

# SMYRNA PARKS AND RECREATION PARKS ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

## MINUTES OF MARCH 19, 2024

The monthly Smyrna Parks and Recreation Parks Advisory Board Meeting was held March 19, 2024, at Smyrna Outdoor Adventure Center, 100 Sam Ridley Parkway East, Smyrna, Tennessee. Chairman Clay Phillips called the meeting to order at 5:04pm.

**PRESENT** Fourteen people were present: Michael Potts; Eli Victory; Clay Phillips; Mark Hardy; Councilman H.G. Cole; Nicole Green; Mayor Mary Esther Reed; Christina Treglia; Mike Moss, Director; Jimmy Stitt, Assistant Director; and Kay Arnold, staff; Brian Hercules, Town Manager; Rex Gaither, Assistant Town Manager; Charles King, Town Engineer

**ABSENT** Molly Jennings and Ashley Lester

**SUMMARY** Prayer: Brian Hercules

Citizen's Comments: None

Review and Approval of Minutes of Previous Meetings: Mayor Reed motioned to approve the February 2024 minutes; Mark H. seconded. Minutes approved unanimously.

Old Business: Concerning Review of the 2023 Facility Rental Statistics, Mike displayed and discussed rental information on Shelters, Buildings, Splashpad at Gregory Mill, Ball field rentals (including tournaments), Funbrella, Pool Parties, Pool Admittance, Pool Memberships, Swim Lessons, Water Aerobics, SOAC visits, SOAC Program Participants, and SOAC Room Rentals.

Mike added that the department may go to All Day rentals, instead of half-day or all day, on the rental buildings next year, perhaps 9am - 9pm. We have already stopped allowing wedding-related events at the rental buildings as they were getting too elaborate for the space we offer.

Various questions from board members:

Q: How many SOAC memberships and what kinds are active now?  
What number of SOAC memberships are renewals?

A: **ACTIVE NEW MEMBERSHIPS (as of 3-24-2024)**

Family All-Inclusive = 24

Family = 2

Double All-Inclusive = 3

Double = 2  
**TOTAL NEW = 31**

**ACTIVE RENEWED MEMBERSHIPS (as of 3-24-2024)**

Family All-Inclusive = 48  
Family = 5  
Double All-Inclusive = 1  
Double = 3  
**TOTAL RENEWED = 57**

**ACTIVE MEMBERSHIPS TOTAL OVERALL = 88**

Q: How long do pool customers have to wait to get in if the pool is at capacity?

A: The Pool Capacity is 350; customers may have to wait 30 minutes to enter. June is typically the busiest month at the pool.

Q: Do Smyrna residents get priority booking time for pool parties?

A: Not at the current time but our software does have the ability to limit transactions to zip code 37167 for a period of time if we choose to do so.

New Business: Concerning Review of 2024-2025 Proposed Fee Schedule, Mike displayed and reviewed proposed new fees to be implemented. Proposed increases are very minimal for fiscal year 2024-2025. We proposed to raise the re-lining baseball/softball field fee to \$20 from \$10, and to raise the Paint Ball Tournament Field Rental Fee to \$750 from \$500 per day, per field. All the other fees to remain unchanged.

Council Member Cole asked if we ever keep deposits on rental facilities. Mike replied that we sometimes do if the renter breaks the rules or causes damage to the facility. There are surveillance cameras at Assembly Hall and the Train Depot that assists us in determining whether to retain a deposit or not.

Eli V. asked we had ever considered allowing the option of requesting a pitching mound at Cedar Stone Park when making online field reservations and collecting a security deposit for it. Mike replied that it is difficult to move the mounds and they are very heavy. He would not want a non-employee moving them but will speak with staff about the idea.

Concerning Review of 2024-2025 Capital Project Requests, Mike likes to inform the board members of the larger capital project requests that he submits each fiscal year:

- Park Asphalt, Sidewalk, and Trail Improvements, requested \$500,000
- Park Amenity Replacement, Phase III, requested \$50,000
- Sidewalk Design and Construction @ LVRP, requested \$72,000
- LVRP Concession Design, requested \$75,000
- LVRP Basketball Court Resurfacing, requested \$25,000

- Sports Light Improvements @ VolPark, requested \$10,000
- ADA Compliance and Facility Improvements, requested \$40,000
- Hilltop Rosenwald Park Court Fencing around basketball/pickleball, requested \$20,000
- Hilltop Rosenwald Park Basketball/Pickleball Court Resurfacing, requested \$50,000
- Todd Lane Field 3 Light Improvements, requested \$375,000
- Cedar Stone Park Phase II Design, requested \$80,000

Councilman Cole asked if we've finished all the capital project work in the current fiscal year. Mike replied most projects have been completed but we still have paving to finish, parking lot lighting at Rotary Soccer Park, and we are waiting on a vehicle to be delivered. Of course, the Cedar Stone Park grant project is on-going. Mike added the year goes by quickly.

Reports of Officers, Committees, or Staff: Mike reviewed upcoming events listed on the agenda. Additionally, he reminded everyone to attend the Ribbon Cutting event for the Mountain Bike Trail scheduled for Thursday, March 21<sup>st</sup>.

Director's Report: Mike reviewed his monthly report. He added that we have spent \$8,700 so far in repairs of the vandalism at Sharp Springs Shelter A restrooms. The police arrested two 20-year old males for the vandalism. We hope to collect some restitution for the damages.

Concerning the recent Greater Midwest Baseball Tournament recently held at Cedar Stone Park, Jimmy stated he saw vehicles from Virginia, Illinois, Arkansas, as well as local, of course. It was a 2-day tournament with 29 teams.

Mike stated that Miracle Recreation has been installing four new playgrounds at Sharp Springs Park this week.

Mayor Reed asked how league signup numbers are this year compared to last year. Mike replied they are similar to last year; however, the Soccer League has had several more registrations this year compared to last year.

Mayor Reed asked if slow-pitch softball is still played anywhere. Mike replied that he has not seen it anywhere close by. Murfreesboro, Columbia, and Lebanon have good programs.

Jimmy added that his staff has been working on capital projects all year. Most recently they finished installing lights at Sage Hill parking lot, as well as along the interior park road leading to Sage Hill Shelter. Mike added that we will be building a large storage building at Sharp Springs Park soon. The bid should be opened April 4<sup>th</sup>.

Council Update: Councilman Cole reviewed highlights from the most recent meeting. Brian spoke about some sidewalk work being done throughout town. The 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Boat Day will be held June 22<sup>nd</sup> at Jefferson Springs Recreation Area. Additionally, Molly Jennings and Christina Treglia were re-appointed to the Parks Advisory Board, effective April 1, 2024 for a 3-year term.

Other: Mike distributed copies of the department's 2024 Event Guide to board members.

Charles gave an update on road project status.

Brian asked Mike to update the board on the status of the outdoor skating rink. Mike explained that the rink will become a permanent rink instead of temporary. During the off season, the space will be used as a multi-purpose court; perhaps 3 pickleball courts. There will be a sidewalk and concrete pad built to make accessibility easier. Mayor Reed stated that she appreciates the desire to make it a permanent amenity and a chance to set it up correctly so that it will last for years to come. A bonus is that we'll have pickleball courts on this side of town during the off season.

Jimmy announced that Mike was the 2024 recipient of the Smyrna Good Scout Award and was recognized on March 14<sup>th</sup> at the Smyrna Good Scout Luncheon.

Mark stated that the town needs to locate future greenspace areas.

Clay reminded the board that the Parks Advisory Board Chair and Vice-Chair will be selected at April's meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 6:26pm.