

SMYRNA PARKS AND RECREATION PARKS ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

MINUTES OF AUGUST 20th, 2024

The monthly Smyrna Parks and Recreation Parks Advisory Board Meeting was held August 20th, 2024, at Smyrna Outdoor Adventure Center, Smyrna, Tennessee. Chairperson Clay Phillips called the meeting to order at 5:00 pm.

PRESENT Twelve people were present: Christina Treglia; Molly Jennings; Eli Victory; Nicole Green; Chairperson Clay Phillips; Michael Potts; Mark Hardy; Mike Moss, Director; Jimmy Stitt, Assistant Director; Christina Manus, staff; Rex Gaither, Assistant Town Manager; Charles Kings, Town Engineer

ABSENT Mayor Mary Esther Reed; Ashley Lester, Councilmember H.G. Cole

SUMMARY Prayer: Michael Potts

Citizen's Comments: None

Review and Approval of Minutes of Previous Meetings:

Molly Jennings motioned for approval of April's Park Advisory Board minutes, Eli Victory seconded the motion and all members approved.

Eli Victory motioned for approval of May's Park Advisory Board minutes, Molly Jennings seconded the motion and all members approved.

Mark Hardy motioned for approval of June's Park Advisory Board minutes, Michael Potts seconded the motion and all members approved.

Old Business:

Mike Moss discussed the Parks and Recreation Department's community building rental hours. Mike explained the current options for rentals included half-day and full day rentals. Mike discussed some issues with those policies and recommended that the department only allow full day rentals starting January 1st, 2025. There will be exceptions for Saturdays at the Train Depot after Farmers Market and the occasional HOA or league meeting. Mike also would like to change the time for rentals from 8 am – 10 pm to 9 am – 9 pm. Jimmy Stitt expressed this time change would help the maintenance staff by allowing for more time to clean in the morning and evening. Molly Jennings asked if we monitored the buildings at night to see if people leave on time or have alcohol. Mike said we do not currently have staff on-site, but he frequently checks in. We do have cameras in two of the buildings and frequently review the rentals. We have kept the cleaning deposit when rules were not followed. Mark Hardy stated that he rents often and is disappointed with way people have treated the properties. Mark noted how nice the chairs are at Hilltop Rosenwald. Nicole Green motioned to change the building rentals to full-day rentals from 9 am – 9 pm starting January 1, 2025, Chairperson

Clay Phillips seconded the motion, all approved.

Mike Moss introduced Michelle Nicholson and Mike Kraft from the Smyrna Outdoor Adventure Center to present to the board the 2024 summer camps and outdoor programming. Michelle and Mike presented each camp and its theme along with pictures. Camp themes were; Brickz and Blockz, Camp Hollywood, Hero Academy, Ocean Adventures, and Sports & Culture. The camps were held at the SOAC as well as several parks. The camps invited guest speakers and trainers within each camp's theme. The camps were a success. Next Michelle discussed the program Mobile Adventures and shared pictures to the group. The Mobile Adventures have become very popular with schools, seniors, and groups such as girl scouts. Michelle mentioned she introduced animals to over 200 girl scouts in one day. Michelle shared an example of the program by introducing "Lowry" the crested gecko as one of the Parks and Recreation animal ambassadors. She answered questions about Lowry and let the board touch him. Mike Moss thanked Michelle for all outreach and people she was sharing education with around the county. Mike also introduced Michelle as the new Administrative Assistant in the Parks office.

Next, Mike Kraft shared pictures and information about our year-round outdoor programming. He shared information about Archery Clubs, Disc Golf Clinics, Outdoor Movie Nights, Campfires and the new Mountain Bike Trail at Sharp Springs. Mike Kraft talked about the Paddle Adventures program and explained that this was the first year we were able to have an online rental system for renting kayaks, canoes, and paddle boards. This Paddle Adventure Program brought in twice as many rentals as last year and \$1,000 in revenue. Mike Kraft also took the boats to the lake at Jefferson Springs this summer and hosted onsite rentals. He continues to grow this program. Mike Moss thanked him for his presentation.

New Business:

Mike Moss shared a list of current Capital Project for the 2024-2025 fiscal year and the status of each project:

Basketball and pickleball court resurfacing at Hilltop Rosenwald Park is currently being bid out.

Pickleball courts at the SOAC have been constructed. These courts will be painted without needing a bid due to the cost being under \$25,000. Once they are painted, they will receive a more permanent sleeve pole netting. The staff is currently installing lights around the courts.

Cedar Stone tennis and pickleball court construction is underway. The trees have recently been removed and stone is being brought in.

Jimmy Stitt is working with Sessions Paving Company for paving updates for several park properties: 9th Avenue trailhead; the Huntley Drive cut through to the greenway; a new parking lot at Shelter A; and B at Sharp Springs adding 86 additional parking spots.

Rollins Excavating Company is working on creating sidewalks and bench pads for each playground at Sharp Springs.

The sidewalk and bench pads for the new playground have been completed at Gregory Mill Park. A new ADA ramp and sidewalk to the pickleball/ice skating rink were completed. A new fabricated canopy will be added at that exit soon.

Mike Moss discussed replacing the lighting at Todd Lane field 3 with new LED sports lighting.

Mike has reached out to a design firm to submit proposals for Rotary Soccer Park breezeway and trophy presentation area. The Stones River Futbol Club has agreed to pay \$75,000 towards the project.

Mike reviewed the upcoming SOAC exhibit, Thomas and Friends: Explore the Rails that is partially funded by the Rebecca and Jennings Jones Foundation

Mike discussed potential exhibits for the future. Mike is hoping to receive \$50,000 in grant funding from HCA Tri-Star for Wild Creativity, a new bilingual exhibit planned for next summer. Mike shared pictures of the future Wild Creativity exhibit and the bilingual Happy Brain exhibit.

Mark Hardy and Chairperson Clay Phillips expressed the need for holes to be filled in at Todd Lane. Both had parents and coaches contact them recently. Mike Moss said he would make sure they were taken care of. Eli Victory also noted the batter box on field 3 needs to be addressed as well.

Director's Report:

Mike Moss discussed additional items from the Director's Report

Mike shared a video and picture album from the 40th Anniversary of the Stones River Futbol Club celebration. The department is currently working on repairs to the multi-purpose field at Rotary Soccer Park.

Mike discussed the library's summer feeding program that served over 3,000 meals from the J.J. McWilliams Old Rock School shelter.

Mike mentioned we have several open positions right now such as the Aquatics Coordinator and the Programmer Specialist. Mike has been attending several interviews over the past few months.

Fall leagues have begun.

The SOAC is working hard on preparing for Fright Nights in early October.

Cedar Stone Park hosted a back pack give-away this month.

The staff is working to prepare for the 6K Top Gun Night Run coming up on September 13th. The pickleball courts at the SOAC have been well received. Eli Victory said he gets several questions about pickleball. Mike replied we will soon have 12 courts available in Smyrna.

Reports of Officers, Committees, or Staff: none

Council Update:

Mike Moss asked Rex Gaither, Assistant Town Manager and Charles King, Town Engineer to present Town Council updates.

Rex said the Town Council is working on new guidelines for developers.

Charles King discussed the Choice Lanes presentation that will be August 21st at the Smyrna Event Center.

Eli King asked Charles about the lot at the top of Enon Springs and Old Nashville Highway in reference to demolition of property that was left behind. Charles King said they are aware of it and working to contact the owners.

Mike asked the group is anyone would like to judge the costume contest at Halloween in the Park. Eli Victory, Mark Hardy, and Christina Treglia volunteered

Meeting adjourned at 6:19 pm.