

SMYRNA PARKS AND RECREATION PARKS ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

MINUTES OF January 17, 2023

The monthly Smyrna Parks and Recreation Parks Advisory Board Meeting was held January 17, 2023, at Smyrna Event Center, Smyrna, Tennessee. Chairman Ernie Felts called the meeting to order at 5:08pm.

PRESENT Eight people were present: Ernie Felts; Molly Jennings; Christina Treglia; Mike Moss, Director; Jimmy Stitt, Assistant Director; Kay Arnold, staff; Brian Hercules, Town Manager; Rex Gaither, Asst. Town Manager

ABSENT Carl Boyd, Councilmember H.G. Cole, Michael Potts, Clay Phillips, Mayor Mary Esther Reed, Charles Scurr, Eli Victory

SUMMARY Prayer: Mark Hardy (visitor)

Citizen's Comments: None

Review and Approval of Minutes of Previous Meetings: No quorum present

Old Business: Concerning *Lee Victory Recreation Park existing facilities and Concept Plan*, Mike displayed an aerial of the park showing the Kuss Memorial, Freedom Playground, and Nolan Drive. Tonight he wants to review upcoming plans for the park.

Lee Victory Recreation Park is comprised of 80 acres, leased from the Smyrna / Rutherford County Airport Authority. Part of the available acreage remains undeveloped, keeping some treed areas for the wildlife. Mike displayed the Concept Plan from the 2006-2020 Parks Master Plan. Some different amenities have been built since the plan was developed, such as the Kuss Memorial, Freedom Playground, and Freedom Restroom Building, and those amenities have been incredible attractions for the park users.

The Concept Plan, as drawn up, included a small amphitheater area with 250 additional parking spaces, along with 60 more parking spaces in another area of the park. Additionally, the Concept Plan includes a large shelter, dog park, and a lighted perimeter walking trail. When the new entrance road was built off of Nolan Drive, we followed the design in the Concept Plan.

Mike wanted to share the Concept Plan with the board members, since some of the newer board members have not seen it before. Mike added that we may add more parking spaces east of the park.

Concerning *Cedar Stone Park Restroom and Tennis/Pickleball Courts location and update*, Mike displayed an overhead rendering of the Tennis / Pickleball Courts and the placement of the nearby restroom building. Brian added that, going forward, all newly constructed park restroom buildings will have adult changing tables in the Family Restroom area.

As an update on the grant progress, Mike stated that the construction sign has been installed at the construction site of the tennis/pickleball court area at Cedar Stone Park. We are waiting on responses from several environmental organizations such as TN Historical Commission, TN Division of Archeology, and TN Division of Natural Areas. Trying to get all the grant requirements completed so that the project can be bid out. Mike displayed a rendering of the restroom building to be located near the tennis/pickleball courts.

Mike added that the area of the park where the ballfields are slated to be built in the back of the property will be difficult to build because of the condition of the land.

Concerning *2022 Rental Statistics*, Mike displayed rental numbers for shelters, buildings, splash pad at Gregory Mill, ball fields, funbrellas, pool parties, SOAC room rentals, as well as SOAC visits and program participants.

New Business: Concerning *Review of 2023 Calendar of Events*, Mike reviewed the handout, pointing out the Volunteer of the Year Banquet, three Music Nights, Airshow, Independence Day, Top Gun Night Run, and Fright Nights.

Concerning *Review of 2023 Tournament Calendar*, Mike reviewed the handout, stating that we have already hosted two adult softball tournaments this year, January 7th and January 14-15, at Volunteer Park.

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

Director's Report: Mike reviewed his monthly report.

He displayed photos of the new playground recently installed near the O'Connor Shelter at Sharp Springs Park, new playground equipment installed at Old Rock School Park, and a replacement slide installed at Lee Victory Recreation Park main playground.

A new exhibit, Wild Kratts Ocean Adventure, is currently being installed at the SOAC, opening January 21st.

Park reservations open for the year on February 1st. We may move the date to mid-January next year. Spring Break activities will be held at the SOAC. We had water pipes freeze at the Disc Golf restroom building during the latest cold spell and it will take a while to get them repaired and operational again. Renovations continue at Todd Lane Fields 1 & 2. The demolition work is complete and we are waiting on concrete. Will be adding fences to the

dugouts and the roof is being raised. The Sharp Springs lease renewal (that expired February 2022) was finally received from the Corps of Engineers. We should obtain approvals soon for numerous projects to be completed at Sharp Springs such as parking lots near E.A Victory Shelter and Leon Overstreet Shelter, mountain bike trail, etc. Patio amenities were added to the Soccer Annex today, tables with seats and picnic tables with umbrellas. The robot painter has been delivered. SRFC committed to contributing \$5,000 annually for 3 years to help with expenses related to the robot painter. The department received the first annual lease payment on farmland at Sharp Springs, \$7,112.

Council Report: Brian reviewed highlights from the latest meeting.

Other: Brian announced that the Town is currently accepting applications to serve on all the Citizen Boards and the applications are easily accessible on the Town's website. They have already received several applications for the various boards.

Mike reminded the board members that the New Year is the time to pay \$25 for the Refreshment Fund for the year.

Meeting adjourned at 6:00 pm.