

SMYRNA PARKS AND RECREATION PARKS ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

MINUTES OF JULY 19, 2022

The monthly Smyrna Parks and Recreation Parks Advisory Board Meeting was held July 19, 2022, at Smyrna Outdoor Adventure Center, Smyrna, Tennessee. Chairman Ernie Felts called the meeting to order at 5:00pm.

PRESENT Thirteen people were present: Ernie Felts; Clay Phillips; Michael Potts; Carl Boyd; Councilmember H.G. Cole; Molly Jennings; 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 Mayor Mary Esther Reed, Charles Scurr, Eli Victory

SUMMARY Prayer: Mike Moss

Citizen's Comments: None

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

Old Business: Concerning Discussion of 2022-23 approved Capital Project List, Mike reviewed some highlights for the new fiscal year.

Park Asphalt and Repairs --- We have funds to repave/repair trails, greenways, park infrastructure, and new parking areas at Sharp Springs. After this fiscal year, we should have the entire greenway re-paved.

Sharp Springs Improvements – We have funds to install electrical and water to EA Victory and Sage Hill Shelters.

Build Restrooms at Cedar Stone Community Park near the playground and future Tennis & Pickleball Courts

We have funds to match the grant to build Tennis and Pickleball Courts at Cedar Stone Community Park.

Lee Victory Recreation Park Tennis Courts – We have funds to repair and resurface the six existing courts.

Lee Victory Recreation Park Sidewalk Construction – We have funds to design and construct sidewalks and pedestrian access along park roads and parking areas.

New Business: Concerning 2021-2022 Revenue Highlights, Mike displayed a slide showing revenue highlights for SOAC, SplashTown, and Park Facilities during FY21-22. Total revenue collected during the fiscal year was \$537,400.

Council Member Cole asked if people still have to wait to get into the pool area because of occupancy restrictions. Mike replied yes, especially during the month of June when the pool first opens. Councilman Cole asked if members receive priority admittance. Mike responded no, the matter has been discussed but not implemented. He is not sure how the crowd would react to that process.

Councilman Cole asked if people have to wait to get access to the Splashpad at Gregory Mill. Mike replied no, although overall usage is high. Councilman Cole added that he has not seen the Splashpad down this year. Mike stated that we installed a replacement computer to the system this past spring and it seems to work much better than the previous computer system. Jimmy reviewed the Splashpad water loss numbers from last year vs. this year and we are incurring much less water loss this year. However, the vault is showing its age now.

Concerning Discussion of the BlueCross Healthy Places Grant, Mike gave a brief overview of the grant and the criteria a grantee is required to follow. They provide spaces that include playgrounds, fitness equipment, and other features, and they accept grant applications during the month of August. Mike displayed a couple of projects in the state that BlueCross Healthy Places built. Some possible Smyrna properties to build one of their projects are Cedar Stone Park, Lee Victory Recreation Park, Old Rock School Park, neighborhood parks, or undeveloped park land. Councilman Cole suggested we build something near the Senior Center, but then, they are looking to relocate to a larger building.

Brian asked if we received the grant notification and information from TN Department of Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Office to apply for the Adult-Size Changing Tables. Mike replied that we do have the information and we will apply for the grant. They are accepting applications up until June 30, 2023.

Reports of Officers, Committees, or Staff: Mike reviewed upcoming events listed on the agenda. He added that Pups in the Pool (at SplashTown) will take place on September 10th. This is an annual fundraiser for the Friends of Bark Springs Dog Park.

Director's Report: Mike reviewed his monthly report. He added that the recent Independence Day Celebration went very well and he thanked the staff and the Town Leaders for allowing us to hold the event. MTE and TVA will be sponsoring the Thomas Edison's Secret Lab exhibit, for a total of \$20,000. The exhibit will be on display September 24 through January 8. Work is currently taking place in constructing the Freedom Playground Restroom Building. The pool will be closed on Monday, July 25 and August 1, and then closed Monday through Friday beginning the week of August 8 through September 2. The pool will be open Saturdays and Sundays through Labor Day. Mike stated that we have submitted two more Sharp Springs Park projects to the US Corps of Engineers for approval.

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

Other: Brian announced that the Town will be expanding the Holiday Lights program this year and will concentrate on the Depot District. The Town recently purchased a 30' Christmas tree and 17,000-18,000 lights for the tree. There will be festive banners on all the light poles along Lowry Street and lights at Zama Park. The downtown area should look very nice and hopefully other businesses in the area will be motivated to decorate festively too. The Fire Hall, Event Center, and Town Hall will keep their rooftop holiday lights. The traditional Lighting Ceremony may be re-vamped this year too.

The Alta Depot apartments will have a ribbon cutting on August 2nd at 4pm. They have two buildings that are available for apartment rentals.

Charles gave an update on the Nolan Drive park entrance road project. The project is in Legal right now for the contractor defaulting on the contract.

Carl told everyone to be sure and vote in the upcoming election.

LubePros was recently sold and congratulations to Councilman Cole on his retirement.

Ernie informed the board that Andy Russell, a Smyrna Fastpitch League board member, recently passed away unexpectedly, and they would like to create some type of memorial at Lee Victory Recreation Park, the league's home. Mike said we will come up with something. Andy also worked for the Parks Department for seven years.

Meeting adjourned at 6:17 pm.