

SMYRNA PARKS AND RECREATION PARKS ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

MINUTES OF OCTOBER 20, 2020

The monthly Smyrna Parks and Recreation Parks Advisory Board Meeting was held October 20, 2020 at Smyrna Outdoor Adventure Center, Smyrna, Tennessee. Chairman Mark Hardy called the meeting to order at 5:06pm.

PRESENT Eleven people were present: Mark Hardy; Ernie Felts; Mayor Mary Esther Reed; Tommy Williams; Carlos Rawls, Sr.; Mike Moss, Director; Jimmy Stitt and Kay Arnold, staff; Brian Hercules, Town Manager; Rex Gaither, Assistant Town Manager; Charles King, Engineer

ABSENT Jerry Bradley, Councilmember H.G. Cole, Michael Potts, Holly Phillips, Scott Poston

SUMMARY Prayer: Jimmy Stitt

Citizen's Comments: None

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

Old Business: Concerning Review of Lee Victory Recreation Park Entrance Road Concept Plan, the drawing was displayed on screen. Charles King, Town Engineer, is in charge of the project. Mike described the project: a 12' sidewalk is on the west side of the road going into the park, an area will be left open for future park expansion, the new road will create a second entrance/exit into the park, which is badly needed. There will be crosswalks on the road for the trail access. Mike pointed out the location where the All Inclusive Playground will be built, as well as the restroom building. Work will begin on the parking lot area soon. The road project should be bid in Spring 2021. Brian stated the town is expecting to hear back very soon whether we will be awarded two significant grants, equaling \$700,000 - \$750,000, which will cover the cost of the parking lot and playground equipment. He feels pretty confident that the town will receive the grants.

Mike informed the board that the Veterans Memorial, currently located at Town Hall, will be relocated to the Kuss Memorial. Work has already begun on the project. Brian added that the Veterans Memorial at Town Hall is not very visible. Relocating it to the Kuss Memorial, with the military flags, seems like an appropriate place. Mike stated that he enjoys seeing the crowds that visit the Kuss Memorial in the evening hours. The relocated Veterans Memorial

will have an 8' wide sidewalk leading to it and will be designed in such a way that it can be expanded if necessary. Jimmy said it will look very nice once it is all put together.

New Business: Concerning Discussion of Upcoming Winter Projects / Work, a list of planned winter projects was displayed on the screen and Mike reviewed:

- Repaint greenway signage
- Replace numerous practice field backstops
- Plant trees at Sharp Springs Park and Lee Victory Park
- Fence replacement (2 rail wood fence)
- Landscape work at Front Street/Library/Kuss Memorial
- ADA compliance improvements
- Parking lot improvements at Lee Victory Park and Sharp Springs Park
- Vehicle maintenance and body work
- Equipment maintenance and cleaning
- Shop cleaning and organization
- Tree limbs and growth along greenways and trails
- Remove grass out of trail edges
- Place shelter lights on photocells in order to automatically light the shelters at dark
- Rotary Soccer Park annex restrooms
- Tying in sewer through Paul Johns Park to the new Gwynne Farms Subdivision in November

Concerning Discussion of 2021 Tournament Requests, Mike distributed a list of Baseball and Softball Tournament Requests that Athletics has already received. There are already 26 tournament requests, outside of rec league tournaments, and Marty expects more. Since Cedar Stone Community Park opened, we are getting tournament requests year-round. Obviously, Smyrna's leagues will get precedence for scheduling before any outside groups. We are also getting requests for week-long tournaments, which is new for Smyrna. Trevecca University has asked to host a tournament in February 2022 at Cedar Stone Park.

Reports of Officers, Committees, or Staff: Mike reviewed upcoming events listed on the agenda. We have an alternative Halloween event this year, called Sharp Screams, a haunted hayride at Sharp Springs Natural Area, in lieu of our normal Halloween in the Park event. Hayrides will be limited to 10 or less persons per trailer or household groups. It will be a two-day event, Friday and Saturday evenings. SOAC's Wilderness Walk will be held November 7th at Sharp Springs.

Director's Report: Mike reviewed his monthly report. He added that discussion is taking place about re-opening Smyrna Outdoor Adventure Center soon. Staff has been offering small, outdoor programs and home school. We also have 6-7 SOAC staff positions to fill before re-opening.

Dempsey Dilling & Associates is currently working on the Mountain Bike Trail design to be built at Sharp Springs. The design will have to be approved by USACE before construction begins.

The Department applied for a \$500,000 matching grant with TDEC to build tennis/pickleball courts at Cedar Stone Park. Not sure when grant winners will be announced. Pickleball games are currently being held at Hilltop-Rosenwald Park on the basketball courts.

We will have some trails and greenways re-paved soon, a \$385,000-\$400,000 project.

Mike thanked everyone for attending the Zama Park Grand Opening Ceremony on September 16, 2020. He displayed some pictures from the event.

Council Report: Mayor Reed reviewed highlights from the latest meeting.

Other: Brian and Mike met earlier today to discuss the frequency of holding Park Board meetings. Should they remain a monthly meeting to change to bi-monthly? Mike stated that when the department and Park Board are working together on a big or important project – like updating the Parks Master Plan – the monthly meeting schedule would be necessary. Mike asked for board member's opinions. Mark also likes the monthly meeting schedule and it concerns him if the meetings are changed to bi-monthly, it may increase the likelihood of someone having to miss several important meetings if something happens to cause it. Tommy also likes the monthly meeting schedule just to keep things consistent. Carlos likes monthly meetings because two months is too long to go between meetings. Mike stated he and Marty had the same feelings about moving the Athletic Committee meetings to a bi-monthly schedule. League activity is so seasonal; too much could happen between bi-monthly meetings. More to come to this topic. Mike and Brian will discuss again.

Mike reminded board members to send in nominee applications for 2020 Lifetime Service and Young Leader awards. He will make a decision on holding the Volunteer of the Year Banquet as an in-person event to be held in February 2021.

Meeting adjourned at 6:00pm.