reports of Officers, Committees, or Staff:

Director’s Report: Mike reviewed the numerous upcoming events listed on the agenda. Mike added that the Volunteer of the Year Banquet will be filmed this year with the assistance of Stewarts Creek High School Audio Visual Class, not live, and will be shown on Channel 3 and YouTube at a later date. The Top Gun Night Run is scheduled for May 29th, and the race registration site is now live. Cost to register is \$50 per participant and you can also pay for a \$100 sponsorship online through the registration site too. Contractors began work today at Zama Park. Mayor Reed asked if progression photos could be taken at Zama Park, and perhaps send them to Zama, Japan contacts too. Work on the Soccer Park Annex Concession Building will begin March or April. There was some discussion about a possible second entrance/exit into Rotary Soccer Park. Mike stated that the contractor installed 5 of the 6 light poles at Volunteer Park today.

Ernie described a Wiffleball League that some towns offer. Mayor Reed asked if we had thought about possibly offering recreation leagues to adults, such as Ultimate Frisbee, Kickball, or Wiffleball.

Mike announced that 2020 Refreshment Fee (\$25) is due.

Council Update: Councilman Cole reviewed highlights from the most recent meeting. Mr. Hercules and Mayor Reed also talked about the upcoming Census.

Other: Mayor Reed reminded the board members of the Smyrna Comprehensive Plan Update Public Workshop being held at the Event Center on January 23, 5:00pm-7:00pm. Also the Zama Park Ribbon Cutting Ceremony is scheduled for August 1st.

Meeting adjourned at 6:38pm.