

SMYRNA PARKS AND RECREATION PARKS ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

MINUTES OF OCTOBER 19, 2021

The monthly Smyrna Parks and Recreation Parks Advisory Board Meeting was held October 19, 2021, at Westfork Neighborhood Park, Smyrna, Tennessee. Vice-Chairman Tommy Williams called the meeting to order at 4:59pm.

PRESENT Twelve people were present: Michael Potts; Eli Victory; Clay Phillips; Carl Boyd; Tommy Williams; Charles Scurr; Councilmember H.G. Cole; Mike Moss, Director; Jimmy Stitt and Kay Arnold, staff; Rex Gaither, Asst. Town Manager; Charles King, Town Engineer

ABSENT Ernie Felts, Gracie Dugan, Mayor Mary Esther Reed

SUMMARY Prayer: Michael Potts

Citizen's Comments: None

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

Old Business: Mike opened the meeting sharing information of Westfork Park and how it came about. The town used a Local Parks and Recreation Funds Grant of \$250,000 to help build this park. It opened in 2017.

Concerning Current and Winter Project Update, Mike reviewed a list of planned projects to take place in the next few months.

- Rotary Annex Restrooms – The building is a concession stand with two restrooms and office area. The building is framed up and they are installing utilities
- Todd Lane - Field 3 improvements
- Resurface trails and greenway – Scheduled for paving in November and will start with the library trail
- Freedom Playground Restrooms – The design is being completed (the engineering work has been donated). Buildings and Grounds Department will build the structure.
- Pioneer Park trail – It is being staked now, then the concrete trail will be built, and fence installed
- Zama Park Industrial Gate – Being built now. Nissan donated \$10,000 toward the cost of the gate
- Bark Springs Dog Park Expansion – the expansion parking lot is being built now
- Gregory Mill Park – playground equipment will be installed on the left side of the park
- General Park Operations – ongoing

Jimmy added that a new storage building has been completed at the back of the Event Center. It will be shared storage space (Parks & Event Center) that replaced four old storage barns.

New Business: Concerning National Recreation and Parks Conference Recap, Mike stated that he and Jimmy, along with Christina Manus and Maggie Sims, attended the NRPA Conference held recently in Nashville. It is the annual conference hosted by National Recreation & Parks Association that is held in a different city throughout the country each year. Mike stated that the Exhibit Hall was incredible with vendors from all over the country.

One of the neatest things at the conference was that Musco Lighting showcased their ball field lighting system that was installed at Cedar Stone Park. In fact, Musco proposed to allow us to install their camera system, MuscoVision, at Cedar Stone Park as a pilot program. Currently we do not have sufficient internet connection at Cedar Stone and we will have to budget for the installation costs. A MuscoVision system streams ballgames live. Subscribers pay for access and the Town of Smyrna would receive a percentage of the subscription fees. Musco provides the on-site network, and we provide the internet service.

Musco also told Mike about their “Mini-Pitch System Modular Sports Solution,” which is portable sports flooring. The system comes with Musco’s LED lighting, fencing, goals, benches, and lockable storage. Tommy stated that the US Soccer Foundation offers grants to build these floor systems. We may explore applying for the grant in the future.

Some things that staff enjoyed at the NRPA Conference: Movie Night for Adults with Food Trucks, size and content of the Exhibit Hall was impressive. Jimmy got many ideas from visiting the various vendors. Networking with Parks and Recreation people from all over the country. Heard ideas on how to deal with homeless people in our parks; some communities build facilities catered to the homeless, such as showers, etc. A lot of the educational sessions were enlightening; learned latest information in managing staff and even on design of new construction relative to custodial and maintenance issues.

Mike stated that the conference’s theme was Equality – making everything work or able to fit EVERYBODY. He added that a national goal of NRPA is for every community to have a park within a 10-minute walk of every resident. Connectivity was mentioned a great deal. Mike shared a website address: <https://www.tpl.org/parkscore> (Trust for Public Land) where you can find out how a community “scores” in access to parks near homes. Charles Scurr stated he had previously worked with TPL in obtaining grant funds for acquiring land.

Reports of Officers, Committees, or Staff: Mike reviewed upcoming events listed on the agenda. He added that we are still looking for judges for the costume contests at Halloween in the Parks coming up Saturday. Tommy stated he will check with his mother to see if she could be a judge. November 5th is Top Gun Night Run and November 6th is Wilderness Walk. 2021 Lifetime Service and Young Leader nominations are due November 11th. Lighting Ceremony is November 23rd. Smyrna Youth Football League will host the State Championship on November 13th.

Director’s Report: Mike reviewed the monthly report. He added that the Haunting on Front Street attracted approximately 700 attendees last Friday and Saturday nights. SOAC staff did a tremendous job coordinating the event. The Car Show held in conjunction with Depot Days in September was highly successful with many cars in the show. Councilman Cole added that the Depot Days event went exceptionally smooth this year. Mike continued stating that a Jeep event

was held at Sharp Springs with 100 participants, and they plan to return next year. The Town and the Chamber of Commerce sponsored the TN Bass High School fishing tournament which had 137 high school boats and 58 junior boats. We sent the final submittal of the TDEC grant application late September for the tennis/pickleball courts.

Council Report: Councilman Cole reviewed highlights from the latest meeting.

Other: Charles King stated that the Lowry Street renovations start next week between Jackson Street and Sam Davis Road. They will be removing the sidewalks on both sides of Lowry Street. They just recently learned that CSX owns the entirety of Washington Street. We will need to obtain a construction permit before we can install the crosswalk over the railroad track from Zama Park to the Depot District.

Mike stated the Park Board will be reviewing and approving changes to the fiscal year 22-23 Fee Schedule at November's meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 5:54pm.