

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

Parks & Recreation Commission Meeting Minutes



Smyrna Community Center
Oak Room
200 Village Green Circle
Smyrna, GA 30080

Cheri Harrington (Mayor)
Nicholas Bergeron (Ward 1)
VACANT (Ward 2)
Leigh Anne Rehkopf (Ward 3)
Tom Sconzo (Ward 4)
Corey Ingram (Ward 5)
Paula Weeks (Ward 6)
J. Barrett Carter (Ward 7)

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

January 30, 2023
6:00 PM

1. Roll Call

PRESENT: Richard Garland, Chuck Combs, Jeff Crowder, Nicholas Bergeron,
Leigh Anne Rehkopf, Corey Ingram, Jessica Myers
ABSENT: Cheri Harrington, Tom Sconzo, Paula Weeks

2. Call to Order

The January 30, 2023 Meeting of the Parks and Rec Commission was called to order at 6:00PM by Parks and Rec Director Richard Garland.

3. Chairperson Instruction and Comment

- Mr. Garland welcomed Corey Ingram to his first meeting as the Ward 5 representative.
- Currently, the Ward 2 seat is vacant after Darby Weyland moved and will no longer serve.
- Mr. Garland also review general information on commission and explained that a few members of the Parks and Rec staff will join meetings to discuss their specific departments

4. Formal Business

A. 2023-031 Manager Presentations

Jeff Crowder, Facilities Manager -

1. New fitness equipment was installed at the Community Center during Christmas break. This equipment is a lease agreement, so if any issues with equipment, repairs are completed, or equipment is replaced.
2. Hallways from large gym to commercial kitchen were painted. Space is much brighter and clean looking.
3. Gym floors were refinished and ready for play from basketball and volleyball.
4. Reed House floors are getting refinished next week. Once the event lawn is complete, the outside of the building will be pressure washed.

Chuck Combs, Parks Manager –

1. Parks Maintenance has been working on baseball and soccer fields, preparing for Spring season.
2. Ward Park has had a lot of work done and Parks Maintenance staff has worked with contractors to make sure the work is complete.

3. *Top Hat Soccer and Smyrna Little League start this coming weekend, practicing for the Spring season.*
4. *Parks Maintenance should be fully staffed for the first time in a long time, if one last hire is made soon.*

B. 2023-032 Project Review

1. Lake Court Park, new design. RFP coming in the near future for the work at the park.
2. Chuck Camp maintenance building got a new roof.
3. Mobile LED screens have been purchased. Will need storage. Screens will be used for various events like College Football Saturday, Movie Nights, etc.
4. Reed House Event Lawn work begins February 6. Signs will be put out to advertise work and will have a display of the garden work being done. Reed House will be blocked from rentals from February 1 – April 30 to allow work to be completed.
5. Tolleson Park bridge replacement, as part of CIP project. Bridges will have metal frame to offer longer lasting support and will be extended.
6. Wolfe Center – pipes froze during Christmas causing extensive damage. Interior work and replacing items destroyed, along with replacing glass around the pool and painting the exterior, are all being completed before WC reopens.
7. Other areas with damage from freeze include, Community Center, Brinkley, Chuck Camp, RiverView, Tolleson and RiverLine.
8. Sports Fields; windscreens and netting replaced over the next few years as money is available.
 - *Boardmember Rehkopf asked about net anchors at Tolleson as well as about bulb replacement in light poles around park.*
 - Mr. Combs responded that an audit is being done for replacement.*
9. Tolleson tennis courts will be resurfaced, hopefully this spring, perhaps April & May.
 - *Mr. Garland stated they have to be done during certain times and will work to disrupt tennis play as little as possible.*
 - *Boardmember Rehkopf inquired about Rhyne Park and Nickajack Park being “given” to Smyrna by Cobb County, to offer more areas with tennis courts and pickleball courts.*
 - *Mr. Garland responded that for now that probably will not happen.*
 - *He also remarked that thinks Brinkley Park and perhaps Lake Court are potential good areas for pickleball.*
10. Community Center had its annual work done during Christmas closing including refinishing gym floors and painting of the large gym hallway down to Magnolia Room hallway. All cement block was painted to match the block in the small gym hallway. RFP for future painting in other parts of the Community Center is in the work.
 - *Mr. Bergeron asked about the current parking obstacles at the Community Center. He inquired as to whether additional parking would be available completion of the Downtown project. He also asked about the parking deck update.*
 - *Mr. Garland explained that the parking lost on the side of the Community Center will not be replaced as the plan has made that an access road.*
11. Whitfield Park Master Plan will be part of CIP in 2025, most likely. Any work to be done can then be completed with 2027 SPLOST funds.

12. Lattanzi Field has had extensive work in preparation for Spring baseball. Restrooms, Concession building and window, along with batting cages have all been complete. New sounds system installed soon.

13. Brinkley Park – working on covering batting cages. Cost is approximately \$185,000. The City will pay \$100,000, and Smyrna Little League will have to fund the rest.

14. Riverview Park continues to have an erosion issue and is being worked on. Trust Republic Land will help with design and the city will work on having the work done.

15. North Cooper Lake Park bridges are failing and require repair and improvements.

16. Playground inspections are being conducted each month by a Certified Inspector. Repairs are being made based on each inspection.

17. Each year over a period of time CIP funds are being requested for replacements and repairs of playgrounds. All new playgrounds must be ADA accessible.

18. Brinkley Park storm drainage is problematic, surface drainage from the parking lot. Working on a remedy to the issue.

19. SPLOST Projects:

North Cooper Lake restroom and pavilion coming soon.

Aquatic Center has been paused for now.

- Boardmember Bergeron Nick ask about the Happifeet app; are people using it and making requests via the app.

- Mr. Garland replied that there were a few currently. He reminded members to inform constituents to use the app.

C. 2023-033 Programs Review

- Boardmember Rehkopf remarked that she is working with her Councilmember to get sidewalks on King Springs Road where there currently are none.

- She also asked about the Parks and Rec involvement with the Smyrna Arts Council. She was approached by SCAD about mural projects.

- Mr. Garland will speak to Deputy City Administrator Penny Mocerri and respond to Boardmember Rehkopf on Tuesday.

5. Approval of Minutes

The previous minutes were not available for approval.

6. Other Business / Staff Comment

There was no other business / staff comment.

7. Adjournment

The January 30, 2023, meeting of the Planning and Zoning Commission was adjourned at 7:36 PM by Mr. Richard Garland.