

# SMYRNA PARKS AND RECREATION PARKS ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

## MINUTES OF JUNE 21, 2022

The monthly Smyrna Parks and Recreation Parks Advisory Board Meeting was held June 21, 2022, at Rotary Soccer Park, Smyrna, Tennessee. Chairman Ernie Felts called the meeting to order at 5:06pm.

**PRESENT** Seventeen people were present: Ernie Felts; Carl Boyd; Clay Phillips; Eli Victory; Mayor Mary Esther Reed; Councilmember H.G. Cole; Charles Scurr; Molly Jennings; Mike Moss, Director; Jimmy Stitt, Assistant Director; Kay Arnold, staff; Brian Hercules, Town Manager; Rex Gaither, Assistant Town Manager; Charles King, Town Engineer  
Representatives from Stones River Futbol Club: Tommy Williams, Director of Coaching; Michael Sullivan, President; Jamonn Brady, Technical Director

**ABSENT** Michael Potts and Christina Treglia

**SUMMARY** Prayer: Mr. Michael Sullivan

Citizen's Comments: None

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

Old Business: None

New Business: Concerning Stones River Futbol Club (SRFC) League Update, Mike described the long-term partnership between the Town of Smyrna and North Rutherford Soccer / Stones River Futbol Club. Rotary Soccer Park was built and opened in 1997. In later years, the league donated the adjacent property, along with \$100,000, to the Town of Smyrna to expand the park. A new annex has been built along with another concession stand (still under construction).

Tommy Williams provided and reviewed a PowerPoint presentation of the Soccer Program, which was very nice and informative. Their mission is to make soccer fun, accessible, meaningful, and lifelong. Mayor Reed asked how the league came up with the name "Stones River Futbol Club". Tommy explained the league had many teams comprised of players from all over Rutherford County, and the name "Stones River Futbol Club" seemed to encompass the entire area, not just the northern part of the county.

Some facts about the league:

- Recreation Soccer launched at Smyrna Elementary fields in 1985 with 75 players
- Female-Only Teams introduced in early 1990's
- Adult Program launched in early 2000's
- Ripples Program introduced in 2010
- Development Academy introduced in 2016
- Recreational and Select Program under one name, "SRFC", in 2017
- COVID/Shutdown/Recovery/Resurgence in 2020-2022
- Recreational player pool is the most diverse in the state
- \$25,000 budgeted annually for Financial Assistance
- Mentor Program
- Summer Camp
- Referee Certification Courses
- US Soccer Coaching Education Courses
- College Recruitment Program and Guidance
- Five Program Branches – Youth Recreational, Youth Competitive, Adult Recreational, Adult Competitive, TOPSOCCER (outreach program for soccer)
- Almost 1,100 Recreational participants in Spring 2022
- 350-400 players in Select Teams, and have Nationally Licensed Coaching Staff

Michael Sullivan, President of SRFC, stated that he starting playing soccer at age 6. The soccer league impacts players and their families in a positive and beneficial way. Jamonn Brady, SRFC Technical Director, added that he moved to Smyrna in 2004, and became involved in the league.

Mayor Reed thanked the SRFC board members for leading the Soccer League. We, as a town, want people to learn about and enjoy sports, and to feel a part of something meaningful to them.

Mike stated that he learned a lot about the Soccer League this evening. The league has partnered with the Town on several projects throughout the year, and it has been a positive relationship.

Reports of Officers, Committees, or Staff: Mike reviewed upcoming events listed on the agenda. MTSU's Blue Raider Blitz will be held at Lee Victory Recreation Park on July 21. Spread the word. Last year, Smyrna's event was their most well attended. Food Truck Friday will be held at Cedar Stone Park on July 22.

Director's Report: Mike reviewed his monthly report. He added that swim lessons are going well. After much effort, we were able to hire enough lifeguards to cover the pool appropriately, as well as raise their hourly rate of pay this year. The Farmers Market would like to offer a Fall Market if they can secure a location. Boat Day was last Saturday.

With the Independence Day Celebration coming up on July 1<sup>st</sup>, Mayor Reed asked if speakers will be located at the Kuss Memorial so everyone throughout the park can hear the program.

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

Mayor Reed stated that the recent property tax appraisals will be discussed again at the next Council Workshop. Rutherford County adjusted their rate to \$1.69; Smyrna's went from 70 cents to 52 cents for Fiscal Year 2022-2023. Smyrna's property tax rate is the second lowest in the county; Eagleville's is lowest in county.

Google Fiber will be available in Smyrna. Nashville is the only other city in TN with Google Fiber. It is a big deal for the Town of Smyrna as it is another internet option for residents and businesses.

Brian gave update on the second entrance to Lee Victory Recreation Park. The contractor has pulled out of the job and the Town will pull the bond. The rumor is they have closed their business and they are not answering phones or responding to emails. The project is down to paving, about 2 weeks' worth of work left. The road will be finished. It will be used as an exit at the Independence Day Celebration, although it is strictly a gravel surface at this point. The new entrance sign looks very good.

Sidewalks are being planned to connect parts of Smyrna.

Other: Mike thanked the Stones River Futbol Club for allowing the Park Board to hold the meeting at the park and thanked them for the cups.

Meeting adjourned at 6:20pm to tour the new concession stand building currently under construction.