



PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD MEETING MINUTES

In-Person and WebEx

Location: Government Center, 2001 S. State Street SLC, Utah 84190

May 8, 2024 | 11:30AM-1:00PM

In Attendance

Board Members: Chris Hill, Courtney Peterson, Connie Burgess, Jason Malczyk, Dan Schoenfeld, Shauna Ayres, John Warnas, Lisa Dean

Absent: Robynn Masters, Nate Salazar, Jaren Cooper, Collin Dumke

Staff: Patrick Leary, Doranne Pittz, Callista Pearson, Jerry Brewster, Walt Gilmore, Jon Ruedas, Brent Laulusa, Adam Johnson, Julie Peck-Dabling, Taylor Abegglen, Robin Chalhoub, Dustin Wiberg, Jackie Standing, David Johnson

Citizen Participation: N/A

Call to Order

Chris Hill calls the meeting to order and for everyone present to introduce themselves.

Public Comments:

No public comments made.

Business Item – Approval of Minutes

Chris calls for a motion or any discussion on the April 2024 meeting minutes. Chris mentions in April's meeting that the board had decided to write a letter to support a policy on banning airsoft guns in County Parks but wasn't sure who exactly said they would write the letter.

Connie Burgess motions to approve the April 2024 minutes, Courtney Peterson seconds, all approve.

Chris follows-up on how the board can get the letter written to support the airsoft ban; Julie tells him her and Jerry will work together with Parks & Recreation staff to get a draft made and will then have the board review and approve it.

*About ten minutes later in the meeting, Julie and Jackie notice the agenda had stated the approval of the March meeting minutes instead of the April meeting minutes. David Johnson gives the advice to tee up on the next agenda the approval of both the April and May meeting minutes to play it safe.

Division Director Recruitment Update

Robin Chalhoub, Community Services Department Director, gives the board an update on the Division Director recruitment. She says they have done their first round of interviews and will continue to narrow their pool of applicants to hold second round interviews. She asks if a board member would like to participate in the process and if they do, to please let her know.

Chris asks Robin what responsibilities would be expected of them if they participated in the interviews. Robin says they have set up about a 45 minute-1 hour meeting with each candidate to ask them a series of questions and to have conversations to learn about their qualities, skills, and experiences. Robin continues to say that she wants the board member to contribute their insight and feedback about each candidate, which will help guide the choice in picking the right candidate for the position. She finishes by saying it would be several hours of their time, but they hope to have all the interviews scheduled on the same day and for them to take place in person.

Director's Report

Julie Peck-Dabbling, Interim Division Director, kicks off her update by discussing the bridge naming request that came to the County last December and how they started doing the research on the County ordinance regarding naming, which she briefly shared last month. Julie continues to say that she walked the section of the trail where the bridge is and discovered that where the bridge is anchored is the Galena Soo'nkahni Preserve, which is owned by UTA and protected by an agreement with Utah Open Lands. Julie says she called Utah Open Lands to alert them of the bridge naming request, and Utah Open Lands was concerned about it. Julie says she then contacted Mrs. Bliss, the requester, and informed her of the reserve and its preservation through Utah Open Lands. Mrs. Bliss rescinded her request out of respect to the Reserve. Julie says Bluffdale Mayor Hall has asked if it's a possibility to put a bench somewhere instead of naming the bridge, which currently there is no bench naming program within Salt Lake County. Julie mentions she will meet and discuss benches with Patrick and his Park Operations team, and they will come back to the board with more information later.

Chris tells Julie and Patrick he thinks it's wise they take the time to look into what a bench program could look like for the County, what the costs would be, and the unintended consequences that could come with it.

Connie Burgess thanks Julie for doing the research on the history of that area along the Jordan River Trail and informing the board of the Reserve, as she says she was all for the request until knowing about its history.

Julie moves on to discuss the childcare programs Parks & Recreation offers at four of the centers and the existing partnership with Utah Community Action. She tells the board they have been meeting with UCA to understand the new requirements around federal law for HeadStart and the Early HeadStart program. Their HeadStart program has now become a year-round program and the spaces they lease from the County are now needed year-round. Julie tells the board that we have been able to coordinate with Redwood Recreation Center and Copperview Recreation Center to extend UCA's leases year-round and we're happy to accommodate them and keep providing those services.

