

# SMYRNA PARKS AND RECREATION PARKS ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

## MINUTES OF MAY 20<sup>th</sup>, 2025

The monthly Smyrna Parks and Recreation Parks Advisory Board Meeting was held on May 20<sup>th</sup>, 2025 at the Smyrna Outdoor Adventure Center, Smyrna, Tennessee. Chairperson Christina Treglia, Director Mike Moss called the meeting to order at 5:23 pm.

**PRESENT** Eleven people were present: Michael Potts; Megan Dietsch, Molly Jennings; Tom Sage; Christina Treglia; Nicole Green; Mark Hardy; Mayor Mary Esther Reed; Mike Moss, Director; Jimmy Stitt, Assistant Director; Marty Smith and Christina Manus, staff

**ABSENT** Dalton Hidalgo and Councilmember H.G. Cole

## SUMMARY

Citizen's Comments: None

### Review and Approval of Minutes of Previous Meetings:

Mayor Reed motioned to approve the April Park Advisory Board minutes. Vice-Chairperson Molly Jennings seconded the motion.

### Old Business:

#### *Ribbon Cutting and Grand Opening of the Happy Brain exhibit – sponsored by the HCA Healthcare Foundation*

Mike Moss thanked the board for attending the ribbon-cutting ceremony and requested their feedback. Mayor Reed expressed appreciation for the exhibit's bilingual features, highlighting how it aligns with the diversity of our community. She also suggested that board members sign a card to send to HCA Healthcare in recognition of their sponsorship. Since the Foundation typically does not support municipalities, additional effort was needed to facilitate this sponsorship, and we are grateful for their support.

The mayor asked when we would be able to ask for another sponsorship. Mike would like to ask HCA Healthcare for a yearly partnership. Vice-Chairperson, Molly inquired if they have some health-related exhibits that we would target. Mike elaborated on a few exhibits for rent that may interest HCA.

### New Business:

#### *Cedar Stone Park Tennis and Pickleball Court Project Update*

Mike mentioned that this project has been challenging due to the land's elevation. Currently, the contractors are using leveling patch to ensure that the courts do not retain standing water. They have installed all the ADA-accessible bleachers, and the lights are operational. Additionally, sleeves for the netting poles have been installed.

Mike stated the courts are going to be highly used by the public and groups. The Pickleball League will use the courts on a regular basis, while the Smyrna Tennis League will stay at Lee Victory Recreation Park for the time being. We anticipate receiving requests from schools, Rally Cats (a youth Tennis program), tournament request, and personal training coaches.

Mike will not install windscreens initially but plans to start adding them between the pickleball and tennis courts. He also wants to install a small shelter in that area in the future, as the restrooms are already in place. The contractors are scheduled to paint during the week of June 7th. Once the painting is completed, we can request the final inspection. Mayor Reed asked if we could create social media posts using the pictures from the presentation to provide the public with an update.

#### Director's Report:

Mike informed the board that over 300 people attended the 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Kid's Safety Day. Parks staff attended the Ribbon Cutting for the Storybook Trail at the Smyrna Library. The Parks Department partnered with United Way and the Governor's Early Literacy Foundation to install 19 metal posts along the trail at J.J. Mc Williams Old Rock School Park which displays an interactive story for the community to enjoy as they walk around the library. These storyboards can be changed routinely. The Ribbon Cutting was a success with approximately 100 attendees.

Mike provided an update on the upcoming summer programs, highlighting that the SOAC summer camp is nearly at full capacity. He also informed the board about the MXSL Paintball Tournament scheduled to take place at Sharp Springs Park. This year, the tournament will utilize three fields over the course of three days and will feature 68 teams. The organizers pay \$3,600 for the tournament, which attracts participants from all over the country to Smyrna.

The recent Kids to Park Day was a success, with 170 attendees. We believe that social media played a significant role in attracting a larger crowd. We shared pictures of the kids being sprayed with fire hoses, and these action shots have had a greater impact than the flyers we distributed. We plan to continue our marketing efforts using this approach.

Independence Day is fast approaching with 40 vendors currently registered. Our goal is 55 spread between the park and the SOAC parking lot.

Mike informed the board that the Smyrna Golf Course is currently undergoing several improvements. The interior has been painted, new carpeting has been installed, a large screen television has been added to the patio, and the front hedges have been trimmed. Mike's goal is to continue to make the 300 acres on Sam Ridley Parkway an area that both the Town and its citizens can be proud of. Mike is working on making the SOAC and Lee Victory Recreation Park one campus with connectivity for outdoor and indoor recreation. Lastly, the Spring Fling will be playing ten games at Cedar Stone Park this week and we are looking forward to hosting this county event.

Mayor Reed inquired about adding US flags to Sam Ridley during patriotic holidays, similar to the Healing Fields in Murfreesboro. Mike and staff will look into adding this to future events.

#### Communications:

Mike highlighted some upcoming events:

Splash Pad at Gregory Mill Park is now open.

Splashtown opens May 24<sup>th</sup>

Food Truck Friday and Movie Night is on June 6<sup>th</sup>

The Great TN Airshow is approaching on the weekend of June 7<sup>th</sup>

Simply Smyrna is June 14<sup>th</sup>

Juneteenth and Boat Day will both take place on June 21<sup>st</sup>, but at different times of the day

### Council Update:

The Council approved subleasing agriculture land to Greg Rhodes for farming at Sharp Springs Natural Area.

Mayor Reed discussed the impact fees collected from construction projects and how these funds help the town finance parks and road improvements. She also provided an update to the board on various road projects in the area. This time of year, offers the best conditions for paving. Although the construction may appear overwhelming, residents will appreciate the improved roads once the work is completed.

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

Mark Hardy inquired about Phase II of Cedar Stone, specifically asking if it would be possible to include a walk-in freezer in the concession plans. Mike responded that while it is not part of the current specifications, he would look into the feasibility of adding it. He also mentioned that the league has allocated some funds for improvements at Cedar Stone, highlighting the need for an additional entrance and exit to the park, as well as a maintenance shop. Additionally, there are discussions about installing sidewalks connecting the park to nearby neighborhoods.

Jimmy Stitt expressed his gratitude, on behalf of himself and the Parks Department, for the recent compensation study. He noted that he is now receiving highly qualified candidates for open positions, which he attributes to the competitive pay.

Jimmy also thanked some dedicated staff members who recently volunteered to return back to work at 10pm, after evening games to prep fields until the early morning hours for tournament play. Mike also mentioned the appreciation he has for his team members who work long hours and events and attend functions after hours in support of the town.

Tom Sage mentioned that in most towns, games are canceled when it rains because the fields become unplayable. However, Smyrna is recognized for its staff's dedication to preparing the fields, ensuring that kids have the opportunity to play.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:31 PM