

# SMYRNA PARKS AND RECREATION PARKS ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

## MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 20, 2024

The monthly Smyrna Parks and Recreation Parks Advisory Board Meeting was held February 20, 2024, at Smyrna Outdoor Adventure Center, 100 Sam Ridley Parkway East, Smyrna, Tennessee. Vice Chair Molly Jennings called the meeting to order at 5:03pm.

**PRESENT** Twelve people were present: Michael Potts; Ashley Lester; Mark Hardy; Molly Jennings; Mayor Mary Esther Reed; Nicole Green; Christina Treglia; Mike Moss, Director; Jimmy Stitt, Assistant Director; and Kay Arnold, staff; Brian Hercules, Town Manager; Charles King, Town Engineer

**ABSENT** Councilman H.G. Cole, Clay Phillips, and Eli Victory

**SUMMARY** Prayer: Mark Hardy

Citizen's Comments: None

Review and Approval of Minutes of Previous Meetings: Mark H. motioned to approve the November 2023 minutes; Michael P. seconded. Minutes approved unanimously.

Old Business: Concerning Review of Outdoor Skating Rink Operations and Statistics, Mike displayed a slide with the following information reflecting operations for the Skating Rink during the period of December 2023 – January 4, 2024: 1,336 Paid Users = \$7,872 revenue plus 140 Membership Users. Open 21 days total. The weather turned cold and ugly right after closing the rink for the season. Staff worked exceptionally hard to get the rink installed and operational by opening day on December 2<sup>nd</sup>. Some of the lifeguards from the 2023 pool season stayed on and worked the skating rink schedule. The rink helped attract some new visitors that had not previously visited the SOAC before.

Things to do differently next year:

- Themed Nights
- Movie Nights
- Decorate more festively
- Offer food and hot chocolate ourselves
- Trim up wooded area so the rink can be seen from Nolan Drive

Jimmy S. stated that the rink was fun for the users. It is crucial to keep the rink surface clean for a better user experience. Mike M. stated that the rink, or a portion of the rink, may be set up earlier in 2024 to allow for a TRPA Conference offsite visit in November.

Concerning Project Updates, Mike M. reviewed the following:

- Cedar Stone Tennis & Pickleball Courts – Bids were opened last week and came in between \$1.8-\$2.1 million. Thomas & Hutton is evaluating all bids at the current time. We have \$1.25 million budgeted this fiscal year (including grant funds). TDEC informed us that we can request additional grant funds for this project. More information to come at a later date.
- Cedar Stone Park Restroom Project – A photo was displayed showing construction progress so far. Should be able to open the building sometime in March.
- Playgrounds for Sharp Springs & Gregory Mill – Mike M. ordered four playgrounds last week for Shelter A, Leon Overstreet Shelter, EA Victory Shelter, and Sage Hill Shelter, with the biggest playground to be located at Shelter A, for ages 2-12, since it is closest to the nearest neighborhood. The playgrounds will be a great amenity for each of the shelters.

Mike displayed a concept drawing for the planned playground at Gregory Mill Park, to be located in the grassy area across the parking lot. The playground will have a mulch surface. Ashley L. asked if we ever use rubber mulch. Mike replied not yet; it is very expensive and messy. It has its place, maybe around the swings.

- Mountain Bike Trail (located at Sharp Springs) – Mike met with staff from Fire and Police Departments last week to look at the route. Signage will be installed along the trail soon; it is 2.5 miles long. The trail will probably open for public use in March. The trail crosses the paved greenway in one spot and will be closed to the public if it becomes very muddy. Brian H. stated that he would like to have a ribbon cutting for the Mountain Bike Trail.
- Sharp Springs Electrical and Lighting (at Sage Hill) – We have been working on this project for a while. We are running electricity to Sage Hill Shelter and installing light poles in the adjacent parking lot. We will do the same at EA Victory Shelter in the future.
- Baseball and Softball Infield Work – The Department partnered with Smyrna Baseball League and Smyrna Fastpitch League to jointly pay for infield mix.
- Rotary Soccer Park Playground and Parking Lot Lighting – The department has funds allocated in this year's budget to purchase equipment to light the parking lot, as well as the playground area. Mike recently noticed some excessively high electric bills at the new soccer annex lights. He met with a rep with MTE and they agreed to review the rate that we are assessed for the field lights.
- Lee Victory Recreation Park Entrance Sign Replacement – A new sign will be installed at the main park entrance, to replace the existing sign.
- Newsletter Update – The department transitioned to a digital format in January, which is interactive. We have also added an Employee Highlight each month.

New Business: Concerning Review of 2024 Calendar of Events, Mike distributed copies to the board members and reviewed. He noted that Boat Day's date was changed to June 22<sup>nd</sup>.

Concerning Review of 2024 Tournament Calendar, Mike distributed copies to the board members and reviewed. He mentioned that the February 16-18 Tournament at Cedar Stone Park had 18 teams, all from northern states.

Smyrna Baseball League joined Braves Country Baseball this year, a youth organization that provides league and all-star tournament play for kids 5-12 years old. Teams will have a chance to represent their local community in district, regional, and state tournaments. Smyrna is hosting two of their tournaments this year.

Concerning Reminder of Town Board applications, Mike stated that Molly Jennings' and Christina Treglia's Park Advisory Board terms will expire March 31, 2024. They can both apply for a second term if they like.

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

Director's Report: Mike M. reviewed his monthly report.

Tyler Comer acquired CPRP (Certified Parks and Recreation Professional) certification. He applied for and received a TRPEF (TN Recreation & Parks Educational Foundation) Scholarship to cover the test and certification fees.

Jimmy Stitt and Wes Bennett attended the Certified Playground Safety Inspector course and exam, held in Gallatin, February 12-14, 2024. Jimmy was previously certified but you have to re-certify every 3-4 years. They will receive their test results in 4-6 weeks. It is beneficial to have the knowledge at this level so that playgrounds throughout the park system can be inspected correctly several times each year.

The annual Volunteer of the Year Banquet, held February 16th, had a good attendance.

The shade canopy installed at Volunteer Park was recently completed. The Adult Softball League contributed \$2,000 toward the cost of the canopy.

Mark Hardy has been cleaning up and making improvements to the storage area at Todd Lane Baseball Complex.

Council Update: Mayor Reed reviewed highlights from most the recent meeting.

Other: Mike displayed photos from other recent events and projects.

Meeting adjourned at 5:56 pm.