



Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, April 14, 2021

Members Present Jeff Beal
 Sunshine Szedeli
 Mindy Canova
 Ted Maestas

City Staff Present Kim Sorensen, Parks and Recreation Director
 Bruce Holyoak, Park Superintendent
 Jamie Baird, Office Admin II

The Parks & Recreation Board Meeting was called to order at 5:40 pm by Mindy Canova who conducted the meeting until Ted arrived at 5:56 PM.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

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

CITIZEN COMMENTS

There were no citizen comments.

MINDY CANOVA

Board member, Mindy Canova, shared that she accepted a job in New Zealand and will be moving out of the country in six to seven weeks.

PARKS UPDATE – Bruce Holyoak, Park Superintendent

Bruce Holyoak presented a slideshow with an overview of the broad range of duties the Parks Department oversees. He shared that staff recently finished updating sinks, urinals, and toilets in all City operated park restrooms to touchless faucets and valves, promoting water conservation and cleaner facilities. He noted that the Parks Department is still in need of seasonal help.

COVID UPDATE

Kim informed the Board of Mayor Camp's extension of the mask mandate to all city owned and operated businesses. As COVID vaccination numbers increase, mask requirements are expected to lift. The Senior Recreation Center will be opening on May 3rd with restrictions to class sizes. The Recreation Center is progressively seeing more visitors every day.

SENIOR RECREATION CENTER DIRECTOR POSITION

Kim notified the Board that Senior Recreation Center Director, Tricia Cook, has given notice of her plan to retire at the end of July. Her position will be posted internally, to Murray City employees, by the end of June.

FUN DAYS

Kim shared that planning is in progress for Murray Fun Days, which will take place on Saturday, July 3, 2021. A request has been submitted to UDOT to close affected lanes of State Street during the parade. Parade Grand Marshalls will be first responders which will include firemen, policemen, and medical staff from Intermountain Medical Center.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Kim's report included an update of recent staff changes. The new Office Administrator Supervisor, Jennifer Stout, will start April 19, 2021. Recreation Coordinator, Rhett Gardiner, resigned and has taken a position as Assistant Director at West Valley City's Recreation Center. Interviews for the Coordinator position will begin next week. The Recreation Department's spring programs are scheduled to start next week. Zions Financial has been contracted to conduct the City's Park Impact Fee Study. It is projected to be completed in August or September then presented to the City Council before the end of the year.

Kim requested feedback from the Board regarding whether 5K events should be allowed along the Canal Trail. Board members pointed out that the trail was not intended for this type of use, citing that its narrow pathway does not accommodate large groups, in addition to busy road crossings, no restrooms, and the likelihood of trash being left behind and impacting bordering residential properties. Mindy made a motion to make it policy to not allow special events along the Canal Trail. Sunshine seconded the motion. Approval amongst the board was unanimous.

The grandstands are crumbling at Ken Price Stadium which leads to thoughts of remodeling the facility. Possible changes include new lighting, improvements to infield drainage, moving the backstop, removing the concession stand, replacing the outfield fence, and new grandstands or bleachers. All Board members shared similar sentiments that the field is a historic landmark, suggesting improvements be made without altering the structure. Since this would be a multi-million-dollar project, fundraising efforts among the baseball community and Murray residents might be beneficial, in addition to using funds from Friends of Ken Price.

QUESTIONS

Board members shared their thoughts regarding last month's skatepark discussion. Mindy is in favor of building a skatepark facility in Murray, pointing out that regardless of which decision is made, there will be people who oppose the idea. It was agreed that finding the right location would be key to avoiding potential problems. Historically the biggest challenge associated with the approval of a skatepark in Murray has been safety concerns. The Board will continue to search for locations where one might fit in the community.

Sunshine inquired whether any of the City parks have CCTV cameras set up in parking lots. Kim responded that the parks do not have cameras, also sharing concerns regarding the cost effectiveness and ethics of filming the public. A suggestion was made to reach out to UDOT to ask if their traffic cameras can be slightly adjusted to capture park parking lots.

ADJOURNMENT

Ted Maestas adjourned the meeting at 6:46 pm.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held Wednesday, May 12, 2021 at 5:30 pm