

SMYRNA PARKS AND RECREATION PARKS ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

MINUTES OF JUNE 15, 2021

The monthly Smyrna Parks and Recreation Parks Advisory Board Meeting was held June 15, 2021, at Smyrna Outdoor Adventure Center, Smyrna, Tennessee. Chairman Ernie Felts called the meeting to order at 5:04pm.

PRESENT Fourteen people were present: Clay Phillips; Carl Boyd; Eli Victory; Tommy Williams; Michael Potts; Ernie Felts; Councilmember H.G. Cole; Mike Moss, Director; Jimmy Stitt, Kay Arnold, Marty Smith, staff; Brian Hercules, Town Manager; Rex Gaither, Assistant Town Manager; Charles King, Town Engineer

ABSENT Mayor Mary Esther Reed, Charles Scurr

SUMMARY Prayer: Mark Hardy

Citizen's Comments: None

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

Mike introduced Alisha Eley and Holly (intern) with Kimley-Horn to the board members. Alisha has been working closely with Mike in updating the department's Master Plan. Marty Smith, Recreation Program Supervisor, and Mark Hardy, former Park Board Chairman, are present tonight to assist with Master Plan development.

Old Business: Concerning Parks Master Plan Presentation, Alisha went through a PowerPoint covering the Master Plan content compiled to date. The department's Master Plan had to be updated in order to apply for a TDEC grant application, which is due in early August. The update project was fast-tracked, but adequate time and effort was devoted to updating the Master Plan.

Alisha explained that it is a 10-year plan. The process for gathering needed data for the plan was community engagement, existing facilities analysis, programming, benchmarking, and implementation goals. Public online surveys were taken in May 2021 which resulted in 413 responses. There was good information gained from the SWOT Analysis (sent to Park Board members and Town Council). There are benchmarking aspects in the Master Plan: acres of parkland, residents per park, staffing, and operating expenditures. There are short-term, mid-term, and long-term goals included in the plan.

Alisha reviewed stated goals for each park facility one-by-one. After that review, Brian reiterated that even though some items are listed to be completed within the next 5 years it does not mean it will definitely happen. This is a guide, a map, for the department and town to reference when planning upcoming budgets, and unfortunately, it does not always fall into place every year. The plan includes 5 new parks: northeast Smyrna, Rocky Fork area, Interstate 840, Baker Road, and Lee property.

Brian asked the board's thoughts on eventually removing the splashpad at Gregory Mill and replace it with a large playground. The splashpad equipment is aged and it is difficult to find replacement parts. Jimmy replied that the splashpad offers a free service to a certain demographic population and having the splashpad at Gregory Mill helps to reduce a possibly bigger crowd at the pool. It is a well-known fact that SplashTown serves many more people than just Smyrna residents. Ernie stated that providing a large playground at Gregory Mill could help alleviate the large crowd of users at Lee Victory Recreation Park.

Brian stated that cameras will be installed at Hilltop Park.

Eli asked if dugouts will be changed to chain-link at Todd Lane. Mike replied that they can be if the league is receptive to it.

Mike stated that last winter we were able to move light poles at Volunteer Park for under \$10,000 using staff and a vendor. The quote to contract the entire job was \$150,000.

Once Alisha completed reviewing the Master Plan, Mike asked for any additions or ideas from the board members. Jimmy asked if an outdoor fitness area could be installed in the open grassy area at Westfork Park. Brian stated that large neighborhood developments typically include PUDs. Would the PUD amenities "count" as park facilities that is lacking in that particular area? Some of the amenities include dog parks, pools, playgrounds, etc. Alisha replied that neighborhood development provided amenities should help off-set some of the pressure on the town to provide park services/facilities.

Alisha distributed comment cards to those present so they can provide input and/or ideas.

Mike stated the Park Board should vote on accepting the Master Plan so that it can go before Council for approval. *Ernie moved to send the updated Master Plan to Council with the Park Board's recommendation to approve. Carl seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.*

Mike thanked Alisha for working so hard on the Master Plan and getting it together in such a short timeframe. It is a good plan.

New Business: None

Reports of Officers, Committees, or Staff: Mike reviewed upcoming events listed on the agenda.

Director's Report: Mike reviewed his monthly report.

Council Report: Councilman Cole reviewed highlights from the latest meeting. The budget for fiscal year 2021-2022 was approved at the meeting. The resolution to apply for the LPRF Grant was passed.

Other: Ernie announced that he has resigned from umpiring with the Smyrna Fastpitch League.

Meeting adjourned at 6:47pm.