

SMYRNA PARKS AND RECREATION PARKS ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

MINUTES OF MAY 17, 2022

The monthly Smyrna Parks and Recreation Parks Advisory Board Meeting was held May 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: Clay Phillips; Ernie Felts; Carl Boyd; Molly Jennings; Michael Potts; Mayor Mary Esther Reed; Charles Scurr; Christina Treglia; Mike Moss, Director; Jimmy Stitt, Assistant Director; Kay Arnold, staff; Brian Hercules, Town Manager; Rex Gaither, Assistant Town Manager; Charles King, Town Engineer

ABSENT Councilmember H.G. Cole, Eli Victory

SUMMARY Prayer: Michael Potts

Mike welcomed Helena Ferro and her daughter to the meeting. They are attending the meeting as part of the Leadership Rutherford program.

Citizen's Comments: None

Review and Approval of Minutes of Previous Meetings: Mayor Reed moved to approve April's minutes; Michael Potts seconded. Minutes approved unanimously.

Old Business: Concerning Overview of the Tennis and Pickleball Court Grant Project, Mike informed the board members that the Town of Smyrna was awarded a \$500,000 matching grant from Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation to build the Tennis and Pickleball Courts at Cedar Stone Park. During the application process at one of the required public meetings, the attendees informed us that pickleball needed its own dedicated courts rather than altering tennis courts for pickleball play. That feedback inspired the plan designers to modify the plan to include 6 tennis courts and 6 dedicated pickleball courts. Mike reviewed the fence options that will be installed on the new courts, and also mentioned the ADA sidewalks, ramps, and parking spaces. Bleachers will be available for spectators. A nearby restroom building will be built in Phase II with a family restroom and shelter included.

Mike reviewed the walking trail route that will be completed in Phase II as well. Design of Phase II is well underway.

Mike displayed a photo of the existing trees in the area where the tennis/pickleball courts will be built. He wanted to make sure the board is aware some of the trees will be removed.

Charles Scurr asked if public access to the park should be evaluated again to improve the flow of traffic and pedestrians due to the large amount of development taking place around Cedar Stone Park now. Mike explained in future phases of development of Cedar Stone Park perimeter fencing will be installed around the entire park property. Sidewalks from neighborhoods to the park and school certainly need to be looked at again.

Phase II will include building additional ballfields and other amenities, a second entrance off Morton Lane, and additional parking lots.

New Business: Concerning Selection of the Chairperson, *Mayor Reed nominated Ernie Felts for Chairperson. Carl seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.*

Concerning Selection of the Vice Chairperson, *Mayor Reed nominated Carl Boyd as Vice Chairperson. Michel Potts seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.*

Mike congratulated both nominees.

Reports of Officers, Committees, or Staff: Mike reviewed upcoming events listed on the agenda. He added that everything has ramped up since warm weather arrived. Lots of tournaments are taking place. The splashpad opens May 24th. SplashTown opens May 28. Kids to Parks Day at Hilltop-Rosenwald Park May 21. Kayak Float at Jefferson Springs May 28. Simply Smyrna Celebration is June 4. Blue Raider Blitz will be held July 21 at LVRP. There will be a Memorial Day Program at the Kuss Memorial on May 30. A Paintball Tournament was held at Sharp Springs May 14-15. The event brings tons of people to town from all over. We've also had a lot of Field Trips held at the SOAC and have more on the books. Lots of events happening.

Director's Report: Mike reviewed his monthly report. We had several Earth Day activities throughout the community in April. Plastic Omnium donated \$1,500 plus some of their staff members to help plant 12 trees at Jefferson Springs trailhead. Had various groups performing litter pickups throughout town. Having lots of repairs made at Freedom Playground equipment with all the moving parts. We are currently training and certifying lifeguards. The Parks Department pays for all the training fees for the lifeguards as an incentive.

Charles King gave an update on LVRP's new entrance road. June 15 is estimated completion date. Mike added that some of the underbrush in the tree areas along the new road will be cleared to improve driver's line of vision while driving along the roadway.

Jimmy gave an update on Rotary Soccer Annex Restroom Building. Afterwards, Mr. Hercules stated that the Buildings and Grounds Department has built many parks' projects over the years. After Freedom Playground Restroom Building is complete, they will discontinue building in-house. Their workload is much heavier now, so future building projects will be contracted out, which will move the projects along a little faster too.

The Parks Department is trying different things to recruit and retain staff members. We have found that it is not always the big things, or money, that attracts people. The Mayor concurred, adding that this topic has been discussed at the Council level as well.

Council Report: Mayor Reed reviewed highlights from the latest meeting. Additionally, she spoke about new property appraisals and the recent odor problem coming from the Waste Water Treatment Plant. She explained why the odor problem was occurring, and what the solution will be, and asked attendees to share that information with their neighbors.

Other: Mike displayed photos of a Girl Scout Troop performing a cleanup project at Old Rock School Park.

Due to a hardship issue at their school, Stewarts Creek requested hosting a Football Camp at LVRP. It will be held June 22-23 at LVRP and we are charging them fees.

Charles Scurr added that he and his family recently purchased a SOAC membership and staff have been really good to them at each visit.

Meeting adjourned at 6:08pm.