



**Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Meeting Minutes  
Wednesday, March 10, 2021**

Members Present	Jeff Beal, Sunshine Szedeli, Mindy Canova, Ted Maestas
Members Excused	Dana Dimitrich
City Staff Present	Kim Sorensen, Parks and Recreation Director Lori Edmunds, Cultural Arts Director Jamie Baird, Office Admin II
Guests Present	Erik Mickelson and friends

The Parks & Recreation Board Meeting was called to order at 5:32 pm by Ted Maestas who conducted the meeting.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Sunshine motioned to accept the minutes of February 10, 2021. Mindy seconded the motion. Approval was unanimous.

**CITIZEN COMMENTS**

There were no citizen comments.

**SKATE PARK DISCUSSION** – Erik Mickelson

Murray citizen Erik Mickelson, along with 5 friends, attended the Board meeting to propose their idea of building a skate park in Murray Park. The group shared that the nearest skate park is 2.7 miles away from Murray's border. They feel that by having a closer designated place to skate, the occurrence of property damage by skaters throughout the city might decrease and less driving could have a positive impact on the environment. They hope the presence of a skate park would draw the interest of other park patrons and promote utilization by other residents. They posted a petition at change.org that produced 1250 comments mostly in favor of a skate park in Murray. Their suggestions for raising money included holding a carnival, donations at skate shops or online at change.org, fundraisers at their school, or at community events such as Murray Fun Days. The Board agreed to consider the proposal, pointing out that the biggest challenge is going to be finding a location.

After the guests left the meeting, the Board continued discussion further by identifying the next step would be to read community comments left at change.org and then review available sites within the City suitable for a skate park. Site options initially mentioned included Jefferson Detention Base and Cottonwood Grove, however, the detention base is owned by Salt Lake County. The Board will continue exploring options. Placing smaller, skate-friendly structures at existing parks was mentioned as an

informal alternative. Additional points to consider are liability risks, daily management of park, police department input, practicality of seasonal use, the culture such parks could attract, bathroom and parking accessibility, and project funding. The Board was instructed to email their ideas and comments to Ted for further discussion next month.

**CULTURAL ARTS UPDATE** – Lori Edmunds, Cultural Arts Manager

Lori Edmunds presented a slideshow with an overview of her department's annual events and programs offered, along with pictures from previous years. She noted that Murray's July 4<sup>th</sup> celebration will be held on July 3<sup>rd</sup> this year.

Follow up discussion with the Board included a request to clarify eligible ages for drama camp. Lori shared that it is offered to younger children which is why they are starting a new theater production to include ages 8-18. The Board offered a recommendation to check out Repertory Dance Theater from the University of Utah as a resource for elementary age physical education classes.

**COVID UPDATE**

Kim provided the Board with a COVID update, sharing that Utah will likely modify restrictions in April, resulting in a lift of the current mask mandate. Potential impact on the Parks and Recreation department is being looked at. COVID vaccines were offered to staff and community members last week at the Senior Recreation Center, which plans to open its doors to limited numbers in early May [Monday, May 3, 2021]. The Recreation department is seeing that 30-40% of program registrations are non-residents, as Salt Lake County is not running programs. Soccer registration for the younger age groups is at capacity. The Recreation Center is now allowing basketball play and more areas are expected to open soon. It has yet to be determined whether masks will be required in department buildings after the State mandate lifts. Kim requested that each Board member share their thoughts with Ted about resuming Board meetings in person next month.

**BUDGET**

Kim shared that the Parks and Recreation budget has been submitted to the mayor. One million dollars has been requested for Murray Mansion renovations. Funds have also been requested to purchase needed equipment for the playground near Parkside Elementary.

**PAVILION 5 CONSTRUCTION UPDATE**

Kim shared that the project has been slowed down by several weeks because problems were found during construction with the quality of the beams and holes not lining up. The contractor is working on correcting the issues which includes re-drilling holes and then welding the beams together. The beams will then be tested and certified.

### **DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Kim informed the Board of recent staff changes within the department. Office Administrator Supervisor, Becky Sanborn, took a job with passports in the Recorder's office. Interviews will begin next week to fill the vacant spot. Kim will be attending the City Council meeting next week to discuss impact fees. The Parks department and the Murray High Rotary Club have a cleanup project this Saturday, March 13, 2021. They will be removing trash at Murray Park, Willow Pond Park, the vacant property by Ivory Homes, the Jordan River confluence area north of 4500 South, and the Police Training Center. Liberty Drug used the Senior Recreation Center to administer 700 COVID vaccines to Utah's special-needs population. They later offered an additional 90 shots to City employees who fit within the current vaccination criteria.

### **QUESTIONS**

Sunshine brought up Millcreek's greenspace project they just broke ground on, suggesting it may be a good model for Murray City to follow as they move forward on their master plan.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Ted Maestas adjourned the meeting at 6:56 pm.

### **NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will be Wednesday, April 14, 2021 at 5:30 pm