

SMYRNA PARKS AND RECREATION PARKS ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 18th, 2025

The monthly Smyrna Parks and Recreation Parks Advisory Board Meeting was held on February 18, 2025 at Smyrna Event Center, Smyrna, Tennessee. Chairman Clay Phillips called the meeting to order at 5:06 pm.

PRESENT Ten people were present: Chairperson Clay Phillips, Vice Chairperson Christina Treglia; Molly Jennings; Megan Dietsch; Michael Potts; Councilmember H.G. Cole; Mark Hardy; Mike Moss; Charles King, Town Engineer; and Christina Manus, staff

ABSENT Mayor Mary Esther Reed, Eli Victory, Nicole Green

SUMMARY Prayer: Mark Hardy

Citizen's Comments: None

Review and Approval of Minutes of Previous Meetings:

Mark Hardy motioned to approve January's minutes, and Michael Potts seconded the motion. The board unanimously approved January's Parks Advisory Board Minutes.

Old Business:

Review of 2024 Rental Statistics

Mike Moss began by reviewing the rental statistics for all park facilities, dividing them into categories: buildings, shelters, ballfields, tournaments, aquatics, and SOAC party rooms. He compared the rental numbers across the years 2022, 2023, and 2024. Mike highlighted that the Assembly Hall and Train Depot are unavailable for rent during Farmers' Market and other downtown events. Additionally, he mentioned that Shelter 1 at Lee Victory Recreation Park and the shelter at Rotary Soccer Park cannot be rented during their athletic seasons.

Next, Mike examined the rental revenue for the years 2022, 2023, and 2024, categorizing the rentals similarly. He observed that in 2023, rental prices for shelters, ballfields, and buildings increased.

Councilman Cole inquired if Mike was still interested in having a corporate shelter in the parks system. Mike responded that he does believe we need a corporate rental, but due to popularity of Lee Victory Recreation Park, he probably would not want it there unless the park was expanded. He thinks Enon Springs practice field area or between the skate center and the Event Center would be good locations. The Enon Springs location could be used as a good location for Farmer's Market whereas the location at the Event Center would be great for summer camps use and large events at the Event Center. Councilman Cole mentioned the Sam Davis land would have been a good place. He asked if the Farmers' Market group liked using Gregory Mill Park in

the fall months. Mike said that they actually really like the area out there, but it wouldn't work in the summer due to the splashpad parking.

Mike discussed the aquatic party rental options and mentioned that we are adding an additional day each week for Private/Semi-Private SplashTown pool parties. He also noted an increase in tournament requests at Cedar Stone. Councilman Cole inquired whether we had received any backlash after raising prices in 2023. Mike responded that we did not encounter much negative feedback. In fact, most renters are pleased to find a location within our price range.

Mark Hardy stated that his family uses the community buildings and that his family appreciates the Town offering these facilities.

New Business:

Parks and Recreation Spring Operations Update

Mike begin with sharing some recent staff training:

SOAC Staff partnered with the Hope Clinic for Autism Sensitivity Training

TN Turfgrass Association Pesticides Class/Certification – Wesley Bennett

CPR recertification – all staff

Jimmy Stitt is attending the TRPA Director's Summit at Henry Horton State Park

Athletic and Maintenance School – 7 staff members

Aquatics Facility Operator and lifeguard Training Association Certifications – Claire Settle

Mike reviewed the current operations for Maintenance, Athletics/Aquatics, Administration, and the Smyrna Outdoor Adventure Center (SOAC).

Councilman Cole asked about the timeline for the installation of banners around town. Mike responded that the banners are scheduled to be installed next week, weather permitting.

Recreation League Fiscal Health

Mike provided a brief overview of the current financial statements for the athletic leagues. He noted that all the leagues are in good financial shape and have sufficient funds to continue partnering with the town for improvements to the parks. He mentioned the Stones River Futbol Club has offered to cover the costs for replacing fixtures such as toilets, sinks, and hardware, provided that the installation can be arranged. The maintenance division is currently obtaining quotes and scheduling the replacements. Additionally, the Smyrna Fastpitch League plans to assist with the purchase of batting cages for the park. The Smyrna Football League recently acquired a Gator and has offered its use to the maintenance division. Mike spoke about The Smyrna Baseball League having a subcommittee within their league just for finances. Mark Hardy reiterated that having multiple people controlling the finances seems to work really well.

Director's Report:

Mike displayed and reviewed the Director's Report

Mike stated that he has asked Murfreesboro Parks and Recreation to attend the March meeting.

Council Update:

Councilman Cole reviewed items that were on the consent agenda such as The Annual Boat Day, Poplarwood and Seminary traffic road improvements, water storage tank painting, and discussion of restricting some neon lighting in windows. Councilman Cole also spoke of the public hearing to so have special institute facilities be included in heavy industrial zones.

Reports of Officers, Committees, or Staff – Round Table Discussion

Mike invited the board to the Volunteer of the Year Dinner and mentioned that he would reserve a table for them.

The Smyrna Adult Softball League and GO KICKBALL will be offering adult kickball at Volunteer Park this season on Wednesday nights.

Mike inquired if there were any topics the board would like to discuss.

Councilman Cole asked Christina Treglia, who works for the State of Tennessee, whether there are fewer grants available for greenways and trails compared to 15 years ago. Christina responded that while some grants have expired, there is legislation that mandates federal funding to collaborate with states on providing trails. Additionally, there are funds related to mobility projects.

Charles King announced that there will be road closures on Washington Street from Lowry due to a pedestrian crossing over the railroad tracks. The road should be open on some evenings and weekends. Charles will keep Mike updated on any closures.

Councilman Cole motioned to end the meeting at 6:07 pm and Charles King seconded.