

SMYRNA PARKS AND RECREATION PARKS ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

MINUTES OF MARCH 16, 2021

The monthly Smyrna Parks and Recreation Parks Advisory Board Meeting was held March 16, 2021 at Smyrna Outdoor Adventure Center, Smyrna, Tennessee. Chairman Mark Hardy called the meeting to order at 5:04pm.

PRESENT Fifteen people were present: Mark Hardy; Ernie Felts; Tommy Williams; Carlos Rawls, Sr.; Holly Phillips; Mayor Mary Esther Reed; Michael Potts; Councilmember H.G. Cole; Scott Poston; Mike Moss, Director; Jimmy Stitt and Kay Arnold, staff; Brian Hercules, Town Manager; Rex Gaither, Assistant Town Manager; Charles King, Engineer

ABSENT

SUMMARY Prayer: Mark Hardy

Citizen's Comments: None

Review and Approval of Minutes of Previous Meetings: Carlos moved to approve December 2020's minutes; Tommy seconded. Minutes approved unanimously.

Old Business: Concerning Sharp Springs Natural Area Mountain Bike Trail Route and Update, Mike displayed a drawing of the mountain bike route to be built at Sharp Springs, adding that the Town's request to build the trail has been sent to USACE for their approval. The route will be mostly shaded and will be approximately 2.5 to 3 miles long, running between the agriculture fields so that they will not be disturbed. The route will not be finalized until we acquire approval from the Corps of Engineers, so it is subject to change.

Brian asked if the Town's Manager of Safety and Risk Management had approved the plan. Mike replied that she reviewed it previously but he will contact her again. Mike also met with staff at the Water Plant in order to keep them informed of the mountain bike trail, since it will be close to their property in spots. There is a thick, overgrown natural barrier between the mountain bike trail and Sharp Springs Road that should help to keep people away from that area. Currently, the mountain bike trail is planned to be one way only.

Ernie motioned that the Parks Advisory Board support and recommend building a mountain bike trail at Sharp Springs Natural Area. Michael Potts seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

New Business: Concerning Discussion of New Playground Projects: Freedom Playground and Parking Lot Update, Mike displayed some project progress photographs. The playground equipment is being installed now at Lee Victory Recreation Park. It is designed as an All-Inclusive Playground and contains a lot of neat features. The surface will be rubber and turf so that wheelchairs can navigate easily throughout the entire playground. The Parks Department is building the parking lot that will service the new playground.

The project has been embraced by the community with several generous donations:

- Rogers Group donated \$15,000 - \$20,000 of stone
- Smyrna Rotary Club, over \$300,000
- Christy Houston Foundation, \$250,000 grant
- Town of Smyrna, \$200,000 this fiscal year
- Smyrna Ready Mix is donating all the concrete used in the project

Concerning Discussion of New Playground Projects: Pioneer Park Playground Concept Plan, Mike stated that the existing playground was installed in 1996. Pioneer Park has been renovated a couple of times already, with the basketball court being repaved a year to two ago. The Town has maintained the park for several decades. The existing playground equipment will be removed and replaced with a larger playground footprint for the neighborhood park, designed for children ages 2-12. Mike would like to see sidewalk linkage to Old Nashville Highway in the future.

Concerning Discussion of New Playground Projects: Sharp Springs Natural Area Playground Concept Plan, Mike displayed the design concept of the playground to be installed near the O'Connor Pavilion. Miracle Recreation worked with staff on the design of this playground too.

Mayor Reed asked what happens with the old playground equipment that will be removed. Mike replied that sometimes, because of its age, the old equipment is out of code or we cannot obtain needed parts. Whatever is usable, if any, from the old playground equipment removed from Old Rock School will be installed at another location at Sharp Springs or near Shelter 4 at Lee Victory Recreation Park.

Reports of Officers, Committees, or Staff: Mike reviewed upcoming events listed on the agenda. Mike informed the board members that the video of the Virtual Volunteer of the Year Program is on the Town's Facebook now if they would like to view it. Mike stated that Ed Gleason asked him to express his gratitude to the Park Board members for selecting him as the 2020 Lifetime Award recipient.

Director's Report: Mike reviewed his monthly report. Additionally, he described SOAC's modified operations that are currently in place. Park facilities reservations opened for the year on February 1st and are increasing nicely. As of March 12th, Spring League registrations are as follows:

Smyrna Baseball	775
Girls Fast pitch	280
SRFC	RecLeague 651, Travel 329
Adult Softball	17 teams
Youth Flag Football	112

Registrations continue for these leagues.

Mike spoke briefly talked about the local economic impact that athletic tournaments provide to Smyrna. Recent tournaments held in Smyrna filled two hotels here in town and those visitors certainly patronized local restaurants and gas stations.

We expect to receive approval on the kayak launch area at Sharp Springs in a month or two.

Charles reported that the bid opening on the second entrance to Lee Victory Recreation Park will take place April 15th. Hopefully construction on the project will begin June or July. The new entrance will have a sidewalk on one side, to match the roundabout.

Council Report: Mayor Reed reviewed highlights from the latest meeting. She added that the following Park Board member's terms will expire on March 31, 2021: Mark Hardy, Holly Phillips, Carlos Rawls, Sr., and Ernie Felts. The following citizens were appointed to the Parks Advisory Board to serve a two-year term: Charles Scurr, Carl Boyd, Clay Phillips, and Eli Victory (outside city limits member). Ernie Felts was re-appointed to a second two-year term. Mayor Reed thanked Mark, Carlos, and Holly for serving on the Park Board for the past four years and stated that their service was useful to the Town Council and citizens. She wished them well and hopes they stay involved in the community. Council Member Cole added that he appreciates their service to the community.

Other: Mike announced that Gene Carr passed away recently at almost 90 years of age. He has a football field named in his honor at Lee Victory Recreation Park and was the 1992 Lifetime Service Award recipient.

Mike also thanked Mark, Holly, and Carlos for their years of service on the Park Board. He listed some accomplishments that happened during their four years of serving on the board: ribbon cuttings at Bark Springs Dog Park, Smyrna Outdoor Adventure Center, Westfork Neighborhood Park, Capt. Jeff Kuss Memorial, Jefferson Springs Greenway extension, Depot Stage and Canopy, Cedar Stone Community Park, and Zama Park. Additionally, during the past four years the building of the Rotary Soccer Park Annex has progressed and is nearly complete.

Meeting adjourned at 5:59pm.