

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

MINUTES OF JUNE 16, 2020

The monthly Smyrna Parks and Recreation Parks Advisory Board Meeting was held June 16, 2020 at Smyrna Event Center, Smyrna, Tennessee. Chairman Mark Hardy called the meeting to order at 5:10pm.

PRESENT Twelve people were present: Mark Hardy; Jerry Bradley; Holly Phillips; Carlos Rawls, Sr.; Mayor Mary Esther Reed; Councilmember H.G. Cole; Scott Poston; Mike Moss, Director; Jimmy Stitt and Kay Arnold, staff; Brian Hercules, Town Manager; Charles King, Engineer

ABSENT Ernie Felts, Michael Potts, Tommy Williams

SUMMARY Mike introduced Jerry Bradley to the board members. He was appointed to the Park Board in March to fill the county resident slot, replacing Doris Sullivan, whose term ended at that time. Mayor Reed welcomed Jerry to the Park Board.

This meeting is the first one held since COVID-19 shut down most everything in February.

Citizen's Comments: None.

Review and Approval of Minutes of Previous Meetings: Mayor Reed moved to approve February's minutes; Scott seconded. Minutes approved unanimously.

Old Business: None

New Business: Concerning Discussion of Modified Park and Recreation Operations, Mike reviewed the department's Tier II Parks Reopening Plan that is currently in place throughout Smyrna's park system. The plan is based on Governor Lee's Executive Order #38. In part, the plan states:

- City parks are open (modified hours), with restrictions
- Playgrounds remain closed at this time
- Water fountains will remain off
- Shelters and buildings are open for rentals for groups of 50 or less and one rental per day
- Baseball/Softball fields are open for practices (2 fields per complex)
- Soccer fields will remain closed except of league skill training
- Basketball remains closed at this time

- Smyrna Outdoor Adventure Center, SplashTown Pool, and the SplashPad at Gregory Mill will remain closed at this time
- SOAC Summer programs are back – kayak flats, hiking and other programs with less than 10 participants

Mike added that Kathy Ferrell, the town's Public Information Officer, has been continuously relaying updated information via social media to the public, and has done a great job keeping citizens as informed as possible of COVID-19 developments throughout the Town of Smyrna.

Mike announced that Cedar Stone Community Park will open to the public next week and turf fields can be rented for \$60 per 2-hour increment.

Council Member Cole asked how playground access is determined. Brian stated that the State of Tennessee puts out specific guidelines to guide municipalities in determining what re-opens when. They also follow the county's COVID case counts. Playgrounds have lots of touchpoints. Basketball and football are contact sports. The guidelines that the state provided for operating public pools are extremely difficult to follow and are not realistic. Brian stated the allowed number of pool admittance is extremely limited. Mayor Reed added that Brian and staff have done a great job in implementing phased openings.

Holly asked about status of SOAC memberships. Mike replied that once we re-open, the number of days that we have been closed will be added to every current membership if the customer agrees to it. Some may want, and have already, requested refunds.

Mark asked if contact football will be allowed this fall. Mayor Reed stated there has been no conversation of that in her government officials group yet. They are set to meet again later this week.

Brian stated that some town operations have been changed permanently due to COVID-19.

Mayor Reed announced that Independence Day Celebration has been canceled this year in Smyrna. The Council had to make the difficult decision in May for the fireworks contractor. She added that the Town would appreciate any support from the Park Board and help in spreading the word around why the decision was made.

Concerning Discussion of Musco Vision Camera System for athletic fields, Mike showed a short video, made by Musco Lighting, demonstrating a new camera system available to install at ballfields that enables viewers to watch real-time games while off-site. The camera system service is available for most sports. After watching the video, Charles stated having the camera system service may be able to be counted as providing ADA compliance. Mike said offering this type of amenity is the future. The cost per field is approximately \$14,000 and may be a project that we partner with Smyrna Baseball League to provide.

Reports of Officers, Committees, or Staff:

Director's Report: Mike reviewed upcoming events listed on the agenda. Tomorrow is the Ribbon Cutting Ceremony at Cedar Stone Community Park and he hopes to see everyone there. The first Youth Baseball Tournament this year was held at Volunteer Park and Lee Victory Recreation Park and it went well. We continue to receive phone calls for tournament requests.

SOAC is just getting back into offering public programming. Planned Summer Camps will take place in July, with 8 campers maximum per camp.

For several weeks now we have been concentrating on providing clean park restrooms for the community as people get out and into the parks. We want them to feel safe in their parks.

Council Update: Mayor Reed reviewed highlights from the most recent meeting. She and Brian gave an overview of the 2020-2021 budget.

Other: The Park Board normally selects the Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Board at the April meeting each year. Due to COVID-19, that meeting did not take place. The selection will be held at July's meeting this year.

Mayor Reed congratulated Councilman Cole on the ball field dedication at Cedar Stone Park tomorrow.

Meeting adjourned at 6:04pm.