

# **SMYRNA PARKS AND RECREATION PARKS ADVISORY BOARD MEETING**

## **MINUTES OF October 18, 2022**

The monthly Smyrna Parks and Recreation Parks Advisory Board Meeting was held October 18, 2022, at Smyrna Outdoor Adventure Center, Smyrna, Tennessee. Chairman Ernie Felts called the meeting to order at 5:03pm.

**PRESENT** Twelve people were present: Clay Phillips; Molly Jennings; Ernie Felts; Charles Scurr; Michael Potts; Carl Boyd; Mike Moss, Director; Jimmy Stitt, Assistant Director; Kay Arnold, staff; Brian Hercules, Town Manager; Rex Gaither, Asst. Town Manager; Charles King, Town Engineer

**ABSENT** Councilmember H.G. Cole, Mayor Mary Esther Reed, Christina Treglia, Eli Victory

**SUMMARY** Prayer: Jimmy Stitt

Citizen's Comments: None

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

Old Business: None

New Business: Tonight's meeting was scheduled to be held at Gregory Mill Park, but the cool weather prohibited meeting outside. However, Mike had already planned to discuss Gregory Mill Park and plans for the future of the park. An aerial of the park was displayed depicting current amenities and planned amenities.

Mike began the discussion by reviewing year-to-date shelter rentals, splashpad parties, and park visitation numbers at Gregory Mill Park. Next, pictures of past activities held at the park were displayed – Music in the Park, Nature Hikes, Animal Shows, Splashpad, Hardeman's Trail, etc.

Planned improvements at Gregory Mill Park: install playground (must obtain prior approval from Corps of Engineers), additional parking lot, additional shelter, greenway connector, and splashpad area improvement. Mike stated that we will most likely build a walkway across the park road to cross to the left side of the park once the playground is installed.

Charles Scurr stated that the department has a great and unique spot among the trees in the park to install a playground. Then he asked if we will ever do anything in the dam area. Mike stated that there is a piece of the old, original dam there. We installed a wood fence with a gate along the water's edge to help protect the public. There was a viewing deck, built by an Eagle Scout, off Hardeman's Trail, that was burnt down by vandals. There was also a wooden bridge along the trail but is gone now.

Mike wants to build a greenway connector from Gregory Mill Park towards Smyrna High School. There is already a sidewalk under the TDOT bridge on Murfreesboro Road that could be utilized as part of the connector. Mike added that the town is doing a great job in building sidewalks along with new housing developments.

Returning to the topic of Gregory Mill, Mike stated that the Splashpad was opened June 2006. It is free to use to the public and it is staffed daily. The computer system technology has changed tremendously since then. The equipment located on the splashpad is just a glorified irrigation system, but the water is chlorine-treated. The estimated operational life of a splashpad system is 20-25 years.

Mike asked for the board's thoughts on installation of a playground at Gregory Mill or the existing splashpad. Ernie replied that taking the kids to the splashpad is easier on parents than spending the whole day at a pool. Mike agreed that turnover of users at the splashpad is quicker than at the pool. Charles Scurr added that the splashpad is a good amenity for the town. He sees regular users at the splashpad when he is there to walk the trail. Clay stated that he and his family use the shelter and splashpad a lot for birthday parties, etc.

Charles King stated he likes the idea of adding onto the greenway system; the Town owns property near Smyrna High School.

Mike stated there was some discussion years ago of builders developing the park-side of Smyrna Village Shopping Center (near Gregory Mill Park); Brian stated that the plans have come back to the Planning Commission to review.

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

Director's Report: Mike reviewed his monthly report. He added that the Depot Days Car Show attracted a great crowd Friday night, then the crowd was large on Saturday during the event. The Halloween in the Park event is scheduled October 29. Stonecrest Hospital will provide a Haunted Hospital and Smyrna High School Girls Softball will provide a Haunted Trail.

Work is currently taking place on re-painting the Kuss Memorial plane. A Veterans Day Ceremony will be held at the Kuss Memorial on November 11<sup>th</sup>. The Holiday Lighting Ceremony will be held at the Depot this year on November 22<sup>nd</sup>.

We are currently accepting nominations for the annual Lifetime Service Award and the Young Leader Award. The deadline to submit nominations is November 15<sup>th</sup>.

We had a check presentation yesterday, documenting acceptance of \$10,000 from Middle Tennessee Electric and \$10,000 from TVA, as sponsorship of the Thomas Edison's Secret Lab exhibit at SOAC.

The new concession/restroom building at Rotary Soccer Park Annex opened last weekend. The league will use the new concession area at their November tournament.

Sessions Paving has been working on repairing the Weakly Lane greenway this week and it looks great. Mike mentioned that the department has been very fortunate to receive adequate budget funding to re-pave the entire greenway system in the past few years.

Mike stated that the Tennessee State Museum plans to present a Rosenwald School exhibit, opening June 2023. Their representatives recently visited Hilltop-Rosenwald Community Building to view the historical signage located there.

There will be a restroom building built near the playground and tennis/pickleball courts at Cedar Stone Park. There may be additional costs incurred related to installing sewer lines due to so much rock in the area.

Charles King reported on LVRP new entrance road status. He stated the crew has been on-site everyday this week and the project is very close to being completed. Some speedbumps may have to be installed along the road.

Mike displayed an informational piece that he received from Rutherford County Chamber of Commerce, entitled "2021 Travel Snapshot", comprised of visitor spending in the county and the positive economic impact it provides. Brian spoke about the many financial benefits of visitors coming to Rutherford County.

Council Report: Brian reviewed highlights from the latest meeting. He added that a traffic light will be installed at the intersection of One Mile Lane and Almaville Road by the end of January 2023. The Council approved a change to the town's purchasing policy to provide permission for the Town Manager to possess the authority to enter into contracts that are under the \$10,000 threshold pertaining to agreements with the Town. The Council also approved to raise contract amounts from \$10,000 to \$25,000 before competitive bidding is required.

Other: Mike displayed photos taken at the recent Haunting on Front Street event. With the upcoming the Halloween in the Park event, we are seeking 3 costume contest judges, and Mike invited board members to volunteer for the task.

Mike also encouraged board members to suggest topics they would like to see covered at the monthly Park Board meetings.

Meeting adjourned at 6:06 pm.