

SMYRNA PARKS AND RECREATION PARKS ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 20, 2022

The monthly Smyrna Parks and Recreation Parks Advisory Board Meeting was held September 20, 2022, at Smyrna Outdoor Adventure Center, Smyrna, Tennessee. Chairman Ernie Felts called the meeting to order at 5:03pm.

PRESENT Thirteen people were present: Charles Scurr; Councilmember H.G. Cole; Mayor Mary Esther Reed; Carl Boyd; Christina Treglia; Ernie Felts; Michael Potts; Mike Moss, Director; Jimmy Stitt, Assistant Director; Christina Manus, staff; Brian Hercules, Town Manager; Rex Gaither, Assistant Town Manager; Charles King, Town Engineer

ABSENT Molly Jennings, Clay Phillips, Eli Victory

SUMMARY Prayer: Michael Potts

Citizen's Comments: None

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

Old Business: Mike Moss reviewed the 2022 6K Top Gun Race and shared pictures. There were 586 pre-registered runners and 550 race bags picked-up. This is a good ratio compared to other races. Mike thanked the board that works on the planning committee and the Parks, Police, and Fire Department employees for all their hard work. Missy Garnett and Band performed the National Anthem as well as live music at the finish line. Jimmy Stitt commented that the weather was much nicer having the race in September this year. Michael Potts stated that we did have to contend with mosquitos on the route this time due to the race being in September. Mayor Reed thanked the employees for their hard work and commented that people who ran the race in 22 minutes as well as walkers who finished in a 1 hour and 22 minutes all seemed to enjoy the race and were proud of themselves regardless of finish times. Brian Hercules would like to meet with the planning committee soon and discuss some things to tweak before the next race. There was discussion of adding more youth awards/runners. Mike Moss explained that due to cross country school rules, some youth runners cannot enter races until after their school season has ended. There was also discussion of positioning lighting on trucks better so that is not in the runners eyes.

New Business: Mike Moss presented the topic of Smyrna Parks and Recreation Sports Turf Management. Mike wanted to highlight the partnership between the leagues and the

department to invest in the maintenance and upkeep of the ballfields.

Mike shared images of fields at various times of the season to explain the process from winter to summer. All the sports fields and the Event Center have Bermuda grass. This type of grass is brown in the off season. This color helps the maintenance staff be able to identify Rye grass or weeds growing in the off season and make sure it receives round-up/pre-emergent. Sometimes you may see maintenance staff spraying pre-emergent in the winter months January through March and you may have wondered why they are working on the fields when the grass is dormant. The pre-emergent attacks the weeds at the seed to keep them from sprouting. The attention to the fields in the off season is important to have strong turf during the busy ball season. Spring and early summer, all the fields receive fertilizer and then throughout the summer the fields will receive 1" to 1 ½" of irrigation per week depending on rain. Once fall season comes the fields receive post-emergent. This is weed killer that kills weeds after they have sprouted and grown. This is also the time the fields may receive over seeding. Mike stated that turf maintenance has evolved over the years. Golf and ballfield turf used to be treated the same in the maintenance world, but now they teach different methods for the different type of turf usage. Mike talked about the cost of seed going up this year tremendously. A year or two ago you could get seed for \$1.20 a pound and now it is running about \$3.00 per pound. The Rotary Soccer Park Annex 6 acres were sprigged for just under \$10,000 a couple years back.

Next, Mike shared images of infields. He spoke of how the department used to use a grader to bring in and move infield dirt, but now we are able to use a skid steer, making it easier. The infield usually consists of 60-70% clay and 20% sand than 1" of safecoat topdressing.

Lastly, Mike discussed lighting. Mike shared images of some of the ballfield lights being replaced in-house and state that we are now using Musco Lighting for our new lighting installs. Musco lights have a 25 year warranty and come with the technology to be turned off and on through an app on a phone or computer. The lighting used now is LED and is able to be adjusted better to avoid spill light. This means that the light shining onto a ballfield will not spill over to a neighboring house, making ball parks better neighbors.

Mike shared images and information on the Smyrna Outdoor Adventure Center possible 2023 exhibits: *Ocean Adventures*, *From Here to There*, and *Some Assembly Required*.

Middle Tennessee Electric liked the *From Here to There* exhibit and will be hopefully offering sponsorship next year for this exhibit. This week at the SOAC, the Thomas Edison's Lab exhibit arrived and was set-up. MTE and TVA have both sponsored this exhibit with a \$10,000 donation each. We will host these organizations and their families three different days this fall to show our appreciation for the donation.

Reports of Officers, Committees, or Staff: Mike reviewed fall events. Depot Days is this weekend including the Car Show on Friday night. We just presented Autumn Animals with the help of the TWRA and had a great turn out. We will have Haunting on Front Street on October 14th and 15th. Halloween in the Park is October 29th and we are looking for costume contest volunteer judges if anyone is interested.

Director's Report: Mike discussed highlights of the past month. Staff will be presenting the Tennis and Pickleball grant requirements to the planning commission. This is a first time requirement for a grant. We hope to have a contract with TDEC within 60 days. Mike shared some pictures from Waterfest this past week and thanked staff for making it happen. The Rotary Soccer Park Annex Restrooms are nearly complete. Brian Hercules

asked when the restrooms will be complete and Jimmy stated we are only waiting on the certificate of occupancy and should be ready by the end of the month. Depot Days has approximately 140 vendors, 40 booths will be artisan vendors. Courtney Morgan, SOAC Manager, met with Jennings and Rebecca Jones Foundation in regard to potential exhibit sponsorship. Pool Revenues are where they should be at approximately \$208,000 for the 2022 season. Parks Maintenance sent two staff members to Memphis for playground certification this month. Pups in the Pool went well considering it rained all morning. Mike stated that our building rentals are booked up on weekends until Christmas.

Council Update: Councilman Cole reviewed the latest council meeting. He stated that they had approved the purchase of a high volume printer for the Waste Water Treatment Plant. He discussed approvals of land rezoning at the corner of President Place and Isabella Lane. He discussed the approval of 37 acres at Almaville Lane amended to PUD for the development of town homes. He stated the town is amending Title 5 of our Finance Rules that would allow the increase in bid limits.

Brian Hercules invited the board to attend the retirement reception for Chief Arnold on the 30th of September at the Smyrna Event Center.

Brian stated they are in the interview process for PIO, Public Information Officer. Brian spoke about a bowling tournament that brought 600 people to town this past weekend and the impact these types of events have on tourist revenues.

Charles King updated the board that the entrance from Nolan Drive to the Lee Victory Recreation Park is under construction once again. The same contractor is working on the project out of pocket in order to get the road completed. Charles also spoke about the sidewalk project in town and there was discussion of planters being installed along Front Street and the lack of irrigation for the planters. The goal is to have the sidewalks completed by the Christmas Parade.

Jimmy Stitt mentioned Sessions Paving will be working on the greenway on Weakley Lane.

Meeting adjourned at 5:59 pm.