

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

Minutes - Final



Smyrna Community Center
Oak Room
1250 Powder Springs Street
Smyrna, GA 30080

J. Barrett Carter (Mayor)
Nicholas Bergeron (Ward 1)
Jonathan Gordon (Ward 2)
Tobi North (Ward 3)
Blake Rogers (Ward 4)
Corey Ingram (Ward 5)
Nick Diluzio (Ward 6)
Kennall Mond (Ward 7)

City Attorney Scott Cochran
City Administrator Joseph Bennett
City Clerk Heather K. Peacon-Corn

July 31, 2023 / 6:00 PM

1. Roll Call

2. Call to Order

The July 31, 2023 Parks and Recreation Commission meeting held at the Smyrna Community Center in the Oak Room was called to order at 6:00 PM.

3. Chairperson Instruction and Comment

Richard Garland commented on the following:
There may be a meeting sometime in August to discuss Aquatics Center.

Commission member Nick Bergeron asked about the Birthday Celebration, location and if any information on bands had been released yet. Mr. Garland responded that the concert will be October 7, however, no band information had been released.

Jessica Myers passed handouts: The Tapestry
The Meeting Agenda
Previous Minutes to be voted on

4. Formal Business

A. 2023-151 Manager Presentations:

Recreation and Services Manager Jodi Mills gave the following presentation:

1. Summer Camp ended on July 28th with 256 individual campers. Many of those were repeat campers. The weekly average number of campers was 76 in attendance.
2. Photography Class will be ending this week.
3. There are two painting classes beginning soon.
4. Tae Kwon Do, Dance and Gymnastics will resume their fall schedule this week.
5. The Birthday Celebration tables for the concert have not been put on sale yet and that date is still to be determined.
6. Spook Fest will be held in October.
7. The Smyrna Handmade Market is halfway through the season. Each week new vendors were added. A produce vendor was the newest addition.
8. Wolfe Center pool pipe burst last week but has been repaired.

Commission Member Barrett Carter inquired as to a Scout group setting up a fundraising table at events. Ms. Mills responded they could possibly accommodate the request.

Parks Manager Chuck Combs gave the following presentation:

1. Parks Maintenance is working on field maintenance.
2. Reviewed Set-up and clean-up of concerts.
3. New event chairs arrived and were nice for last concert.
4. Working on playground repairs.
5. Bartlett Field (Brinkley Park) hosted the State Little League Tournament.
6. Movie in The Park showcased the new large screen tv's.
7. The dayroom building at Tolleson Park was painted.
8. Durham Park work is complete including new walkway, swing, etc.
9. Division continues to work on various projects.
10. Will touch up mulch in every park, soon.
11. Waiting on parts to repair swing bridge at Taylor-Brawner Park.
12. Creatwood Park will soon have a new, four bay swing set installed. The old swings were pulled out as they were not safe, sharing a fall zone.

Commission Member Nick Bergeron asked about the new park next to the Community Center.

Mr. Combs responded that yes, the park will be next to Stillfire Brewery. Parks and Rec would maintain the park after its completion. Mr. Garland added that the playground work will begin after the fountain is complete. The hope is that the fountain will be complete by Labor Day.

Mr. Bergeron asked if anyone could access the fountain/reflection pool? Mr. Garland responded that it is open.

Mr. Garland stated that in 2024, parks and Rec would engage American Camp Association for possible accreditation of Summer Camp. Some of the Security measures in the Community Center may not meet the requirements but will be reviewed.

B. 2023-152 Project Review: 2023 CIP Projects

1. Lake Court Park, Dog Park Relocation - okay to bid construction, but must go before Mayor and Council to request more funds. The dog park will move. New amenities, walking path, engineered wood mulch, no grass. (Mr. Garland suggested that the commission members attend the next Committee of the Whole meeting where the discussion will take place)
2. Chuck Camp Storage Building - storage building, new concrete pad installed. Building installed beginning August 9. This will offer more storage.
3. Resurface Tennis Courts – Tennis Courts at Tolleson and Rose Garden have been resurfaced.
Commission Member Leigh Anne Rehkopf commented that the nets are problematic because they do not fit pickleball standards and are being adjusted by users.
4. Brinkley Park Batting Cage Covering
5. Lattanzi Filed Batting Cage - Batting cages being relocated between fields 2 & 3.

