

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

**MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 17, 2020**

The monthly Smyrna Parks and Recreation Parks Advisory Board Meeting was held November 17, 2020 at Smyrna Outdoor Adventure Center, Smyrna, Tennessee. Chairman Mark Hardy called the meeting to order at 5:04pm.

**PRESENT** Ten people were present: Mark Hardy; Tommy Williams; Ernie Felts; Carlos Rawls, Sr.; Holly Phillips; Scott Poston; Mike Moss, Director; Kay Arnold, staff; Rex Gaither, Finance Director/Asst. Town Manager; Charles King, Engineer

**ABSENT** Jerry Bradley, Councilman H.G. Cole, Michael Potts, Mayor Mary Esther Reed, Jimmy Stitt

**SUMMARY** Prayer: Mark Hardy

Citizen's Comments: None

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

Old Business: None

New Business: Concerning Discussion of Updating the Parks Master Plan, Mike began by stating that a grant application requirement of the TN Department of Environment and Conservation is that a Parks and Recreation Department's Master Plan be updated within the past 5 years. Although our current Master Plan expires at the end of 2020, we did not ask for funding of an update to take place in the current fiscal year. Mike distributed copies of the 2006-2020 Parks Master Plan, explaining that Barge Solutions prepared the plan in 2005-2006. He reviewed some of the highlights in the plan, some accomplishments made by the Town, and some projects that have not been completed since the plan was developed. He also mentioned some changes that have taken place since 2006 that are different from the original plan.

The Park Board had previously discussed the topic of updating the Parks Master Plan at the August 20, 2019 meeting. Mike displayed a list of the Ideas/Discussions that took place at that meeting and asked the board members to feel free to add to the list. Tommy asked if a recreational camping area had ever been considered. Mike replied that we do not have an existing campground, but we will want a site manager on site if we ever provide one, like Barfield in Murfreesboro. Holly asked about providing a skatepark, in the downtown area, to serve the new apartments being built on Lowry Street - very popular activity with teens. Mike

replied there is a skatepark in Lavergne as well as Franklin, but he will consider it. He added that he plans to build a Mountain Bike Trail at Sharp Springs Natural Area. Charles stated that a developer informed him at a Planning Meeting that they want to build a Mountain Bike Trail on their property, as part of the requirement to provide green space at new developments, and make it available to the public.

Mike stated that if a Master Plan Committee is formed, in addition to the Park Board, we will need representatives from tennis and basketball. Ernie added volleyball and a multi-purpose facility like Grand Slam. Mike stated that we will need to focus on a “real” plan, not a wish-list type plan. Our current plan has been a road map for us the past 14 years and has served the Town well. He asked the board if we want to update the plan in-house or should we acquire an engineering firm to assist us.

Rex stated that the needs of the Parks and Recreation Department must be balanced with other Town needs, such as new roads. Fortunately, the Town was able to pay cash to build the SOAC and renovated pool facilities, as well as Cedar Stone Community Park. He feels the Town will continue to follow the same formula in the future. Mike added that another consideration is that new facilities must be staffed, adding additional costs to the Town.

Charles stated that the crosswalk will be built soon to provide a safe way to cross over the train tracks from Zama Park to Front Street. He certainly wants to have that in place before the new apartments are filled with occupants.

Mark stated that he is glad that Smyrna has a vision and a plan to follow and feels it will be a great opportunity to be a part of creating an updated Master Plan.

Reports of Officers, Committees, or Staff: Mike reviewed upcoming events listed on the agenda. He reminded the board that the deadline for nominees for Lifetime Service and Young Leader Awards is December 10<sup>th</sup>.

Director’s Report: Mike reviewed his monthly report. He played the drone video provided by Musco Lighting of Cedar Stone turf ballfields at nighttime. He also displayed some pictures of the new paving work on greenways and trails, and some event photos from the Wilderness Walk and Take a Hike. The All-Inclusive Playground equipment will be delivered in January. The Library playground equipment will be delivered in March-April. We are working to re-open the SOAC. We lost several staff members during the closure and are hiring new staff currently. The Harley Davidson exhibit will be on display at the SOAC through mid-May 2021.

Council Report: Mike reviewed highlights from the latest meeting.

Other: The Park Board’s December meeting is traditionally held at a restaurant. We will make plans for the meeting and let the board know soon.

Meeting adjourned at 5:55pm.