

SMYRNA PARKS AND RECREATION PARKS ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

MINUTES OF AUGUST 16, 2022

The monthly Smyrna Parks and Recreation Parks Advisory Board Meeting was held August 16, 2022, at Smyrna Outdoor Adventure Center, Smyrna, Tennessee. Vice Chairman Carl Boyd called the meeting to order at 5:04pm.

PRESENT Ten people were present: Charles Scurr; Councilmember H.G. Cole; Mayor Mary Esther Reed; Carl Boyd; Christina Treglia; Mike Moss, Director; Jimmy Stitt, Assistant Director; Kay Arnold, staff; Brian Hercules, Town Manager; Charles King, Town Engineer

ABSENT Ernie Felts, Molly Jennings, Michael Potts, Clay Phillips, Eli Victory

SUMMARY Prayer: Jimmy Stitt

Citizen's Comments: None

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

Old Business: Concerning Maintenance Update, Mike explained to the board that he thought now is a good time to talk about Park Maintenance that takes place throughout the park system seven days per week. Jimmy gave an update on the following projects: Nolan Drive entrance, new Rotary Soccer Park Restroom, and Todd Lane Improvements.

Jimmy reviewed the maintenance division's workorder system, "Tikkit", which tracks vandalism, landscaping, pool repairs and cleanup, trash pickup in parks, ground maintenance, and mowing. Jimmy and Mike attended a demo of a second ballfield robot. It painted an entire soccer field in 23 minutes. The robots can paint graphics too. The Soccer League has expressed interest in contributing to the cost of either subscribing to or purchasing a ballfield robot. The possibilities are endless.

We continue to battle sunflower seeds at Cedar Stone Park. There is no easy way to clean them up; we have to manually clean them up, which takes hours of time to do so. Mike feels building a curb higher around the ballfields would help alleviate the problem significantly. Jimmy stated the home plate and the bullpen areas are showing some wear and tear on the turf already.

The Maintenance Division is very fortunate to have proper equipment to complete the wide variety of tasks that they perform throughout the year. Jimmy also mentioned that the Parks Department, Streets Department, and Utilities Department have a tremendous working relationship and they all are quick to help each other out when needed. Mayor Reed commended all the departments for working together and encouraged its continuation.

Jimmy reviewed maintenance staff openings and recent hires, adding that the Parks Maintenance Division consists of 32 positions. He has two staff members scheduled to attend the upcoming Certified Playground Safety Inspector course and exam in Memphis next month.

New Business: Concerning Overview of SOAC Camps and Mobile Programs, Mike explained that Courtney Morgan, Outdoor Adventure Center Manager, compiled several PowerPoint slides to provide a sampling of their summer programs. An example of participation numbers in some of their 2022 summer programs:

Mobile Adventures Program – Animal Investigations	1,554 participants
SOAC Field Trips	628 participants
Summer Camps 2022	69 participants
Teddy Bear Tea	35 participants
Curious George Meet & Greet	142 participants

Additionally, SOAC Staff held several sessions in Williamson County during the summer.

Mike informed the board members that MTE and TVA generously donated \$10,000 each to co-sponsor the Thomas Edison’s Secret Lab exhibit to open in Fall 2022 at the SOAC. He hopes they continue to sponsor an exhibit every year.

Charles asked about the status of the boat ramp/canoe/kayak launch at Percy Priest Lake (located at the back of Sharp Springs Park). Mike replied that the boat ramp has already been approved by the Corps of Engineers. This project will need to be completed while the lake is at winter pool. We will be able to alternate our Float Programs to that area and the ponds at Sharp Springs. We continue to wait on USACE’s renewal of the lease document, which contains approval of the two shelter parking lots, the dog park parking lot, and playground installation.

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

Director’s Report: Mike reviewed his monthly report. He added that the BBQ Festival was a great success with approximately 2,500 attendees. Currently we have 224 participants registered for the Top Gun Night Run. Mayor Reed encouraged everyone to share the Night Run information and to attend the event on September 16th. Mike continued, stating that the participation numbers have increased in the Youth Football League. The Fall Farmers Market will be held at Gregory Mill this year, 8am-2pm. Mike stated that the Smyrna Rotary Club may be interested in partnering on another community project. More to come on that.

Council Report: Mayor Reed reviewed highlights from the latest meeting. Afterwards, Mayor Reed stated that she would like to remind citizens that Lowry Street construction is a TDOT project and is not controlled by the Town of Smyrna. Charles King

gave an update of the Lowry Street project, stating that the new sidewalks should be completed by Thanksgiving. He added that CSX plans to start work on installing the pedestrian gates.

Mayor Reed spoke about the accidental shooting of a 5 year old boy at Lee Victory Recreation Park last night. She added that the Town has put out as much information as they can, but the investigation is ongoing. The local TV stations have been covering the incident. Jimmy stated that the First Responders handled everything very professionally. Mike stated that their handling of the situation made everything less chaotic and stressful. Jimmy added that some memorial tokens are being left at the accident site at the park.

Other: The Depot Days Car Show is September 23 and Depot Days event is September 24. The October Park Board Meeting will be held at Gregory Mill Park. Mike stated that Wanda Whitley passed away recently, adding that she was a longtime volunteer with Smyrna Girls Softball League, and also the recipient of the Lifetime Service Award in 1996.

Charles Scurr stated that his two grandsons attended SOAC's summer camp and that the staff was excellent. His grandsons also enjoyed the end of camp pool party.

Meeting adjourned at 6:15 pm.