Jerry Brewster, Interim Division Director, quickly tells the board that Golf had just met with the Revenue Committee because they had an adjustment to their budget. He also thanks everyone and specifically calls out Julie and Adam for stepping-up while there hasn't been a division director and appreciates everyone's hard work.

My County Rec Pass Update

Taylor Abegglen, Outreach Program Manager, informs the board that as of May 7 there were 18,500 kids registered for the program. She tells them they are continuing to actively get the centers and the outdoor pools ready for when the pass goes live on June 1, and they have a press conference scheduled with Mayor Wilson on Thursday May 30 at the Taylorsville Recreation Center. With the help of the Community Engagement Team, they also have ongoing promotion with Good Things Utah and KSL Utah, and that the school districts have been great to work with.

Doranne Pittz gives a quick overview of the My County Rec Pass program to the new board members and tells everyone they are also conducting surveys along the way with the Salt Lake County Health Department and the U of U to evaluate the health and wellness of youth pre and post program.

Chris says that the new members might not know some of the history behind the program or how it's funded and asks Doranne to give a little background information on it. Doranne quickly gives a recap of where the idea came from and how the program is funded by the TRCC (Tourism, Recreation, Culture, and Convention) fund. Robin then gives a little more in-depth information about the TRCC Board to help them understand how it works.

Chris wants the new members to know how excited the board was last year to support the program and its approval, and it has been one of the most enjoyable things he's experienced while serving on the board.

Shauna Ayres asks what data is being collected to decide how the program is going to be successful or not. Doranne tells her that they are currently doing lots of number tracking and seeing how many youths are registering and the areas they're visiting; they are also working with the Health Department and the U of U to conduct a social science survey on how the program is creating a sense of belonging and community safety. Doranne also mentions that the U of U is working on getting a grant that is to track a sustainability of a program on all different levels, from users of the program to impact on staff and facilities, etc., and is excited to get involved with them in that nature if they are given the grant. She tells Shauna they would love to get her help and ideas for coming up with questions.

Jason Malczyk says he also works with these types of surveys and asks if there is a baseline of what needs to be covered to receive funding again, and how are we looking at nonparticipation for people that are not being reached. Doranne says there were no expectations set for the reauthorization of funds and it was left up to us on how we're going to measure the success of the program. She also mentions they have already found the hard-to-reach areas in the County and are looking into partnering with folks who can help identify in a poll or survey why people aren't signing up in those areas.

Fee Waiver Request

The board discusses a fee waiver request the Parks & Recreation division received from Alofa Fa'aSamoa, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization who would like to use Southridge Park to host Samoan Heritage Week from July 15 to July 21 2024.

Patrick Leary informs the board how fees associated with special events in County parks are structured, and in last year's budget the existing fee schedule was modified to be comparable to other cities which resulted in an increased special event fee. Patrick continues to say how the advisory board doesn't have the authority to waive the fee, but they can make a recommendation to then go to the Mayor and Council, and under county ordinance, only the County Council can waive the fees. He also mentions there is money set aside each year by the County for fee waiver requests like this, but per bylaws associated with the advisory board, the applicant can't request the same fee waiver every year, they can only make the request every 3 years.

Patrick also tells the board that Alofa Fa'aSamoa is a cultural organization who has been hosting this 6-day Samoan Heritage Week for many years at Southridge Park in Taylorsville and reads their application and justification for the fee waiver out loud. Shauna asks if there have been any issues, complaints, or problems from previous events and if they are requesting a full or partial fee waiver. Patrick says there isn't a history of issues, complaints, or problems from this event, and they are requesting a full fee waiver which would be for \$3,000.

Lisa Dean motions to support the fee waiver and make the recommendation to the Mayor and Council, Connie Burgess seconds, all approve.

Section Update

Patrick gives updates for the Parks section by telling the board they are getting all the parks and trails up and running and his crews have been out weeding, fertilizing, and mowing. He mentions a fuel spill that took place in Parley's Canyon a week ago that made its way down to Sugarhouse Park, but luckily first responders were diligent, and the booms were left in place for a week until the Health Department said the water quality was fine.

