

SMYRNA PARKS AND RECREATION PARKS ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 16, 2021

The monthly Smyrna Parks and Recreation Parks Advisory Board Meeting was held November 16, 2021, at Smyrna Outdoor Adventure Center, Smyrna, Tennessee. Chairman Ernie Felts called the meeting to order at 5:03pm.

PRESENT Thirteen people were present: Ernie Felts; Michael Potts; Carl Boyd; Eli Victory; Mayor Mary Esther Reed; Charles Scurr; Councilmember H.G. Cole; Gracie Dugan; Tommy Williams; Mike Moss, Director; Brian Hercules, Town Manager; Rex Gaither, Asst. Town Manager; Kay Arnold, staff

ABSENT Clay Phillips, Jimmy Stitt

SUMMARY Prayer: Michael Potts

Citizen's Comments: None

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

Old Business: Concerning Review and Recommendation of Parks and Recreation Fee Schedule, this was tabled for review at a later date.

Instead, staff presented information that the board asked for at September's meeting:

- 2021 Pool Revenues
- 2021 Pool Operating Costs
- 2021 Pool Visits
- 2019 Pool Revenues and Operating Costs

Mike stated during the 2021 pool season, we did make some modifications in order to keep people as spaced out as possible due to ongoing COVID-19 concerns. We rented only 1 Funbrella for private use (instead of 2) and only booked a single private pool party per slot instead of 2 semi-private pool parties per slot. These modifications affected revenues. Next year we will probably continue with 1 Funbrella rental but return to the semi-private pool parties.

Thankfully, we had a very busy 2021 pool season. Murfreesboro opened their Sports Com pool extremely late in the season.

Staff compiled pool fee pricing from local communities surrounding Smyrna for comparison purposes and it was reviewed. It appears that other community's pool party prices are higher than ours.

Brian stated that non-residents make up a lot of the pool attendance. We should examine our membership price structure and he would like to offer a reduced rate to Smyrna residents. Brian, Rex, and Mike will meet to discuss.

Mayor Reed asked if we check resident vs. non-resident status at pool entry or do we allow Smyrna residents first access to the pool. Mike replied that we do not currently. Our POS software does have some resident/non-resident capabilities when selling memberships if we activate it; we will have to check on Daily Admission structure. More to come on this topic.

Additionally, the board had asked for Recreation League Registration Numbers for the past 5 years. A graph chart was displayed for Spring League Comparative Registrations – 2021 through 2016 as well as Fall League Comparative Registrations – 2021 through 2016. Upon review, Tommy stated that the Soccer League numbers were incorrect - way too low. Mike stated that the Youth Football League is basically a travel league and their numbers have decreased over the past few years for various reasons. We have more baseball tournaments and adult softball tournaments than ever. Ernie stated that Covid affected the numbers of Fastpitch Softball tremendously. The Basketball League has 680-700 kids.

New Business: Concerning Selection of the Kenneth “Coon” Victory Lifetime Service Award, Mike stated the department received the following nominees:

- Ken Dalton
- Mark Hardy
- April Lankford
- Dennis Johnson, Sr.
- Carolyn Peebles

Mike stated that Dennis Johnson, Sr. was the 2015 Life Service Award recipient, so he should not be considered for this year’s award. Mayor Reed stated that since there are some relatively new board members this year, she asked Mike to explain the criteria for the Lifetime Service Award. Mike described various ways that past award recipients have served the community throughout the years. Mayor Reed encouraged the board members to attend the Volunteer of the Year Banquet, scheduled for February 18, 2022, and will be held at the Event Center. She reminded them when considering who to vote for, to not only consider involvement in the sports leagues, but the Lifetime Service Award applies to all types of community volunteerism. Councilman Cole added that the Lifetime Service Award is the highest award that the Town of Smyrna bestows upon a citizen.

Voting ballots were distributed and the results were:

Ken Dalton	3 votes
Mark Hardy	3 votes
Carolyn Peebles	3 votes

Since it was a three-way tie, the vote was re-taken and the results were:

Carolyn Peebles	6 votes
Ken Dalton	2 votes
Mark Hardy	1 vote

Carolyn Peebles was selected as the 2021 Kenneth “Coon” Victory Lifetime Service Award recipient.

Concerning Selection of the Young Leader Award, Mike stated the department received the following nominees:

Rachel Johnson
Holly Pendergrass

Mayor Reed motioned to appoint both nominees as Co-Young Leader Award recipients. Brian seconded the motion, Board approved unanimously. Rachel Johnson and Holly Pendergrass were selected as the 2021 Young Leader Award co-recipients. Each recipient will receive a \$500 scholarship.

Concerning Discussion of the December Park Board meeting location, Mike opened the floor for recommendations of a restaurant to hold our traditional December dinner meeting. After a brief discussion it was decided that staff will check on the availability of meeting and having dinner at the Event Center. More information to come prior to the December meeting.

Reports of Officers, Committees, or Staff: Mike reviewed upcoming events listed on the agenda. Fall is a very busy time for the department. Along with the community events recently held September through November, the Youth State Football Tournament was held at Lee Victory Recreation Park this past weekend, attracting many, many people. Halloween in the Park was a great event; we had 1,600 people on the hayrides and 1,300 went through the corn maze. Session Paving should re-pave the Library trail soon. League User Agreements are being updated for 2022. Brian stated that the new entrance to Lee Victory Recreation Park off Nolan Drive project will be suspended until spring 2022.

Mayor Reed informed the board that a new video is available for viewing on social media and Channel 3 giving an update on the Sam Ridley Parkway construction project. She asked the board members to share the video in an effort to inform as many people as possible about the status of the project.

Director's Report: Information was covered above. Pictures of recent events were displayed.

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

Other: Mayor Reed reminded the board that the Christmas Parade will take place on December 5th and it will be live streamed on Channel 3, as well as social media. Once again, the Town will be collecting canned food items along the route for Nourish Food Bank. Brian added that this year's parade has more float entries than ever.

Meeting adjourned at 6:07pm.