

# SMYRNA PARKS AND RECREATION PARKS ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

## MINUTES OF OCTOBER 15<sup>TH</sup>, 2024

The monthly Smyrna Parks and Recreation Parks Advisory Board Meeting was held on October 15th, 2024, at Smyrna Outdoor Adventure Center, Smyrna, Tennessee. Chairperson Clay Phillips called the meeting to order at 5:01 pm.

**PRESENT** Fourteen people were present: Christina Treglia; Molly Jennings; Nicole Green; Megan Dietsch; Michael Potts; Councilmember H.G. Cole; Chairperson Clay Phillips; Mark Hardy; Mike Moss, Director; Jimmy Stitt, Assistant Director; Christina Manus, staff; Heather Amos, staff; Charles Kings, Town Engineer; and David Santucci, Town Manager

**ABSENT** Mayor Mary Esther Reed

**SUMMARY** Prayer: Mark Hardy

Citizen's Comments: None

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

Molly Jennings motioned to approve September's minutes, and Michael Potts seconded the motion. The board unanimously approved September's Park Advisory Board Minutes.

Mike Moss introduced Heather Amos, the newest Athletic Event Coordinator, to the Park Board. Heather has worked for the Parks Department on the southside for just under a year. Heather spoke briefly about herself and her background as a collegiate softball coach.

Mike then introduced Megan Dietsch as the newest park board member. Megan spoke about previously living in Smyrna before moving to Ohio and now returning to Smyrna. Megan is excited to get more involved in the community.

Megan will be taking Ashley Sanders Lester's place on the board.

Mike also welcomed and introduced the new Town Manager, David Santucci. Mr. Santucci came from Deerfield Beach, Florida. He is excited to be in Smyrna and ready to get started. He has three daughters and has been involved in travel soccer, so he has spent a lot of time in parks.

### Old Business:

Discussion of Breezeway and Shade Concept Plan for Rotary Soccer Park.

Mike shared the design concept from Raegan and Smith. The park and original concession stand was built in 1997. In the early 2000s, an additional concession stand was added. The steel-framed breezeway with a metal roof will connect these two concession stands, creating a centerpiece for the park. The breezeway will have lighting under it, creating shade and

protection from the elements. The concrete buildings in the park will be painted to match the new breezeway. A fabric shade system will be installed over the west side of the picnic table area.

The Stones River Futball Club has requested better internet service. Mike will meet the Town's Building and Grounds Department and the IT Department to see what upgrades can be done to improve internet service. Mike asked if there were any comments or questions. Molly Jennings liked the concept plan and the Town logo placement on the breezeway. Molly asked if we would consider putting a shade system on both sides of the concession area picnic tables. Mike said that would be considered, but we might want to leave some in the sun for chilly days. David Santucci asked if we have a standard roof color for the park's buildings. Mike replied that we used have green at most locations, but we are steering more toward a slate-neutral color that does not fade. David also asked if we will inquire about drainage from the new breezeway to the existing building's drainage. Mike replied that he would look into the drainage and make sure that would not be an issue. Mike reminded the board that the Smyrna Rotary Club would fund this project for up to \$75,000, and the town would fund the rest of the project.

Discussion of Synthetic Turf Option at Rotary Soccer Park Fields 1 and 2.

Mike presented to the board the idea of converting two existing Rotary Soccer Park soccer field to artificial turf. There is not a timeline for this project, it is something we may need to start planning due to the number of requests we are receiving. We receive several requests for travel teams and individuals to have a rentable field option. Currently, the department reserves the fields for mostly SRFC. In the Park's Master Plan, a championship field is planned. The artificial turf field would allow for more tournament options, winter play, and practices. Mike stated there may be grant opportunities for the upgrade. Mike asked Christina Treglia if there was a cap on the LPRF grant cycle and she replied there is not. Jimmy Stitt explained to the board that the league and staff have worked well together this year to revamp the field layout. They have been using the same layout for many years. The league plays 7 days a week, 26 fields to line every week, and 2,000 kids in the league play weekly. This amount of field usage makes field rotation and overseeding a challenge. Councilmember Cole inquired about the status of the annex fields. Jimmy replied they are in good shape. Jimmy also stated that the paint robot has helped with labor hours. It used to take 3-6 staff members a week to line fields, and now the robot can line the fields in 2-3 days.