Walt Gilmore gives updates for the Planning section by telling the board about the proposed Jordan River Regional Park project and gives background information about it. Project Manager Dustin Wiberg then talks about the scope and goals they have for this project with the highlights being:

- The Jordan River Regional Park will run along the river from 2100 S/201 down to 5400 S totaling about 7 miles.
- Along the 7 miles, the park will touch 5 different cities, and will be coordinating with all those cities, agencies, stakeholders, and the public.
- Focusing on healing the river, improving its functionality, bringing positive activity to it, and getting more people to it.
- Looking at economic impacts and zoning recommendations in each of the municipalities.
- Anticipating an 18-month process to complete the master plan and have chosen the consultant, PORT Architecture.

Connie asks about the largest and greenest part shown on the map, which Dustin tells her is Meadowbrook Golf Course which is a county course. Lisa Dean asks if there will be public open houses to share the planning process with the public and Dustin confirms they will be working with their consultant and be hosting open houses throughout the process. Connie also gives thanks to the legislature for contributing to the improvement of that area, specifically in Taylorsville where she lives and represents. Jason asks how the boundaries of the Jordan River Regional Park were decided and if there is potential for it to expand further north and south, and how will coordinating with Murray City who is the other largest landowner along the Jordan River be executed. Dustin says the State Legislature designated the Jordan River Recreation Area and due to that designation, they defined the boundaries for the regional park. He thinks that this master plan could be a guiding document to expand the park both north and south, but the designation is set for now. Dustin also tells him that they will be working with the cities located within the overall master plan and coming up with solutions for open space, recreation, and potential programming along the park.

Brent Laulusa gives updates for the Fiscal section by telling the board they are working on mid-year budget adjustments, and they have hired a new IT manager who is currently onboarding and will be driving the RFP (request for proposal) for Recreation's new point of sale system. Brent quickly reviews Salt Lake County's yearly budget process and alerts the board that next month they will be presenting ideas on how the division would like to spend money on facility improvements from money collected through the FIF (facility improvement fee).

Adam Johnson gives updates for the Golf section by telling the board that revenue and rounds in April were record setting, with 54,000 rounds across the 6 golf courses and just over 1.4 million dollars in revenue. He says compared to April 2023; they are ahead 1.2 million dollars from where they were last year. Chris asks where that revenue goes back into, and Jerry tells him it goes back into their Enterprise fund which is what they use for many of their projects such as the irrigation replacement project currently happening at Mountain View golf course.

Callista Pearson gives updates for the Community Engagement section by telling the board they have received heavy interest in youth hockey due to the NHL team moving to Salt Lake City, so they are keeping up with all media inquiries about that. She touches on the ribbon cutting that was held at Dimple Dell Regional Park last month for the Wrangler Trailhead and how those restrooms are now open. Lastly, she mentions they are continuing to work on the promotion

of the My County Rec Pass and the ZAP (Zoo, Arts, and Parks) tax re-authorization by posting the new artwork and making sure marketing materials are posted in all facilities.

Doranne Pittz gives updates for the Recreation section by telling the board they're gearing up for outdoor pool season, the My County Rec Pass program, and are starting to put together and build their 2025 budget. She mentions that opposite of media requests regarding hockey, they are also receiving many requests to affiliate and partner with Salt Lake County on hockey programs, so they have been in communication with the Smith Entertainment Group to work out ideas. Lastly, Doranne touches on HB 257 which went into effect on May 1. Recreation has a procedure and protocol throughout all the recreation centers and locker rooms, and there have not been incidents thus far.

Fiscal Overview and FIF Process

Brent touches on this during his section update.

Board Business

The board confirms that the next meeting will take place on Wednesday, June 12, 2024. Julie says that due to having multiple new board members, the next meeting will have a focus on educating the new members and refreshing the knowledge of the current members by discussing all things Parks & Recreation and Salt Lake County. Julie finishes by welcoming the new members and thanking them for joining.

Adjourn

Lisa Dean motions to adjourn, Connie Burgess seconds, all approve.