

SMYRNA PARKS AND RECREATION PARKS ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

MINUTES OF JUNE 18, 2024

The monthly Smyrna Parks and Recreation Parks Advisory Board Meeting was held June 18 2024, at Smyrna Outdoor Adventure Center, Smyrna, Tennessee. Vice Chairwoman Christina Treglia called the meeting to order at 5:13 pm.

PRESENT Nine people were present: Councilman H. G. Cole; Mayor Mary Esther Reed; Christina Treglia; Mike Moss, Director; Molly Jennings; Eli Victory; Christina Manus and Kay Arnold, staff; Rex Gaither, Assistant Town Manager

ABSENT Nichol Green, Mark Hardy, Ashley Lester, Michael Potts, Clay Phillips, and Jimmy Stitt

SUMMARY Prayer: Molly Jennings

Citizen's Comments: None

Review and Approval of Minutes of Previous Meetings:

There was not a quorum. May and June Minutes will need to be approved at the August 20th meeting.

Old Business:

Mike Moss listed the approved Capital Projects for fiscal year 2024 - 2025. Some of these projects are continuing projects such as asphalt/paving, adding sidewalks, and the Cedar Stone Park tennis and pickleball court project. Mike also discussed new projects: Todd Lane field 3 light improvements, the design of Lee Victory Recreation Park softball concession stand renovation including ADA compliance, Lee Victory Recreation Park basketball court resurfacing as well as Hilltop Park basketball and pickleball court resurfacing and fencing.

Eli Victory asked if the light project at Todd Lane field 3 would include the capability to turn the lights on and off remotely. Mike replied yes, it will be the same technology as the lights installed at Cedar Stone Community Park.

Rex Gaither stated that these capital projects are funded by impact fees. He thanked the council for enacting those fees years ago to benefit the community. Mike added that these fees can also fund the purchase of land for park development.

Mayor Reed asked Mike if the department was seeing a difference in crime in the parks. Mike replied that he did not have an exact number, but we have been encountering mostly car break-ins and recently illegal dumping.

Councilman Cole asked if the department was seeing more vandalism in the parks. Mike replied that some parks were still combating vandalism usually to restroom facilities. Mike stated that shelter A at Sharp Springs received \$9,661 worth of vandalism earlier this year. Mayor Reed asked if these perpetrators will be prosecuted. Mike replied that they were caught very quickly with the help of the LPR cameras. The mayor stated that the LPR cameras are making a difference. Mike discussed wanting the blue light camera systems in the park system in the future.

Mike presented a list of *Criteria for New or Additional Service Providers*. Mike discussed this in the May meeting as well. Mike is often approached by groups, teams, and organizations that are not associated with the Smyrna athletic leagues wanting to use the game fields. Mike would like to adopt some of these criteria ideas into policy. He asked the board to please read through the *Criteria for New or Additional Service Providers* document and provide input. Mike presented some background and history on our current user agreements and how we define user rules and expectations. Recently, the department has seen an increase in Rotary Soccer Park soccer field requests and discussed the need to keep the fields from being overly used.

Councilman Cole inquired about the Stewarts Creek Football League who had also approached the department in the past wanting to use the Lee Victory Recreation Park football fields. Mike stated that they were doing well without us. Eli stated that the league will be losing their use of LifePoint Church fields and may be reaching out to use now.

Councilman Cole reviewed the criteria and felt some of these may be arbitrary. Mayor Reed noted that we wouldn't want to box ourselves into a criteria list that would hinder us from being able to turn down a request. Molly Jennings asked if our leagues are over-flowing? If there is even enough room to accommodate teams from other towns? Mike stated that soccer is over flowing, but the rest of the leagues have room for more players.

Mayor Reed inquired as to if the leagues looked into the number of kids using the town of Smyrna leagues from other towns and if there is enough space for Smyrna kids to participate. Mike said we do not currently require any proof of residency, but he has considered having the first week of sign-ups be for Smyrna citizens only. The board agreed that Smyrna children should be able to participate in the Smyrna leagues over children from other towns. The mayor also asked if we were being approached a lot by other leagues. Mike stated it is mostly individual teams that are requesting field use. Mike discussed the girl's slow-pitch league transitioning into the fastpitch league. The mayor suggested the Park Advisory Board be emailed the Criteria document so they can have some time to think about it. Councilman Cole discussed about the urban growth boundary and how we approach those participants. Mike stated that the players today switch teams so often that keeping up with team rosters is not practical.

Mike Moss presented a slide on the growth areas and properties. Mike showed the board a list of current Park properties with acreage. He also showed a map of some large existing properties. The land is dwindling away and the Parks Master Plan calls for more neighborhood and community parks. Mike asked the board to be on the look out for land and reminded them the city can also take land in lieu of impact fees when developing property.

Director's Report:

This year's Boat Day will be held on June 22nd. Smyrna and Murfreesboro are partnering for the event this year.

Session Paving did a great job completing the paving of the ice rink / pickleball courts at the Event Center.

Simply Smyrna went well this year. Eli stated the kid's area was great.

The Top Gun Night Run is off to a great start with sponsorships rising.

The Parks Department has exceeded revenue projection by hitting \$530,000 so far in the 23-24 fiscal year.

Reports of Officers, Committees, or Staff: none

Council Update:

Councilman Cole summarized the consent agenda items from the last Council Meeting. H.G. informed the board about the Front Street water line/bridge project and the road construction in that area that will begin in late summer and fall. The town will be installing two monument signs at each entrance into the town. He discussed the sidewalk project to Rock Springs Road.

The tax rate will remain the same this year. Kimberly-Horn will be working on pedestrian/bike plans. Councilman Cole asked the board to participate and be involved in the planning.

Mayor Reed discussed the changes to citizen comments for town meetings. The town has adopted a policy for all boards and meetings to include citizen comment request to be accepted up to 24 hours before each meeting. This includes having citizen comments welcomed at the Town Council Workshop.

The mayor updated the board on the hiring of the new Town Manager. They are in the process of narrowing down from 30 candidates to 5 to begin the interview process.

New Business:

Kay Arnold's Retirement

Mike Moss took time to honor Kay Arnold for her 34 years of service to the Town of Smyrna and the Parks and Recreation Department. She served for all 3 Parks and Recreation Directors. Kay has been instrumental in obtaining multiple grants for projects such as the Westfork Neighborhood Park project, the tennis and pickleball court project, and others. Kay has been the lead employee in departmental finances, budget development, and financial oversight. Councilman Cole thanked Kay for her service and noted that when he was Park Commissioner in the 1990's Kay was one of the 7 original Parks employees. Mayor Reed also expressed her gratitude for Kay's service and stated on behalf of the Town Council and herself she thanked Kay for being such a big asset to the Town and that she made Smyrna a better place to live.

We wish her well in the next chapter of life!

Meeting adjourned at 6:27 pm.