

SMYRNA PARKS AND RECREATION PARKS ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

MINUTES OF APRIL 16, 2024

The monthly Smyrna Parks and Recreation Parks Advisory Board Meeting was held April 16, 2024, at Smyrna Outdoor Adventure Center, Smyrna, Tennessee. Chairman Carl Phillips called the meeting to order at 5:01 pm.

PRESENT Fifteen people were present: Eli Victory; Councilmember H. G. Cole; Mayor Mary Esther Reed; Mark Hardy; Christina Treglia; Clay Phillips; Ashely Lester; Michael Potts; Mike Moss, Director; Jimmy Stitt, Assistant Director; Christina Manus, Kay Arnold, and Courtney Morgan, staff; Charles King, Town Engineer; Rex Gaither, Assistant Town Manager

ABSENT Molly Jennings, Nichol Green

SUMMARY Prayer: Michael Potts

Citizen's Comments: None

Review and Approval of Minutes of Previous Meetings: Mark Hardy moved to approve March's minutes; Christina Treglia seconded. Minutes approved unanimously.

Old Business: Mike Moss introduced Christina Manus to the Park Board and announced Kay Arnold's retirement this summer.

Mike Moss discussed recent operational updates from each Parks and Recreation Manager starting with Maintenance Division. Paving at Paul Johns and Gregory Mill Park are underway. Lee Victory Recreation Park sidewalk paving near the football fields is complete. Four playgrounds were installed at Sharp Springs Natural Area Park in March. Now all 5 shelters at Sharp Springs have playgrounds near them. The Mountain Bike Trail Ribbon Cutting Ceremony was held March 21st. Mike Moss thanked all the people that attended. The outdoor skating rink base at the SOAC is currently being formed. Jimmy Stitt is almost finished with Leadership Rutherford with only 2 more months to complete. Jimmy Stitt noted on his operation report that vandalism is still an issue.

Mike Moss reviewed the Athletic Division operation report sharing with the board upcoming events: Live on the Lawn at Lee Victory Recreation Park, Movie in the Park at Rotary Soccer Park, Independence Day Celebration, BBQ Fest, and 6K Night Run. Mike spoke about a USTA Tennis Program that is offered at Lee Victory Recreation Park. The athletics' report also covered aquatics updates. The pool cover is off and the pool is being cleaned. We will have about 40 seasonal staff hired by summer and Kirsten Studdard has been recertified as a

Lifeguard Instructor and Certifier.

Mike Moss reviewed the SOAC operational updates. The SOAC has had 1,568 visitors this year. They have 59 party rentals booked and are hosting *Sound Start* in the Lecture Hall weekly. They have had several field trips this month and have more in April. The SOAC will be providing a speaker presentation for a Kuss Memorial field trip coming up. The SOAC will be receiving the new exhibit “Life on the Edge” this week. Courtney Morgan has been working on partnerships with Greg Upham, Rutherford Collegiate Prep, and the Smyrna Fire Department for SOAC programs.

Mike Moss, Jimmy Stitt, Courtney Morgan, and Marty Smith attended TRPA’s Central District Workshop in Bellevue at the Ford Ice Center. Mike stated that Courtney presented a class about the SOAC, summer camps, and programming. Mike expressed that she “knocked it out of the Park”. He spoke about Chattanooga hosting a class he enjoyed where they spoke about their branding “Outdoor Chattanooga”

Jimmy Stitt reviewed some interesting information about the Ice Center’s operations. Jimmy explained the Predators partnership with Metro Parks and Ford to provide ice rinks to the general public and the Nashville Predators. The rinks host figure skating lessons, hockey lessons, high school teams, and club hockey teams. The center has 2 electric Zambonis, a dehumidification system, and chillers for the rink. Jimmy also spoke about how they produce the logos in the middle of the ice.

Mike reported that Hendersonville also presented a class about their programs. They spoke about their Touch a Truck program and intergenerational programs.

New Business:

Clay Phillips asked the board members for Chair nominations. Councilman Cole nominated Clay Phillips, Mayor Reed seconded, and Clay Phillips was nominated for Chair unanimously. Clay followed up with asking for Vice-Chair nominations. Mayor Reed nominated Christina Treglia, and Michael Potts seconded. The board approved unanimously.

Mike Moss introduced the manager of the Smyrna Outdoor Adventure Center, Courtney Morgan to discuss a program the SOAC will be hosting in September 2024. Courtney spoke about being approached by a member of the Asian community to have an Asian Pacific Heritage Day. September 14th was chosen partly due to being in-between exhibits at that time and being able to piggy back off some of the park amenities from the Kuss Night Run the evening before. This event will have lots of elements such as fashion show, Indonesia dance performance, martial arts demonstration, Chinese fashion show, food and craft vendors, and a kids drawing competition. The event will be held from 10 am – 3 pm. Mayor Reed asked if there would be a structure in place if we were to be approached by other groups for heritage days. She mentioned we may want to speak with Town Attorney Jeff Peach. Courtney Morgan stated that she was looking at designating a different group each year so that we can accommodate several different groups. Mike will reach out to Jeff Peach. The target crowd would be a 100 for this event.

Reports of Officers, Committees, or Staff:

Mike Moss highlighted some upcoming events on the agenda. Earth Day, Disc Golf Tournament, Farmer’s Market begins, Kids to Park Day, MSXL Paintball Tournament, Splash Pad at Gregory Mill Park opening, and the SplashTown swimming pool opening.

Director's Report:

The leagues have all started and Stones River Futbol Club is seeing more kids than ever before. The league is working on the traffic flow in the park on Saturdays. TRPA Conference will be held in November and Parks staff has been attending committee meetings in Murfreesboro to assist with hosting the 2024 TRPA conference.

Wesley Bennett and Jimmy Stitt recently passed the Certified Playground Safety Inspector Course.

Cedar Stone Park restroom has been hydroseeded.

SOAC summer camps have almost filled up. Private Pool Parties are already booked up for the season.

The Town hosted an Earth Day clean-up at Lee Victory Recreation Park and Maplevue Cemetery. The SOAC will be partnering with Rutherford County in Murfreesboro this weekend for a county-wide Earth Day event. LifePoint Church will be providing 70 volunteers on Saturday the 20th to help clean in Smyrna parks. On Monday the 22nd Bridgestone will be providing 50 employees to help clean parks.

StoneCrest and the Town will be hosting the annual Kids Safety Day on May 4th. They are providing 500 helmets this year.

Council Update:

Councilman Cole summarized the consent agenda items from the last Council Meeting. Tennis/Pickleball Court construction has been awarded to Beech Construction. Councilman Cole spoke about seeking easements for Rock Springs Road for a sidewalk project. This project will start on Division Street and head towards Mason Tucker and then eventually to Old Nashville Highway.

Mayor Reed announced that Brian Hercules retired over the weekend and that Jeff Peach would be interim Town Manager until the next Council Meeting when a permanent interim will be discussed. The council will discuss the hiring process for a new Town Manager.

Mike Moss made an announcement about refreshment dues.

Mike Moss will be meeting with Kevin Rigsby from Planning and Zoning, Tom Rose from Public Works and Charles King, Town Engineer, soon to discuss the pedestrian plan for the Town of Smyrna.

Mike asked the board if they would like to have an off-site meeting next month at the Train Depot or Cedar Stone. The board agreed upon the Train Depot.

Meeting adjourned at 5:49 pm.