

SMYRNA PARKS AND RECREATION PARKS ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

MINUTES OF March 21, 2023

The monthly Smyrna Parks and Recreation Parks Advisory Board Meeting was held March 21, 2023, at Smyrna Outdoor Adventure Center, Smyrna, Tennessee. Chairman Ernie Felts called the meeting to order at 4:59pm.

PRESENT Fifteen people were present: Ernie Felts; Clay Phillips; Michael Potts; Charles Scurr; Christina Treglia; Mayor Mary Esther Reed; Councilmember H.G. Cole; Molly Jennings; Eli Victory; Mike Moss, Director; Jimmy Stitt, Assistant Director; Kay Arnold, staff; Brian Hercules, Town Manager; Rex Gaither, Asst. Town Manager; Charles King, Town Engineer

ABSENT Carl Boyd

SUMMARY Prayer: Mark Hardy

Citizen's Comments: None

Review and Approval of Minutes of Previous Meetings: Mayor Reed motioned to approve February 2023 minutes; Molly seconded. Minutes approved unanimously.

Old Business: Concerning Town and Park Board Efforts 2019-2023, Mike stated that we have several board members whose terms are ending this month:

- Carl Boyd did not re-apply as he was recently elected as a County Commissioner
- Charles Scurr did not re-apply for Parks Advisory Board, but was appointed to the Town's Planning Commission
- Ernie Felts completed his second 2-year term on the Parks Advisory Board
- Clay Phillips was re-appointed for a second 2-year term
- Eli Victory was re-appointed for a second 2-year term

Mike displayed photos of various events that have taken place during the time period of 2019 to present:

- Annual Large Events – Volunteer of the Year Banquets, Independence Day Celebrations, Top Gun Night Runs, and Halloween in the Park
- Greenway Improvements
- Three phases of improvements at Rotary Soccer Park

- Re-location of Nolan Drive and new entrance road to Lee Victory Park
- Cedar Stone Community Park built and opened
- Depot Stage Canopy
- Volunteer Park transitioned to Adult Softball Complex and re-location of Girls Fastpitch to Lee Victory Park
- Pioneer Park playground replacement and perimeter trail built
- Old Rock School playground replacement
- Zama Park built and opened
- Parks Master Plan updated in 2021
- Freedom Playground built and opened
- Obtained grant to build Tennis and Pickleball Courts

Mike thanked Ernie for serving four years on the Park Board and also thanked the board members that have served for a while and hopes they have learned something about the park system.

Concerning 2023 Event Guide Review, Mike distributed copies to the board members stating that it is a brochure that the department compiles each year containing the year's upcoming community events. They took a couple of minutes to review the brochure. The price increases implemented January 1, 2023 are reflected. The brochures will be available for citizens to take either while visiting town facilities or at town events.

New Business: Concerning Cedar Stone Phase II, Mike displayed an aerial of the park to review Phase II development more in depth. It will include a second 4-field ballfield quad (exactly like the first quad), concession stand with family restroom, parking lot on other side of the ballfields, playground and shelter, and a walking trail. There will be challenges associated with the back part of the property. Mike displayed several photos depicting the lay of the undeveloped land at Cedar Stone. There is an underground stream and a significant drop off where the playground is located on the concept plan. There will be some work to do to make the land usable for what we want.

Jimmy stated that Cedar Stone Park is used heavily with tournaments and teams from all over the country. He is somewhat surprised by how many out-of-state teams what to play at Cedar Stone.

Brian added that the Town is in the budget planning stages for fiscal year 2023-2024. The Town has some upcoming expensive projects such as a fire station off Jefferson Pike and roads on the west side of town. The 5-year plan currently lists Phase II of Cedar Stone Park in 2025, provided everything stays steady. Because of the increased prices of almost everything, Phase II will cost approximately \$3 million more to build that Phase I did. Brian added that Rex Gaither, Finance Director, does a great job financing the needs of the Town. Mike added that once you build facilities, you have to staff them.

Mayor Reed stated that she appreciates Brian trying to accomplish the things that the council members want to happen for the Town. Think about the water/utilities and the waste water treatment plant that are all very important services that the average person probably doesn't think a lot about, until there are problems. Smyrna is a very lucky town with great people in place and makes things happen.

Ernie stated that he is impressed with the participation of council members and town officials, police, etc. that are involved in all the citizen boards.

Reports of Officers, Committees, or Staff: Mike reviewed upcoming events listed on the agenda. He added that there will be a Spring Break Camp held at Cedar Stone Park March 27-31 as well as Spring Break Week being held at the SOAC March 28-31. Rutherford County Earth Day Celebration will be held April 22 in Murfreesboro.

Director's Report: Mike reviewed his monthly report. Todd Lane dugouts are close to being completed. He displayed before and after photos of the burn pile located at Sharp Springs, showing how its been cleaned up. The Cedar Stone Restroom Building project is on the Council Workshop Agenda this month for review. Mike displayed a photo of the progress being made on the restroom building being built at Freedom Playground. Mike reviewed league registration numbers to date.

Jimmy stated the line painting robot has been working very well and saves them a lot of time. The painted lines are super straight and look professional. A field can be re-lined in less than 30 minutes from an existing program. He added that the recent wind storm was intense and caused a lot of trees to fall throughout the park system. It took his staff approximately 5 days of work to clean up all the damage.

Council Update: Councilman Cole reviewed highlights from the most recent meeting. The Independence Day Celebration fireworks show is scheduled for July 1, with a raindate scheduled for July 2.

Appointments to the Parks Advisory Board were:

- Clay Phillips (re-appointed for a second term)
- Mark Hardy
- Nicole Green
- Ashley Sanders Lester
- Eli Victory (re-appointed for a second term)

Other: Brian stated that the Flood Plain Maps have recently changed and encouraged anyone that lives near water to take a look at the revised maps.

Charles Scurr stated that he has been honored to serve on the Parks Advisory Board. The board is fun and engaged. He has been involved in a lot of government during his career and has enjoyed being on this board.

Ernie thanked everyone for allowing him to serve on the Park Board. He also spoke about recently retiring from umpiring softball because of the increasingly threatening behavior by parents at the games.

Mayor Reed thanked the outgoing board members, Ernie and Charles, and appreciates all that they have done while serving on the board.

Mayor Reed announced that she has been working with the MidTN Volleyball group that is planning a "Light Up the Night" event on April 5th to recognize Janae Edmondson, the SHS

student that lost both her legs in a tragic accident in February while attending a volleyball tournament in St. Louis. The community is invited to come together to show her family that the community supports them. Janae's mother will be at the event and will speak to the crowd.

Meeting adjourned at 6:11 pm.