

SMYRNA PARKS AND RECREATION PARKS ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

MINUTES OF AUGUST 15, 2023

The monthly Smyrna Parks and Recreation Parks Advisory Board Meeting was held August 15, 2023, at Smyrna Outdoor Adventure Center, Smyrna, Tennessee. Chairman Clay Phillips called the meeting to order at 5:03pm.

PRESENT Fourteen people were present: Michael Potts; Clay Phillips; Molly Jennings; Mark Hardy; Nicole Green; Christina Treglia; Ashley Lester; 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 Councilmember H.G. Cole and Mayor Mary Esther Reed

SUMMARY Prayer: Brian Hercules

Citizen's Comments: None

Mike M. invited board members to help themselves to one of the leftover BBQ Festival t-shirts that were sold at the festival last Saturday. There was good attendance at the BBQ Festival.

Review and Approval of Minutes of Previous Meetings: Mark H. motioned to approve the June 2023 minutes; Molly J. seconded. Minutes approved unanimously.

Old Business: Concerning Project Update, Mike M. stated that he will review the status of on-going projects for the board.

1. Tennis Courts at Lee Victory Recreation Park: the courts have been re-paved and currently are in the curing stage. The contractor will finish up the project after this process is finished. The existing fences are still in good shape. Mike M. hopes to get 35 years out of this paving job.
2. Cedar Stone Park Restroom Building (near playground): construction has started
3. Freedom Playground Restroom Building: is ready to open. The sod has been installed.
4. EA Victory Shelter Parking Lot: construction is progressing. Stone is down and is close to being able to pave.

5. Shelters A & B Parking Lots: the project has been approved by USACE. Will probably re-pave the stretch of park road between the two shelters at the same time the parking lots are built.
6. Tennis and Pickleball Courts @ Cedar Stone Park: we are waiting to send the contract from Thomas & Hutton to TDEC. Continuing to work through the grant requirements.
7. Planned Playgrounds @ Sharp Springs: Mike M. displayed aerial showing locations of playground sites planned for Sharp Springs Park. The locations are near Shelter A, Leon Overstreet Shelter, EA Victory Shelter, and Sage Hill Shelter.

Charles K. asked if there are plans to expand the parking lot near Sage Hill Shelter. Mike M. replied he is aware that it gets crowded sometimes.

8. Shade Canopy @ Volunteer Park: we will partner with the Adult Softball League to purchase and install a shade canopy at the park

Mark H. stated that he has been asked if pickleball courts will be available in other Smyrna Parks. Mike M. replied there are two courts in Lavergne. That is all in the northern part of Rutherford County.

New Business: Concerning Discussion of 2023 Tourism Grant Opportunity, Mike M. stated that the TN Department of Tourist Development and the TN Department of Economic and Community Development are accepting applications for their Tourism Enhancement Grant: Round 6, due September 1st. Mike M. is considering submitting a project comprised of a breezeway structure, lighting, and signage at the Rotary Soccer Park. The project would connect the two main buildings and also create a highly visible entrance area to the park. The Stones River Futbol Club hosts two very large tournaments annually, as well as soccer camps, referee clinics, and travel soccer games throughout the year. Mike M. stated if the Park Board is in favor of submitting this project, he will continue moving forward.

Concerning Lee Victory Park Concession Stand Improvements, Mike M. stated the concession / restroom building is 40+ years old and he displayed photos of its current condition. He stated that the restroom stall doors and sinks need to be replaced. It may actually be better to renovate the entire building and re-configure the footprint to maximize interior space better. The entire building needs an update. The Fastpitch League would like to install roll-up concession doors for added convenience and functionality. The ballfield dirt takes a toll on all the equipment, inside and outside, and coats everything. Dust is in and on everything.