Project Review: SPLOST

1. North Cooper Restroom - restroom foundation and plumbing installed by end of August.
2. North Cooper Pavilion - The Pavilion will be installed by SH Creel but will probably not begin construction until October. It will be stackstone columns and grill.

3. River Line Splash Pad - splash pad bid will open in August. and the Splash Pad will be located on the opposite side of the road from the park. Mr. Garland thinks parking will be okay for most of the year but could be problematic in May and August during league play.
Commission Member Nick Bergeron asked if the splash pad will generate revenue, and Mr. Garland responded that it probably would not. It will require four people per shift to operate. It will have concessions and they plan to allow parties.
4. Aquatic Center – no discussion

Project Review: Other

1. Turf on Soccer Fields - Working with Croy Engineering on the details and cost of this project. Plans have slowed due to issues at Jonquil. Also River Line location is now the back field.
2. Village Green Park / Christmas Decorations - Working with Croy Engineering on the details and cost of this project. Plans have slowed due to issues at Jonquil. Also River Line location is now the back field.
Commission Member Rehkopf stated the pond looks great and the new fountain and reflecting pool looks good as well.
Commission Member Bergeron inquired as to the location of the Christmas Tree this year. Mr. Garland responded that it would remain in front of the fountain at the entrance to Market Village. Additionally, the staff wants to make the new Village area a walkable space with decorations.

C. 2023-153 Announcements:

1. Financial Sustainability Strategy Proposal - Commission Member Leigh Anne Rehkopf asked when Parks and Rec intended to begin the Financial Sustainability work.
Mr. Garland responded possibly August. He went on to say they would not complete the public portion until after the election. A late fall discussion may require an additional Commission meeting. After the plan is all set, the Mayor and Council would have to approve any pricing changes.
2. Fall Tap - Leagues begin Fall season soon.
– Co-ed softball, pickleball and basketball.

Tolleson Pool saw 13,505 attendees between May-July.

D. 2023-154 Q & A

Incoming Commission Member Mond was in attendance and would be approved by Mayor and Council at the next meeting. He has been appointed by Ward 7 Councilmember Kathy Young.

Mr. Mond inquired as to how members propose new projects, remarking that we need new nets at River Line to stop balls, maybe 10 ft nets.

Commission member Rehkopf remarked about the nets on courts again and asked if the net cranks can or should be left on the courts for people to use? Mr. Combs responded that the public over cranks the nets which causes damage.

She also asked about Brinkley Park Master Plan and what goes into starting the process? Mr. Garland responded that the Mayor and Council have to have buy in to the plans and we must host public meetings.

Ms. Rehkopf noted that Councilmember Tim Gould had approached her about pickleball at Brinkley.

Commission Member Bergeron inquired about the upcoming elections and the challengers. Mr. Garland responded that only Wards 4 and 5 currently had opposition. Corey asks about the city business with First Baptist Church. Richard says the vote by church members was delayed.

5. Approval of Minutes

A. MIN2023-077 Approval of the May 22, 2023 Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting Minutes

Councilmember Nicholas Bergeron made a motion to approve; seconded by Councilmember Leigh Anne Rehkopf.

The motion to approve carried with the following vote:

Aye: 6 – Committee Member Ingram, Committee Member Carter, Committee Member Rehkopf, Committee Member Bergeron, Voting Member North, Voting Member Gordon

Nay: 0 – None

6. Other Business / Staff Comment

7. Adjournment

The July 31, 2023 meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission was adjourned at 7:40.

Facilities are provided throughout City Hall for convenience of persons with disabilities.

THIS MEETING WAS PROPERLY NOTICED AND POSTED AT THE FOLLOWING LOCATIONS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE NOTICING STANDARDS AS OUTLINED IN O.C.G.A. 50-14-3:

The City of Smyrna website – www.smyrnaga.gov / City Hall, 2800 King Street SE, Notice Boards