

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

## **MINUTES OF AUGUST 17, 2021**

The monthly Smyrna Parks and Recreation Parks Advisory Board Meeting was held August 17, 2021, at Smyrna Outdoor Adventure Center, Smyrna, Tennessee. Chairman Ernie Felts called the meeting to order at 5:07pm.

**PRESENT** Nine people were present: Carl Boyd; Clay Phillips; Councilmember H.G. Cole; Ernie Felts; Mayor Mary Esther Reed; Mike Moss, Director; Kay Arnold, staff; Brian Hercules, Town Manager; Charles King, Town Engineer

**ABSENT** Gracie Dugan, Michael Potts, Charles Scurr, Jimmy Stitt, Eli Victory, Tommy Williams

**SUMMARY** Prayer: Mike Moss

Citizen's Comments: None

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

Old Business: Concerning Discussion of Sharp Springs Improvements (Parking Lots and Dog Park), Mike displayed a drawing of the proposed parking lot area near E.A. Victory Shelter. Currently, there are no parking areas near this shelter. Mike expects to receive approval from USACE to construct the parking lot soon. He hopes to be able to run electricity and water to this shelter within the next two years.

Mike then displayed a drawing of the Bark Springs Dog Park plan. When the park was built in 2016, we only built ½ of the parking lot as designed. We have sufficient funding to complete the entire parking lot now. We will add 150' x 130' area of parking space with an additional entrance/exit and additional lights. The "future expansion area" marked on the drawing will also be developed so that we can rotate play areas in order to keep grass growing in all areas.

Concerning Discussion of Todd Lane Improvements, Mike displayed an aerial of the three ball fields at Todd Lane Baseball Complex. During the off season, the infield on Field 3 will be raised to level up with the elevation, rebuild the mound, expand turf in several areas around the field, possibly improve shade, add windscreens, add bullpens with new mounds, new surface in batting cage, and make dugout improvements. The other two fields will get dugout improvements and windscreens added. We have also installed irrigation lines along infield edges to water the dirt to make it safer to play on. Along with our leagues, Smyrna Middle and Lancaster use these fields for their games.

Mayor Reed stated that she is glad to hear that significant improvements are being made to Todd Lane because she receives a lot of questions about Todd Lane versus Cedar Stone Park. Mike replied that he is excited about the upcoming improvements to be made at Todd Lane. Clay stated the irrigation will make the fields look better as it will keep the dust down on the dirt areas.

New Business: Concerning Discussion of the SOAC Sponsorship Package, Mike displayed several slides showing the different levels of sponsorship that the SOAC will be offering. We will be soliciting corporate sponsorship to help offset exhibit rental costs for the SOAC. We recently received a 2-year “Activity Room Sponsorship” from Cumberland Pediatric Dentistry and Orthodontics for the Adventure Zone Room 1. We have also recently received some interest from Middle Tennessee Electric about a potential sponsorship. Smyrna has several new businesses opening each month so the opportunity is there.

Mayor Reed stated that HCA Foundation likes to give sponsorships and they like to cover programs geared toward promoting positive growth and development in children and youth. Nissan may also be a possibility for sponsorship.

Reports of Officers, Committees, or Staff: Mike reviewed upcoming events listed on the agenda. He added that we lose a lot of our seasonal workers once school starts back, some part time workers too. The Depot District Car Show and Depot Days are September 24th and 25th respectively. We have a new exhibit, Amazing Castles, to be installed in September at SOAC. There were 10 vendors at the BBQ Fest last Saturday.

Director’s Report: Mike reviewed his monthly report. He also displayed photos of the new concession/restroom building being built at Rotary Soccer Park. We have collected a good amount of revenue at the pool this pool season. We continue to work on the LPRF grant application, with the pre-application being due to TDEC September 9<sup>th</sup>. The SOAC was recently nominated for two awards: The Main Street Award for best Parks and Recreation Center or Gymnasium and the Best Day Camp by Nashville Parent “Best Parenting Awards”. Smyrna Youth Football League held their first Jamboree recently. Mike met with Tennessee Rehabilitation Center in the past week to discuss parking access to use the practice field area. They have limited access to the parking area due to Homeland Security issues. Mike received a request for a Jeep event at Sharp Springs to benefit “A Soldier’s Child” charity. We will charge them an event fee.

Brian asked about status of the restroom building for Freedom Playground. Mike replied that it is being designed at the present time.

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

Brian and Charles gave an update of running a water hydrant to the downtown area. Brian stated that the town is looking for any available areas for sale in the downtown area for additional parking for events. The apartments being built on the Lane property should attract businesses to locate in the downtown area.

Other: September’s Park Board meeting will be held at the Rotary Soccer Park.

Meeting adjourned at 6:10pm.