

MURRAY PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD
Minutes of Meeting
Wednesday, October 14, 2020

Board Members in Attendance

Jeff Beal
Sunshine Szedeli
Mindy Canova
Ted Maestas
Kim Sorensen
Dana Dmitrich

The Parks & Recreation Board Meeting was called to order at 5:30 by Ted Maestas who conducted the meeting.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

There were no citizen comments.

PARK CENTER UPDATE-Marci Williams-Center Director

Marci Williams, Park Center Director, attended the meeting to update the board on current happenings at the Park Center. The hours have been restricted due to Covid. Detailed physical distancing on the second floor is taking place. Spinning pods constructed to allow spin classes have been utilized. Water classes open and as many as 17 attending. Studio classes available, up to 10 people. Up to 28 people allowed in gym, two per basket. Most challenging area is the weight room. Limit of 10 people as long as they physical distance in the weight room. Staff steaming every two hours therefore some parts remain closed in order to uphold the high cleaning procedures. In leisure pool, 25 patrons allowed. Able to train staff now to prepare for busier months in winter. Received grant to allow wall in kidzone to accommodate childcare. Comp pool has 60 water polo team players. Pool is active from 2:30 to 6:30 daily.

Pumpkin races canceled this season but are rescheduled for next year. No Thanksgiving Turkey swim meet scheduled as well. Marci shared she has reflected over the prior months and is satisfied she has been able to keep people safe and still offer options for patrons. Solicited board for any questions or input. Jeff inquired about the revenue over the last two quarter. Marci shared she is relying on the response of patrons who supply info on when they will return. Memberships are still being canceled, swimming lessons have also suffered a great loss. Revenue standpoint shows during the week's 14 hour operation there are about 350 patrons utilizing center and on Saturdays, approximately 85 people attending. Looking to open the center for longer hours on Saturdays as school is in session and classes resume. Down in attendance about 7000 people this year as opposed to last year's number equating to 35% decrease. Ted shared programs need to be in place to help people mentally and physically.

PAVILION CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

Kim stated pavilion 2 construction is progressing well. Starting to pour concrete tomorrow, (Thursday), the roof is on, the rock pillars are complete. Much longer than expected on construction but the outcome has been very satisfying. Construction should be complete by the end of October and then contractor will move to pavilion 5 which is the last pavilion scheduled for renovation. Waiting for contractor's final submission on pavilion 5 construction with the restroom. Contractor stated he should have it submitted by the end of the week. Preliminary numbers have been submitted, costs will be tight but they should be close. Kevin Allen said his subcontractors are coming back somewhat high on their bids which is impacting final costs.

Polygon, the vendor for the pavilion has a ship date for October 23rd. Pavilion will be shipped out of Michigan and will be here before park is completely site ready but not a problem. Pavilion will drain into the creek. Pavilion 6, lower level has been filled in to prepare the site. When demolition and shipment are complete it should allow for construction to begin by the first of the year, 2021.

WINCHESTER PLAYGROUND UPDATE

Winchester playground has been removed as it was thought that construction would have started by now, but the ship date has been scheduled for November 2. Contractor will install boulder playground in November, but temperatures need to be consistently in the upper 50's for the pour in place ground covering to be placed appropriately. A message is being drafted to distribute on social media to inform patrons on the playground status as there have been calls concerning its completion.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Pickleball court reservations are two-hour increments at five dollars for residents and ten dollars for non-residents. This plan was not designed to generate revenue but rather to disperse opportunity for anyone choosing to utilize the courts. Reservations were sporadic at the beginning but now to date there are 105 reservations scheduled for October. A few people have shared negative feelings toward the reservations, however, they are non-residents of Murray, so residents appear to approve of the new implementation.

Golf course update includes a unforeseen problem that has been caused by Covid which involves additional wear and tear on the fleet of golf carts. The carts have received large amounts of usage due to implementation of physical distancing, that the batteries are worn out and resisting charge. The golf course is scheduled to have replenishment of carts but not until next July so they are evaluating what will allow them to get through the remainder of the season. Mindy inquired about the possibility of solar golf carts. Kim stated they are not quite at the point to distribute in municipalities.

Park Center and our recreation department have been the leaders in implementing activities and safely operating amid Covid. Other cities are inquiring about our city's protocol and how we have been able to safely operate and allow options for patrons. Our next challenge will be activities that will take place indoors during the winter months such as basketball.

Haunted Trail will still take place. Murray City required the Exchange Club to obtain a mass gathering permit so it will fall under the county guidelines to follow restrictions and protocol.

Farmers Market will end October 24 and has operated very well. Organizers have followed safety guidelines and market has been successful.

Food truck league has finished. Average of ten trucks per week and each truck had an average of 70-80 patrons, therefore 700-800 patrons were served. The Food Truck League was extremely satisfied with the results and listed Murray City as one of their top three locations to serve. There was live music each Tuesday during this event. Kudos to Cultural Arts and Parks department for making this happen.

Senior recreation center patrons are hungry for something to do. Car bingo was offered along with outdoor concerts and flu shots. Trish Cooke, center director, has ordered 25 ipads to enable the patrons to use for online classes through the rec center as well as possible exercise classes. Tax service will be offered. Trish is trying to implement as many activities as possible to get the seniors connected as they are feeling very disconnected due to restrictions.

Kim mentioned Governor's change in orders, not necessarily colors now but transmission risk in high, moderate, and low. We fall under organizational activities. The change affects mostly mask wearing which is implemented more.

Covid has impacted our parks and trail usage exponentially and ultimately, we are up about 300% with patrons utilizing our many outdoor parks and recreation areas.

Changes in staff-Amanda Sangroniz-aquatics manager will be moving to finance and end of month will be her last day. Marci has posted Amanda's position. Britton Farr- irrigation specialist moved to power as an apprentice. Jonathan Hummer moved to irrigation specialist and Bryton Dahl was promoted to irrigation as well. Therefore, a maintenance worker 1 position was posted and will be conducting interviews soon.

NEXT MEETING DATE

The board chose to meet on November 18th as November 11 will be a holiday, Veteran's Day.

QUESTIONS

Sunshine/Mindy asked if the governor's new plan affects recreation programs and Kim stated we are considered an organization so things will work differently for us.

Sunshine/Mindy also stated she utilizes a specific area of the trail near the Nature Center frequently and she has been monitoring it for increased wear and tear due to increased usage. She highly praised the parks department for their exceptional care of the trail and how it has remained well groomed and clean throughout all usage during Covid. She complimented the parks staff repeatedly for their care to maintain it.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made to end the meeting at 6:32 p.m. Motion was unanimous.