

SMYRNA PARKS AND RECREATION PARKS ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

MINUTES OF OCTOBER 17, 2023

The monthly Smyrna Parks and Recreation Parks Advisory Board Meeting was held October 17, 2023, at Smyrna Outdoor Adventure Center, 100 Sam Ridley Parkway East, Smyrna, Tennessee. Chairman Clay Phillips called the meeting to order at 5:00pm.

PRESENT Fourteen people were present: Mark Hardy; Clay Phillips; Michael Potts; Eli Victory; Christina Treglia; Molly Jennings; Nicole Green; Ashley Lester; Mike Moss, Director; Jimmy Stitt, Assistant Director; Kay Arnold and Kirsten Studdard, staff; Brian Hercules, Town Manager; Charles King, Town Engineer

ABSENT Councilman H.G. Cole and Mayor Mary Esther Reed

SUMMARY Prayer: Brian Hercules

Citizen's Comments: None

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

Old Business: Concerning SOAC Selected as World's Greatest by Bloomberg TV, Mike M. informed the board that SOAC's segment was shown this past weekend (October 14th) on DirecTV and DISH Network, giving a great overview of the services that SOAC, and SplashTown, offers. Outdoor programming played a big part in the selection process. Mike M. stated that the department is proud to be a part of it. Brian H. added that it is a pretty big deal and that we own the rights to "World's Greatest" logo and can use it in our advertising. No other similar facility can be given this moniker.

Concerning Project Updates, Mike M. reviewed the following:

- Victory Shelter Parking Lot – built paved ADA accessible parking lot (26 parking spaces), crosswalk, and sidewalk near the shelter. A playground will be installed in the future
- Lee Victory Park Concession/Restroom Assessment – met with Barge Solutions to obtain their input on upgrades and improvements. We have ADA and age issues; the handicap stall in the restrooms does not meet current codes. We will install rollup doors on concession stand. It is in the Master Plan to make improvements at this park.

- Volunteer Park Shade Canopy – obtained two quotes, \$25,000 and \$13,000. We are trying to obtain a third quote.
- Cedar Stone Park Restroom Project – coming along
- LVRP Tennis Court Renovations – The new court paint was beautiful but there were low spots in the pavement that held water. The contractor will re-pave the courts to get it right and we hope to re-open soon.
- Soccer Park Parking Lot Lighting – There are currently no lights in the parking lot. We may purchase materials this year and install next year. Musco Lighting sent Mike M. a design.
- Playgrounds at Sharp Springs Park – We will have playgrounds at each shelter at Sharp Springs after they are all installed.
- Jimmy S. gave an update on running a water line to the Sage Hill Shelter.

New Business: Concerning Parks Department and League 5-10 Year Plan Development, Mike M. reviewed the following:

Smyrna Baseball League

- Batting cages at Todd Lane / Cedar Stone Park
- Update Todd Lane Field 3 Lighting
- Possibly turf Field 3 Infield
- Todd Lane – renovate or replace concession/restroom
- Additional parking north of Field 1 near Smyrna Primary

Smyrna Fastpitch League

- Batting cages between Field 3 & Field 4
- Roll down doors for concession windows
- Concession / Restroom Building assessment
- Renovate or replace Concession / Restroom Building
- Concrete access to storage building
- Update or replace scorer's stands
- Remove complex playground – replace with concrete and picnic tables

Smyrna Adult Softball League

- Shade Canopy – east side of concession building
- Update sports field lighting
- Pave south parking lot (gravel lot)

Smyrna Youth Football League

- Additional sidewalks
- Utility Vehicle

Stones River Futbol Club

- Breezeway Covering + shade structure north side of concession/restrooms

- Turf Fields 1-2
- Parking Lot Lighting - \$40k 23-24 budget
- Kickboard replacement
- Playground – changing of colors

Short-term:

Painting inside or meeting room

Doors, alternative, having door handles

A way to see fields from meeting room? Garage Door? Window? Another door on backside?

Basketball goal relocation

Directional field signs- At entrance of park, 1-5 ahead, 6-8 (people that don't know the park get confused) to the left

Storage Area

Safe stars program

Fix Golf carts

Long Term:

Buildings: covered space, safe places from weather, awnings on backside of buildings to provide shelter or shade, shade structure an option?

Is there a way to provide more shade around fields

Playground – near field 3

Moving of memorial trees

Discussion of partnering better with ABLES and providing a program for persons with disabilities

Walkway from field 1 to annex/entrance

Parking Lot lighting

Sidewalk on backside of main parking lot

Creating a “hard surface” on auxiliary field.

Additional flow of traffic, additional exit or entrance point.

Concerning Aquatics Presentation, Kirsten S. reviewed 2023 aquatic operations. The department has approximately 40 seasonal aquatic positions. Having a full staff this year was such an advantage over previous short-staffed seasons. Kirsten S. provided some fun activities for the aquatics staff on July 4th as well as held an end-of-season staff party. They had 180 saves this year, with the red drop slide producing 119 of them. Next year, she is looking to host morning rentals at the Splash Pad for kids of all abilities. The pool needs additional parking areas for patrons. Clay P. stated that he attended two pool parties this season and the staff did a great job at both events.

Reports of Officers, Committees, or Staff: Mike M. reviewed upcoming events listed on the agenda. He added that Halloween in the Park is coming up on the 28th and we have four Park Board members to serve as costume contest judges. November 11th will be the Veterans Day Ceremony at the Kuss Memorial. November's Park Board meeting will be held on the 16th, with the Holiday Dinner Meeting. Volunteer of the Year selections will be held that evening too. The Tree Lighting Ceremony is scheduled November 21, beginning at 6:00pm at the Depot District. Holiday decorations will be installed at Zama Park this year.

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

The two-night Fright Nights event, held October 13 & 14, was a great success, with 430 attendees.

The Car Show held on September 22nd filled up fast this year. The Depot Days event went well this year, with 120 vendors participating.

We recently incurred a tremendous amount of vandalism damage at the Lee Victory Recreation Park. They broke memorial bricks around the older playground and poured glue on some of the playground equipment. It is extremely disappointing to see this damage done to our parks.

We are still waiting on design approval from the LPRF grant agency before we can bid out the Tennis and Pickleball Court project.

We held a Movie in the Park event recently at Cedar Stone Park and had 100 people attend.

Mike M. reminded everyone to submit nominees for the Lifetime Service and Young Leader awards.

Council Update: Brian H. reviewed highlights from most the recent meeting.

"State of the Town" program was filmed yesterday at the Event Center and will be broadcast on Channel 3 soon.

There is new infrastructure going in all over town with lots of old water lines being replaced.

There is lots of growth potential going out Jefferson Pike to connect to Wilson County.

Other: None

Meeting adjourned at 6:22 pm.