

# SMYRNA PARKS AND RECREATION PARKS ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

## MINUTES OF APRIL 19, 2022

The monthly Smyrna Parks and Recreation Parks Advisory Board Meeting was held April 19, 2022, at Smyrna Outdoor Adventure Center, Smyrna, Tennessee. Chairman Ernie Felts called the meeting to order at 5:03pm.

**PRESENT** Twelve people were present: Carl Boyd; Molly Jennings; Christina Treglia; Ernie Felts; Clay Phillips; Councilmember H.G. Cole; Mike Moss, Director; Jimmy Stitt, Assistant Director; Kay Arnold, staff; Brian Hercules, Town Manager; Rex Gaither, Assistant Town Manager; Charles King, Town Engineer

**ABSENT** Michael Potts, Mayor Mary Esther Reed, Charles Scurr, Eli Victory

**SUMMARY** Prayer: Jimmy Stitt

Citizen's Comments: None

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

Mike introduced the newest Parks Advisory Board members: Molly Jennings and Christina Treglia. He asked them to tell a little about themselves, then welcomed them to the board.

Old Business: Concerning Review of 2022 Event Guide, Mike stated that Christina Manus, Office Coordinator, puts this brochure together each year. It is a great tool to distribute at events or when people visit the office or SOAC. The Event Guide lists all the 2022 events that the department hosts or co-hosts throughout the year. Christina does an excellent job on this brochure. Brian stated that it is a good-looking piece and suggested that we note that membership prices are valid through the end of the calendar year.

New Business: Concerning Smyrna Outdoor Adventure Center Spring Break Program participation numbers, Mike displayed a graphic reflecting attendance to the special programs during that week.

SOAC also had a Russian Language Learning group rent a room that week. The Dinosaur exhibit has been immensely popular. We need more lifeguards for the pool this season, so spread the word if you know any young people that may be interested in a summer job.

Thomas Edison Secret Lab is the next exhibit, to be installed in June. Middle Tennessee Electric (MTE) will provide \$20,000 to sponsor most of the \$27,000 rental price of the exhibit. MTE has expressed interest in sponsoring an exhibit every year.

Concerning Discussion of the Parks and Recreation Directors' Forum, Mike explained that he and Jimmy Stitt attended the forum, held April 5-6 at Montgomery Bell State Park. They enjoyed the event and learned a lot. Some topics of discussion were: staffing and employee retainage, supervisor and leadership training, recruiting seasonal and part-time positions, and park trends. Some trends discussed at the forum were greenways and trail, e-sports, pickleball, rugby, offering programs/sports that appeal to your population's diverse cultures. Mike stated that there is a large group of people that plays cricket at our parks already. We are still waiting on USACE to issue approval to build our Mountain Bike Trail at Sharp Springs. Kimley-Horn, Planning and Design Engineering Consultants, gave two presentations at the forum.

Concerning Marketing the Park System, Mike began the discussion by stating that Lee Victory Recreation Park attracts extremely large crowds of park users on a regular basis, especially during weekends. Mondays are extremely challenging for the Maintenance Crew due to the tremendous amount of trash left behind by the park users. We have learned that many people do not realize that Smyrna has many more parks in addition to Lee Victory RecPark. Mike asked for ideas on how to effectively communicate this information to the public.

Some suggestions from the board members: wayfinding (signage), digital mapping, installing a very visible sign showing "Parks of Smyrna" at Lee Victory RecPark, spotlight different parks on the Town's social media accounts, providing a "Parks of Smyrna" brochure to local schools to distribute would help the parents that are not "tech savvy" or experiences a language barrier.

Mike stated that the playground at Cedar Stone is heavily used on a daily basis. He has seen new families at the Pioneer Park playground and using the new walking trail.

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

Director's Report: Mike reviewed his monthly report. Jimmy added that the Park System has incurred extensive storm damage recently. Lots of trees have fallen and we have had them removed. We also experienced wind damage at the pool food court area that will be repaired.

The Parks Department will be hosting an Aquatic Facility Operator Course at the SOAC next week, which will attract attendees from the mid-state area. Successful attendees will leave with their AFO Certification.

Mike displayed photos of the Mobile Program presented at Smyrna Primary School recently, along with photos of other happenings throughout the Park System.

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

Other: Mike stated that the Chairman and Vice Chairman will be selected at the May meeting.

Charles King stated that the work crew has returned to the new entrance to Lee Victory Recreation Park project. Work will progress as the weather improves.

Meeting adjourned at 6:10pm.