

MURRAY PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD
Minutes of Meeting
Wednesday, February 10, 2021

BOARD MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

Jeff Beal
Sunshine Szedeli
Mindy Canova
Ted Maestas
Kim Sorensen
Dana Dimitrich
Guest from Recreation Department: Cory Plant

The Parks & Recreation Board Meeting was called to order at 5:31 PM by Ted Maestas who conducted the meeting.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Jeff made a motion to accept the minutes of January 13, 2021. The motion was seconded by Mindy. Approval was unanimous.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

There were no citizen comments.

RECREATION UPDATE – Cory Plant, Recreation Director

Recreation director, Cory Plant, attended the meeting to share the latest from his department. He came prepared with a slideshow, presenting a broad range of data gathered over the last few years. His presentation began with lists of all youth and adult recreation programs, along with a variety of special programs offered throughout the year. He highlighted the Murray schools and park facilities used for programs and included 2019 usage data for each location, such as the number of games played, and hours they were used. The need for additional gym space is becoming clear given an increased occurrence of scheduling conflicts and issues with aging schools and gyms. Murray has seen higher non-resident participation since COVID restrictions began, as Salt Lake County and other surrounding communities have either stopped running programs or significantly limited them. Team sports and swim lessons bring in the most non-resident participants. Word of mouth (friends or previous program participants) is proving to be the most effective advertising method, with social media coming in as least effective. Online registration is utilized at 83%. Participation among elementary aged children is highest so the department is currently working toward offering programs that might appeal to the junior high and high school age groups. Possible future programs include gaming, canoeing, wiffleball, family walks and bike rides, meet up groups, sand volleyball, basketball academies, and start smart sports for younger kids. Murray has an aging population so adding new programs to meet the interests and demands of all its residents is an important aspect to keep in mind. Along with a dire need for gym space, additional challenges include

rising participation costs, competition with private organizations, and sportsmanship in programs. Follow up discussion with the board included inquiries about assisting surrounding municipalities, to enhance their swim lesson programs which would ease the demand on ours. Being that they're competitors, Cory suggested that helping them is highly unlikely, pointing out the ongoing shortage of swim instructors and lifeguards. Although the city offers higher starting wages for both positions, there continues to be a lack of interest, which has created a need to discuss possibly offering sign-on bonuses and incentives. Employee age requirement was also discussed.

COVID UPDATE

Kim updated the board regarding the impact of COVID on the Parks and Recreation department. Plans continue to move forward with the 4th of July Fun Day celebration, as if it will be held under normal circumstances. The float has been ordered and agreements have been made with vendors. A decision still hasn't been finalized on a sunrise speaker, but it has been decided that the Grand Marshal for the city parade will be 1st responders, specifically police officers, firefighters, and nurses. The Park Center continues to proceed slowly, but beginning Monday, 2/15/21, they will extend their hours, opening earlier and closing later weekdays with extended hours on Saturday.

UPCOMING BUDGET

Kim shared that budget preparations are still being finalized. Concerns regarding how COVID continues to impact the economy remain, so the personnel and operations budgets will stay flat. The parks department has asked for some overtime and seasonal money. Since the new city hall is expected to be completed around October 2022, the museum/mansion is the primary focus on with this budget. There's an outside company working on identifying what needs to happen so the public can have use of the mansion. The current electrical system is a fire hazard and will need updating. Other required changes include 2 restrooms on each floor, adding an elevator, widening doorways, and entrances that comply with ADA guidelines. Kim confirmed that members of the historical advisory board have discussed ways to raise funds in the community for the mansion project. He also confirmed that the theater project stopped after funds were pulled last May, and there are no current plans to start it up again.

PAVILION 5 UPDATE

Kim shared an update with the board regarding the construction of Pavilion 5, which has benefited from the unusually warm and dry weather. Footings are poured and they're currently in the process of backfilling dirt. Electrical is also being added. Beams should be in place by next month's meeting.

POOL PARKING LOT UPDATE

Kim reported the latest events surrounding the pool parking lot renovation. Last week, city arborists removed the trees. Yesterday, storm crews began putting in new storm lines, which are expected to be completed this week, weather permitting. Then our streets department will come in and remove existing asphalt and re-do islands and plantings. The new parking lot is projected to be completed in May.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Kim informed the board of recent staff changes within the Parks department: Lead worker Chad Roberts retired, and maintenance worker Corey Hunt moved to building inspector. Subsequently, Bo Shipley was promoted to lead worker and two full time maintenance employees filled vacant spots. On March 16th, April Callaway at the Senior Rec Center will be recognized as Employee of the Month by the City Council. Kim will attend the council meeting that same day to discuss impact fees and explain their usage, the effect on Murray residents, and request their input. City council feedback prior to hiring a financial consultant would be helpful. The Cultural Arts division will have its 2nd virtual training next Wednesday evening (2/17/21) on how to restore old homes. Kim expressed his concerns regarding the challenges associated with finding seasonal and part time employees for all divisions within the department. He concluded with an email received from students who have requested a skate park in the park. Ted suggested the students join next month's meeting as presenters, rather than attend as citizen comments. Sunshine agreed, as did the rest of the board members. Kim will ask the students to bring their ideas to the board meeting in March.

QUESTIONS

There were no additional questions from board members.

ADJOURNMENT

Ted Maestas adjourned the meeting at 6:43 pm.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be Wednesday, March 10, 2021 at 5:30 pm