

SMYRNA PARKS AND RECREATION PARKS ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

MINUTES OF MARCH 15, 2022

The monthly Smyrna Parks and Recreation Parks Advisory Board Meeting was held March 15, 2022, at Smyrna Outdoor Adventure Center, Smyrna, Tennessee. Vice Chairman Tommy Williams called the meeting to order at 5:03pm.

PRESENT Twelve people were present: Michael Potts; Carl Boyd; Charles Scurr; Councilmember H.G. Cole; Tommy Williams; Gracie Dugan; Mike Moss, Director; Kay Arnold and Michelle Nicholson, staff; Brian Hercules, Town Manager; Rex Gaither, Assistant Town Manager; Charles King, Town Engineer

ABSENT Ernie Felts, Clay Phillips, Mayor Mary Esther Reed, Jimmy Stitt, Eli Victory

SUMMARY Prayer: Gracie Dugan

Citizen's Comments: None

Review and Approval of Minutes of Previous Meetings: Council Member Cole moved to approve February's minutes; Gracie seconded. Minutes approved unanimously.

Old Business: None

New Business: Concerning Sports Lighting Evaluations for existing lighting at Todd Lane Field 3, Volunteer Park, Rotary Soccer Park, and Lee Victory Recreation Park Tennis Courts -- Mike began the discussion by stating that in today's supply chain it is becoming harder to acquire parts for the older light systems. LED sports lighting's energy costs are much less than traditional light systems.

Todd Lane Baseball Complex had new lighting installed on the two small fields in 2015. Parks staff have a phone app that allows them to turn the field lights on or off remotely. The lights on Field 3 were installed in 1994. Mike is researching to determine if we should transition to LED light systems in the future, which would be a phase-in project. His objective is energy cost savings on athletic field light systems.

Volunteer Park has an old field light system as well. The old poles move around and the lights do not stay in place. The bulbs cost \$40 each and are hard to find.

Musco Lighting installed 44 projects last year and half of the projects were retro-fit projects. Musco is on the Sourcewell purchasing cooperative, which we have used before. Musco Lighting also provides infrastructure light packages such as lighting for landmarks, buildings, bridges, etc.

Mike displayed photos of the newer light system (Fields 1 & 2) at Todd Lane as compared to Field 3 lights. He also displayed photos of the LED light systems located at Rotary Soccer Park Annex and Cedar Stone Community Park. It is impressive to the players when they walk onto a field and the light is where it is supposed to be.

A lot of schools are utilizing “show packages” at their sports facilities, which are used as a recruiting tool.

Concerning SOAC Animal Show and Public Program Information -- Mike introduced Michelle Nicholson, Program Specialist, who then gave a presentation featuring two of our education animals, “Lowry”, a Crested Gecko, and “Botero”, an Asian Painted Frog. SOAC has additional education animals such as snakes, a tarantula, and insects that they utilize in their programs such as Wild Wednesday, Summer Camp, home school, spring/fall break, as well as their mobile programs. Michelle also talked about SOAC’s mobile programs and summer camps. Mike added that one of the visions of the SOAC is to program outside of the building walls, and the staff is doing that more and more.

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

Tommy asked if the department has ever offered an All-Sports Camp such as a week-long camp featuring different sports like baseball, soccer, kickball, pickleball, flag football, etc. Mike replied that he would check with Marty to see if it might be a possibility. We have discussed offering an Agility Skills Camp a few times. Gracie added that an All-Sports Camp would perhaps increase registrations in league sports.

Director’s Report: Mike reviewed his monthly report.

He thanked the board members that attended the Volunteer of the Year Banquet recently. Plans for Freedom Playground Restroom Building have been submitted to the Codes Department for review. We are in the process of hiring lifeguards for the pool and splashpad for the 2022 season. Maintenance Staff have been working on the Todd Lane renovations. Mike displayed a photo of a GPS-controlled robot field painter. He and Jimmy went to a demonstration at the Soccer Park. Tommy commented on how nice the painted lines looked; perfectly straight and uniform. The cost of the robot is \$35,000-\$40,000 to purchase outright, or there is a subscription option that provides paint for \$6,000-\$7,000 annually. We may be able to partner with SRFC on this. The robot can paint any type of athletic field. The greenway paving from Sam Ridley Parkway to Rehab Center finished up today. There is a SRFC tournament scheduled for the upcoming weekend with 95 teams registered.

Council Report: Councilman Cole reviewed highlights from the latest meeting. He announced that the recently appointed new Parks Advisory Board members, whose terms begin April 2022, are Molly Jennings and Christina Treglia.

Other: Charles King gave update on the downtown sidewalk project. The Town Attorney is trying to make progress on acquiring a CSX easement.

Brian mentioned that Smyrna Ready Mix poured the new sidewalk from the main parking lot at Lee Victory Recreation Park to the Kuss Memorial. They donated the cost of the project to the Town.

Meeting adjourned at 6:10pm.