#### New Business:

Discussion of Jefferson Springs Recreation Area potential outgrant.

Mike displayed pictures of the park and passed out a current inventory document of Jefferson Springs. He stated that he has been approached again by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to have the Town of Smyrna assume responsibility for the park. Mike stated that the park approximately 50 acres on the lake. Mike discussed some pros and cons.

Pros are a large shelter, greenway connection, the Town would have a stronger maintenance program, and it would increase security of the area. The Parks Department would have watercraft access, summer camp opportunities, and a possible playground.

The cons were the need for additional staff, an increase in maintenance costs, mowing labor and costs, and the need to renovate the restrooms and add lighting. Two other factors to consider are the increased liability of water danger and the fact that the citizens are already

using it as is under the Corps.

Mike will have to contact the Corps to see what sewer options there would be for restroom renovations. Mike asked the board for their opinions. Mark Hardy likes that area. Jimmy noted it would need more parking and additional lighting. Nicole Green uses that area and would like to see the improvements. Christina Treglia mentioned it may be that the Corps. may be approaching Mike because their next option would be to lease out the park to a private operating group. This may be a chance to secure it for citizens to use without paying entry fees. Mike mentioned that this park is open all night, and that would be different than what we maintain now. We would need to work with the Smyrna Police Department to ensure safety. Michael Potts stated that if we had playgrounds and more family-friendly activities, it would create more eyes on the park and possibly run out some undesirable activities that the boat ramp area often creates. Mike stated that if we agreed to outgrant this property, we would have to obtain a capital improvement and staffing budget. He would want a superintendent over that park and Sharp Springs Natural Area.

#### Discussion of Synthetic Ice Rink Operational Plan – season II

Mike displayed and passed out the summary of operations for the upcoming season. It will open the Saturday following Thanksgiving and will close January 5<sup>th</sup>. It will be open on weekends only until school's winter break and then open Tuesday – Sunday. The rink will close at 8 pm and cost \$7 for adults and \$5 for children. We hope to offer more programming this season.

TRPA (Tennessee Recreation and Parks Association) will be touring the rink along with the SOAC and Cedar Stone Park on November 6<sup>th</sup>.

#### Director's Report:

Athletics is accepting Lifetime Service and Youth Leader Nominations for the Volunteer of the Year Banquet. We will be presenting those nominations to the board next month for selection. Pickleball courts are completed at the SOAC.

The car show was a success despite having to postpone the event due to weather the week before. Mike discussed the status of the pickleball and tennis court construction at Cedar Stone. On the 16th, there is a TDEC 50% inspection.

Sharp Springs paving is completed, adding 78 parking spaces. Mike thanked Jimmy Stitt for his work on this project.

The Top Gun Night Run was a success with 700+ entries.

Fright Nights was a success with 700+ participants. Mike shared pictures and videos of the event and expressed his admiration for the SOAC staff's success.

The fall break Field Day program had 90 participants. Mike thanked SOAC staff member Zach Darby and staff for the program's success.

Mike discussed the TN Blueways Strategic Master Plan upcoming meeting and shared some information about the program with the board.

Eli Victory took a moment to express gratitude for Sharp Springs Natural Area. He visited the park last weekend and noted the number of people fishing on the piers, walking, playing in a disc golf tournament, and playing volleyball. He stated that the park looked so good and was impressed with the number of people using it.

Reports of Officers, Committees, or Staff: none

Council Update:

Councilmember Cole highlighted the recent Town Council Meeting. Areas of interest were:  
New carpet at the Golf Course.

Approval of resurfacing of the basketball/pickleball courts at Hilltop-Rosenwald Park and the basketball courts at Lee Victory Recreation Park.

Rezoning at Rocky Fork and 5 acres on Chicken Pike.

Approval of Old Nashville Highway and Sam Ridley improvements with TDOT.

The meeting adjourned at 6:20 pm.