

SMYRNA PARKS AND RECREATION PARKS ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 16, 2023

The monthly Smyrna Parks and Recreation Parks Advisory Board Meeting was held November 16, 2023, at Smyrna Event Center, 100 Sam Ridley Parkway East, Smyrna, Tennessee. The annual Holiday Dinner was held first, and then Chairman Clay Phillips called the meeting to order at 5:26pm.

PRESENT Thirteen people were present: Mark Hardy; Michael Potts; Ashley Lester; Eli Victory; Christina Treglia; Clay Phillips; Mayor Mary Esther Reed;; Nicole Green; Mike Moss, Director; Kay Arnold and Marty Smith, staff; Brian Hercules, Town Manager; Rex Gaither, Assistant Town Manager

ABSENT Councilman H.G. Cole, Molly Jennings, Jimmy Stitt

SUMMARY Prayer: Brian Hercules

Citizen's Comments: None

Review and Approval of Minutes of Previous Meetings: Mike M. stated that a correction should be made to the October 17, 2023 minutes to restate the number of participants that attended the 2-night Fright Nights event was 769. Mayor Reed motioned to approve the October 2023 minutes, with correction; Michael Potts seconded. Minutes approved unanimously.

Old Business: None

New Business: Concerning Report from Athletic Office, Mike M. began the discussion by stating that he invited Marty Smith, Recreation Program Supervisor, to attend tonight's meeting to report on the Athletic Office activities. Marty reviewed highlights of 2023 including the number of ballfield practice requests and the number of requested and scheduled tournaments. Marty reviewed 2024 tournament requests and a tentative tournament schedule. He reviewed some annual community events that he and his staff are coordinating, including the upcoming Lighting Ceremony to be held November 21, as well as the Volunteer of the Year Banquet, being held in February 2024. Marty gave updates on all the athletic leagues and the upcoming 2024 Flag Football League.

Mayor Reed asked if the Stewarts Creek Football Program had affected the Smyrna Youth Football League as far as player participation. Marty stated that he did not think the new

league affected Smyrna Youth Football, but it did lose some players. Mike M. added that the Stewart Creek people have expressed the desire to partner with the town on practice areas. Their program serves as a feeder program for school sports.

Marty stated the Smyrna Baseball League decided to join with new affiliation, “Braves Country Baseball”, allowing for expanded opportunities for rec ball players. All Star teams will compete against other teams in the organization from District, Region, and State level.

Marty added that the Adult Softball League has committed to match the \$500 Young Leader Scholarship award presented at the annual Volunteer of the Year Banquet.

The Athletics Office staff is currently busy preparing for the upcoming league season by collecting certificates of insurance from each league, performing background checks on coaches, league board members, umpires, and administrators, and renewing Annual User Agreements with each league.

Mike M. stated that the Athletics Office staff members are very busy this time of year. Eli V. and Clay P. both agreed the Marty and his staff does a great job.

Concerning Selection of the Kenneth “Coon” Victory Lifetime Service Award Recipient, Mike M. announced that we received seven nominee applications this year: John Black, Wayne Blair, Doug Caldwell, Mark Dye, Gene Hardiman, Marci Jameson, and Richard Thomas.

Mayor Reed stated that the criteria of the Lifetime Award may warrant discussion by the Park Board at some point, because currently the nomination criteria states that the nominee should be a “Smyrna Citizen”, meaning they have to live within the Smyrna corporate limits. Mike M. agreed that the nomination criteria should be reviewed and updated before next year’s nomination period. Mayor Reed added that as Smyrna grows, we may need to consider a nominee’s volunteer service impact, instead of only being a Smyrna resident.

Mark H. spoke about one of the nominees. Mike M. added to Mark H.’s comments.

Mike M. stated that Richard Thomas had already received the Lifetime Service Award in 2007. He would also like to honor Mr. Hardiman in some way since he is a 95 year old veteran.

Voting took place with the following results:

John Black	0 votes
Wayne Blair	0 votes
Doug Caldwell	1 vote
Mark Dye	4 votes
Gene Hardiman	1 vote
Marci Jameson	1 vote
Richard Thomas	0 votes

March Dye was selected as the 2023 Kenneth “Coon” Victory Lifetime Service Award recipient.

Concerning Selection of the Young Leader Award Recipient, Mike M. announced that we received three nominee applications this year: Lydia Hills, Benjamin Johnson, and Sherlyn Morales Navor.

Mark H. and Nicole G. spoke about one of the nominees.

Voting took place with the following results:

Lydia Hills	0 votes
Benjamin Johnson	2 votes
Sherlyn Morales Navor	5 votes

Sherlyn Morales Navor was selected as the 2023 Young Leader Award recipient.

Reports of Officers, Committees, or Staff: Mike M. reviewed upcoming events listed on the agenda. He added that the recent large soccer tournament made an impressive economic impact to the local economy.

Director's Report: Mike M. reviewed his monthly report. Halloween in the Park was a huge success with approximately 8,000 attendees and 72 vendors. The weather was warm. The Department made \$9,260 on the haunted hayride and vendor booth rentals. The costume contests had 171 participants and the SHSD Haunted Maze made \$6,798.

The departmental monthly newsletter is going to a digital format beginning in January. We will be adding some park facility and league articles.

The Ice Rink is currently under construction and is scheduled to open December 2nd. It will be a festive scene and environment.

The tennis courts at Lee Victory Recreation Park are not finished yet because of an unlevel surface. It problems have been fixed and we will probably have to have temporary paint down now and the vendor will apply the paint properly in the Spring.

The sleeves for the pickleball net poles were installed today at Hilltop Park.

We finally acquired TDEC's approval on the tennis/pickleball court design at Cedar Stone. We should be able to advertise the bid in January and finally get the project going. The cost of the project will be more than we first anticipated, but the cost of everything has increased since the grant was first submitted in 2020. We're excited to move forward on the project.

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

Other: Mike M. thanked the board members for their service to the community.

Meeting adjourned at 6:30pm.