

SMYRNA PARKS AND RECREATION PARKS ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

MINUTES OF December 20, 2022

The monthly Smyrna Parks and Recreation Parks Advisory Board Meeting was held December 20, 2022, at Smyrna Event Center, Smyrna, Tennessee. Chairman Ernie Felts called the meeting to order at 5:42pm.

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

ABSENT Molly Jennings, Mayor Mary Esther Reed, Christina Treglia, Eli Victory

SUMMARY Prayer: Jimmy Stitt

The board's traditional holiday dinner took place before the meeting commenced. At the beginning of the meeting, Mike thanked all the Parks Advisory Board members for serving on the board over the past year and stated that he appreciates all the time and effort they devote to the board. He reminded them to pickup their Town of Smyrna shirt after the meeting.

Citizen's Comments: None

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

Old Business: None

New Business: Concerning Current and Future Project Update, a list was provided to each board member and Mike reviewed. Some of the highlights:

- Paving – several park perimeter trails were repaved this year, along with completing repaving most of the greenway system
- Staff began work on Todd Lane dugout replacements, Fields 1 & 2
- Parking lot construction at Sharp Springs Shelters A, B, and C will begin as soon as we receive approval from Corps of Engineers
- Additional electrical and water lines will be installed at Sharp Springs
- Tree planting needs to take place in several places

Council Member Cole asked if Sharp Springs Park could be a designated place to plant memorial trees. Mike replied that the department discontinued the memorial tree program several years ago due to the great difficulty of maintaining the individual trees and watering them properly so that they would thrive. Council Member Cole asked if we are going to plant trees at that park anyway, could we offer those trees as a memory tree option. Mike replied that we can make that happen if Councilman Cole wants us to bring the program back. Omnium recently donated 15 trees and planted them at Sharp Springs in April. We could offer those as memory trees.

- Dog Park expansion and Mountain Bike Trail– awaiting Corps of Engineers approvals
 - Sidewalk installation at Lee Victory Recreation Park along the parking lot
 - Freedom Playground Restroom Building is under construction and ongoing
 - Cedar Stone Restroom Building will be bid in January or February
- Mr. Scurr stated the board had previously discussed the need for a painted crosswalk, with flashing lights, across Morton Lane to be able to safely walk to Cedar Stone Park from the surrounding homes. After discussion, it was determined that those in attendance were unsure that the State would allow a flashing crosswalk to cross a thoroughfare. Crosswalks are typically located at intersections.
- Tennis and Pickleball Courts project will be bid out as soon as we receive the okay from TDEC. Mike is currently working on the construction sign.
 - LVRP Tennis Courts re-surfacing, all 6 courts
 - Playground to be installed at O'Connor Shelter soon (at Sharp Springs)
 - Pool Repairs – lights and play pool panels to be replaced, storm-damaged canopy to be replaced soon, replace filter sand
 - Relocate Event Center/SOAC entrance sign
 - Additional playground equipment to be installed at Old Rock School Park

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

Director's Report: Mike reviewed his monthly report. Mike added that he is very proud of the work Cortney Morgan, SOAC Manager, did to secure a \$60,000 grant from the Jennings and Rebecca Jones Foundation (\$20,000 for 3 years) to sponsor SOAC exhibits.

Mike reported each recreation league's current cash balances.

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

One of the agenda items was to renew the Sharp Springs Natural Area lease with the Corps of Engineers. The Town first leased the property in 1997 and Councilman Cole spoke about the challenge the Town encountered to the lease the land. At the time, there were many hunters that were fervently against leasing the property for parkland.

Councilman Cole asked Brian to speak about the recently approved employee benefits. Brian covered the upcoming 4.5% wage increase, increased life insurance benefit, enhanced medical insurance policies, and increased PTO earnings. Additionally, the town increased their match for employee's 457 retirement plan. Another new benefit is if an employee, with at least 15 years of service and wants to retire at age 62, the town will reimburse up to \$20,000 annually, to cover the employee's medical insurance costs until they qualify for Medicare coverage at age 65.

Other: Mike agreed with Brian in that the enhancement to the employee benefits is a big deal and means a lot to the employees.

Mike also thanked Charles King for all the work on the road projects taking place.

Councilman Cole reminded the Park Board members whose terms expire in March 2023 to re-apply for the Parks Advisory Board if they have only served one term so far.

Meeting adjourned at 6:44 pm.