

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

Minutes - Final



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

J. Barrett Carter (Mayor Appointee)
Nicholas Bergeron (Ward 1)
Jonathan Gordon (Ward 2)
Tobi North (Ward 3)
Blake Rogers (Ward 4)
Corey Ingram (Ward 5)
Leigh Anne Rehkopf (Ward 6)
Vacant (Ward 7)

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

May 22, 2023
6:00 PM

1. Roll Call

Present: 7 – Commission Member J. Barrett Carter, Commission Member Nicholas Bergeron, Commission Member Jonathan Gordon, Commission Member Tobi North, Commission Member Blake Rogers, Commission Member Corey Ingram, and Commission Member Leigh Anne Rehkopf

Staff: 4 – Jeff Crowder, Richard Garland, Jodi Mills, and Jessica Myers

2. Call to Order

Richard Garland, Director of Parks and Recreation, opened the May 22, 2023 Parks and Recreation Commission meeting held at the Smyrna Community Center in the Oak Room at 6:05 PM.

3. Chairperson Instruction and Comment

4. Formal Business

A. 2023-131 Manager Presentations:

1. Jodi Mills, Recreation Services Manager
2. Chuck Combs, Parks Manager
3. Jeff Crowder, Facilities Manager

Jodi Mills, Recreation Services Manager, updated the commission on the following:

- Smyrna Handmade Market is every Sunday with approximately 70 vendors per week. 70% is food, 30% is arts/crafts.
- Summer camps are beginning in June.
- Math & Music Camp will be at Tolleson Park and only in June.
- Concerts: June 10 is the first concert. It is sold out. 91 tables. Next concert will be July 15. June 23 will be a four-piece string quartet at Reed House Garden.
- Movie night in Just at Tolleson Park.

Jeff Crowder, Facilities Manager, updated the commission on the following:

- Rentals are going well at all facilities.
- The Community Center had its interior painted.

- Reed House interior was painted, and there is donated antique furniture at the Reed House.

B. 2023-132 Project Review: 2023 CIP Projects

1. Lake Court Park, Dog Park Building
2. Chuck Camp Storage Building
3. Resurface Tennis Courts
4. Brinkley Park Batting Cage Covering
5. Lattanzi Field Batting Cage

Project Review: SPLOST

1. North Copper Restroom
2. North Cooper Pavilion
3. RiverLine Park Splash Pad
4. Aquatic Center

Project Review: Other

1. Sod on Veterans Lawn
2. Fountain for Retention Pond
3. Turf on Soccer Fields
4. Village Green Park

Richard Garland, Parks and Recreation Director, provided a review of the 2023 CIP projects:

1. Lake Court Park – Design firm is working on redesign and moving the dog park to prevent stream contamination. Plans have been submitted for review. Mr. Bergeron asked if the playground was part of phase I. Mr. Garland stated it was not.
2. Chuck Camp Park Storage Building – 40 x 50 structure being installed to house new, large event screens that were purchased this year.
3. Tolleson Tennis Courts and Rose Garden Park – Resurfacing begins Thursday, May 25, 2023. Ms. Rehkopf asked if more lines for pickleball will be added. Mr. Garland answered that no more lines will be added. He also stated that the courts and restrooms will be closed during the resurfacing.
4. Brinkley Park Batting Cage Covering – Approved and on order. Estimated time of completion is September 2023.
5. Lattanzi Field Batting Cage – Approved and on order. Estimated time of completion is September 2023.

Review of SPLOST projects:

1. North Cooper Restroom – This will be a concrete structure.
2. North Cooper Pavilion – The proposed pavilion will be 50 x 30 with a grille. This has not yet been approved by Mayor and Council.
3. River Line Splash Pad – There have been some issues with the location because of shallow rock. The splash pad cannot be placed in original, desired location. The city is deciding the most responsible way to proceed. The design team is meeting next Tuesday to decide.
4. Aquatic Center – Looking at Tolleson to redesign. This would not include the gymnastics or Family Learning Center. There are limitations with the project, would not be a massive swim structure. The original site was Atlanta Road, now moved to Tolleson. Mr. Carter asked if there is water under the pool at Tolleson suggesting that there might be a sinkhole which would be catastrophic. Mr. Garland stated the city does not know at this time.

Review of other projects:

1. Sod on Veterans Lawn – The Memorial Day ceremony will again be on Bank Street, not on the lawn.
2. Fountain for Retention Pond – A new fountain is coming soon. The old fountain stopped working during early construction of Village Green Park. Other efforts will be made at the pond including beautification and vegetation around the bank of the pond to focus on erosion issues once construction is complete. The turtles and fish seem to be fine in the current condition.
3. Turf on Soccer Fields – Council has not voted on turf project, but the engineer is working on information. Mr. Garland noted there are multiple issues with the fields. Sports leagues want to start playing in February now; however, the grass is dormant in January and February. Considering turf at River Line (front field) and Jonquil Park (lower field), but this will offer only a 33% solution to rainout issues. Discussion took place about resident fees vs non-resident fees. Mr. Garland explained that the leagues tend to be 45% resident and 55% non-resident.

C. 2023-133 Announcements:

- Ribbon Cutting/Dedication for Downtown Green Space – Saturday, June 10, 2023

D. 2023-134 Q & A

Commission Member Rehkopf:

- Asked about a SCAD mural, a discussion that took place at the January meeting. Mr. Garland stated that the idea was sent to Deputy City Administrator Penny Moceris's office. He has not heard anything back yet.
- Mentioned that Nickajack Park has pickleball courts, and she said Councilmember Gould thinks land near the recycling center is a good space for more courts in Smyrna.
- Suggested that everyone should use the Happifeet app.
- Asked if Tolleson Park is getting new lights. Mr. Garland explained that through the Green Initiative with GA power, more lights will be forthcoming.
- Stated that a homeless person has been living in Rose Garden. Discussion took place with concerns.

5. Approval of Minutes

A. MIN2023-057 Approval of the January 30, 2023, Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting Minutes

Commission Member Leigh Anne Rehkopf made a motion to approve the January 30, 2023 Parks and Recreation Commission meeting minutes; seconded by Commission Member Nicholas Bergeron.

The motion to approve carried with the following vote:

Aye: 7 – Commission Member Ingram, Commission Member Carter, Commission Member Rehkopf, Commission Member Bergeron, Commission Member North, Commission Member Gordon, Commission Member Rogers

Nay: 0 – None

Recuse: 0 – None

6. Other Business / Staff Comment

Further discussion about fee structures took place. Mr. Garland explained that he recently attended the GRPA Financial Sustainability Program where he learned of the importance of setting fee structures. The Parks and Recreation Commission should be involved in the process and present to Council. Every program should be evaluated and fees decided. There will be more discussion later.

Mr. Garland explained the handouts. Each member received The Tap, Fee Schedule, and Budget information for 2024 proposed budget. Ms. Rehkopf asked if the budget information included revenue. Mr. Garland answered it does not. He explained that the complete budget book is on the City of Smyrna website.

Reminder: next meeting will be held on July 31, 2023.

7. Adjournment

The May 22, 2023 Parks and Recreation Commission meeting was adjourned at 7:40 PM.

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