

SMYRNA PARKS AND RECREATION PARKS ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

MINUTES OF November 17, 2022

The monthly Smyrna Parks and Recreation Parks Advisory Board Meeting was held November 17, 2022, at Smyrna Outdoor Adventure Center, Smyrna, Tennessee. Chairman Ernie Felts called the meeting to order at 5:02pm.

PRESENT Fourteen people were present: Ernie Felts; Michael Potts; Clay Phillips; Christina Treglia; Molly Jennings; Councilmember H.G. Cole; Mayor Mary Esther Reed; Eli Victory; Mike Moss, Director; Jimmy Stitt, Assistant Director; Kay Arnold and Marty Smith, staff; Rex Gaither, Asst. Town Manager; Charles King, Town Engineer

ABSENT Carl Boyd and Charles Scurr

SUMMARY Prayer: Michael Potts

Citizen's Comments: None

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

Old Business: Concerning Review of Halloween in the Park Operations, Mike began by stating that Halloween in the Park was another great event this year. He thanked Police and Fire Departments for their participation in the event. He also thanked Eli and his wife, Charles Scurr, and Christina for serving as costume contest judges at Halloween in the Park, as well as all the other volunteers that worked the event. It was estimated that 7,000-9,000 people attended the event. The hayrides ended around 8:45pm and we accepted cash and credit card payment for ticket sales. Stonecrest Hospital put on a free Haunted Hospital. Smyrna Girls Softball had a Haunted Maze, raising \$5,885. They also sold s'mores and hot drinks. We had 184 costume contest contestants along with 50 vendors who provided candy for the trick-or-treaters. We could have used more food vendors. Mike asked Jimmy and Marty if they wanted to add anything. Marty mentioned the line of people to visit the vendor booths that stretched out 400 feet or more. He feels this year was the largest one ever, attendance-wise. Smyrna Gas sponsors the event each year. Jimmy added that this year was a great day weather-wise, but a long day. The maintenance staff left approximately at 11:15pm. We will provide additional signage to direct the hayride line next year.

Ernie stated that he has never heard anyone complain that the event was poorly run, in fact, the big community events are all well executed.

New Business: Concerning Consideration of Changes in Aquatic Operations, Mike stated this topic will be moved to a future meeting.

Concerning Selection of the Kenneth “Coon” Victory Lifetime Service Award, Ernie explained the significance of the award, giving accolades to Coon Victory for setting the standard for Smyrna residents through his actions.

Mike reviewed voting eligibility guidelines.

Ernie opened the floor for comments pertaining to the three nominees: Ken Dalton, Mark Dye, and Marci Jameson. Mayor Reed, Council Member Cole, Mike, and Ernie took turns speaking about the nominees. Voting took place with the following results:

Ken Dalton	7 votes
March Dye	0 votes
Marci James	0 votes

Ken Dalton was selected as the 2022 Kenneth “Coon” Victory Lifetime Service Award recipient.

Concerning Selection of the Young Leader Award, there were four nominees: William J. Smith, Marshal Treanor, Mekdlawit Weldesilasse, and Sara Elkommos-Zakhary. Ernie and Mike both spoke about some of the nominees. Marty stated that the people who submitted the nominees were very passionate of their nominee. Voting took place with the following results:

William J. Smith	0 votes
Marshal Treanor	4 votes
Mekdlawit Weldesilasse	3 votes
Sara Elkommos-Zakhary	0 votes

Marshal Treanor was selected as the 2022 Young Leader Award recipient.

Reports of Officers, Committees, or Staff: Mike reviewed upcoming events listed on the agenda. There is a soccer tournament being held this weekend in Smyrna and Murfreesboro with 148 teams. SRFC furnished a parking plan for use during the tournament. Mike added that the league has also committed to contributing \$15,000 to assist paying for the new robot field painter that we recently ordered.

Director’s Report: Mike reviewed his monthly report.

He added that the SOAC staff recently submitted a grant application to Jennings and Rebecca Jones Foundation to help fund SOAC exhibit rentals.

Mayor Reed asked if we have submitted to the Hospital for grant funding. It’s an annual grant opportunity and is easy to complete.

Mike stated that he and Jimmy just today returned from Gatlinburg, attending the TRPA Conference this week. One of the off-site sessions was a visit to Cal Ripken Complex at Pigeon Forge. They saw some great ideas for dugout renovations at Todd Lane.

Council Report: Council Member Cole and Mayor Reed reviewed highlights from the latest meeting.

Mayor Reed asked for the names of Park Board members whose terms are set to expire in March 2023, then encouraged the members that are wrapping up their first term to apply for a second term.

She also encouraged everyone to attend the Lighting Ceremony taking place on November 22nd at the Train Depot. She spoke about the decision to change from the traditional light pole holiday lights to the new decorations located throughout the Depot District this year. Lastly, Mayor Reed talked about the Nourish Food Bank food drive and encouraged support.

Charles King gave an update on the Lowry Street project. Mayor Reed reminded the board that the Lowry Street project is a TDOT project, not a Town of Smyrna project.

The new LVRP entrance road is close to being finished.

Other:

The annual December Dinner Meeting will be held at the Event Center on December 20, 2022.

Meeting adjourned at 6:19 pm.