Ashley L. stated that it would be great to have a baby changing table inside a stall instead of out in the open like it currently is in the LVRP restroom, for privacy reasons. Mike M. replied that unfortunately the baby changing tables are intentionally broken constantly throughout the park system. He is aware that we need an ADA compliant stall in the LVRP concession building restrooms. Christina T. asked if a step stool for toddlers could be installed to enable them to reach the sinks to wash their hands. Mike M. stated that since the Fastpitch League moved to LVRP, the ongoing impact to the park facilities has decreased.

Concerning Recreation League Financial Update, Mike M. stated that he likes to update the Park Board between the athletic seasons so that they are aware of the leagues' financial positions. As of June 30, 2023, the leagues reported the following:

- Smyrna Fastpitch League has \$85,241 cash in the bank + \$7,243 in another account
- Smyrna Baseball League has \$98,000 cash in the bank + \$50,000 in savings account
- Smyrna Youth Football has \$55,000 cash in the bank
- Stones River Futbol Club has \$197,000 cash in the bank + \$136,000 in another account

Mike M. likes to partner with the athletic leagues on their "wish list" items to enable the leagues to re-invest into the park system. Additionally, he stated that he appreciates the time all the league volunteers give to the community in providing recreational athletics.

Mark H. added that the Baseball League uses a cashless system at the Cedar Stone concession stand and it works very well for them.

Reports of Officers, Committees, or Staff: Mike M. reviewed upcoming events listed on the agenda. He added that the SOAC Archery program is new and staff is excited about offering it. Food Truck Friday is at Cedar Stone Park on August 25 and they have five food trucks committed so far. Additionally, there is a Movie Night event scheduled for September 30th at Cedar Stone Park. Mike M. stated that the department is trying to offer more programming opportunities on the south side of town. Autumn Animals program is replacing the Wilderness Walk on September 9th. There are 197 participants registered for the Top Gun Night Run so far. Depot Days event is scheduled for September 22 & 23. Next month's Park Board meeting will be held at Westfork Park.

Jimmy S. gave Maintenance Division's update. The recent storm damage has caused a lot of work for the maintenance staff, but the Streets Department has helped them a lot.

Director's Report: Mike M. reviewed his monthly report. He asked Jimmy S. to explain the Spiderz Adult Softball organization to the board. Mike M. continued his report stating that the Independence Day Celebration event turned out well even though it had rained/stormed earlier that day. Hounds Town has sponsored the waste bags at Bark Springs Dog Park. Mike reviewed some sales and attendance numbers from his report. New operating hours were implemented at SplashTown and at the SplashPad once school started back.

Mike M. displayed photos from the following recent events:

- Watercraft Rentals @ Jefferson Springs Rec.Area
- Family Movie Night @ SOAC on August 4th
- Blue Raiders Athletics Family Fun Night Smyrna
- BBQ Festival on August 12

Council Update: Brian H. reviewed highlights from most the recent meeting. United Communications will be installing fiber out to Cedar Stone Park and Fire Station 6. A contract with Thomas & Hutton was approved to perform construction administration on the Cedar Stone Park Tennis and Pickleball Court Project.

Brian H. stated that Mayor Reed has expressed strong interest in an ice rink for several years. A true ice rink is extremely expensive to operate. While recently at a trade show, Brian H. ran across a synthetic material ice rink which seemed to fit the bill for Smyrna. It is built by putting 4' x 8' sheets together and the packages come with everything you need to set up ice skating in your community. The RFI is out now. He thinks it can be installed on the grounds of the Event Center and offer it to the public for use mid-November through mid-January. The synthetic material is more affordable than a true ice system. The board members seemed excited about the possibility of a community ice rink.

Other: Roundtable –

Ashley L. suggested that we establish a designated hour each month at the Gregory Mill Splashpad to accommodate the special needs population. Mike M. mentioned the daycare/camp group only designated time slot of 9am-11am Monday through Thursday. He will discuss the request with staff though.

The following Park Board members volunteered to be judges at the Halloween in the Park Costume Contests: Christina Treglia, Mark Hardy, Eli Victory, and Ashley Lester.

Brian H. and Charles K. gave an update on downtown streets, sidewalks, and parking areas.

Meeting adjourned at 6:25 pm.