

Wasatch County Parks & Recreation SSD #21
Board Meeting
June 11, 2024
Minutes
*****DRAFT*****

Attendance:

Kendall Crittenden, Chairman
Steve Farrell, Board Member
Mark Nelson, Board Member
Spencer Park, Board Member
Erik Rowland, Board Member
Luke Searle, Board Member

Tom Bonner, Director
Heath Coleman, Asst. Director
Amaria Scovil, Rec. Center Director
Taylor Baker, Programs Director
Laurie Duke, Admin. Assistant
Dustin Grabau, County Manager
Travis Dial, IT Specialist

Excused:

Karl McMillan, Vice-Chairman

Kendall Crittenden called the meeting to order at 3:05 p.m.

Minutes: May 14, 2024:

Tom Bonner presented the minutes. Luke Searle made a motion to approve the minutes for May 14, 2024. Erik Rowland seconded the motion. Motion passes with the following vote:

AYE:	Kendall Crittenden
AYE:	Steve Farrell
AYE:	Mark Nelson
AYE:	Erik Rowland
AYE:	Luke Searle
ABSTAIN:	Spencer Park (Not in attendance at May 14, 2024 meeting)
ABSENT:	Karl McMillan

Warrants:

Tom Bonner presented the warrants for May 10, 2024 through June 5, 2024 in the amount of \$217,370.60. Kendall asked if there were any questions on the warrants. Luke asked about the Timp Archers Ad charge and Tom explained that is an event we have every year and it is pass through.

Steve Farrell made a motion to approve the warrants for May 10, 2024 through June 5, 2024 in the amount of \$217,370.60. Mark Nelson seconded the motion. Motion passes with the following vote:

AYE:	Kendall Crittenden
AYE:	Steve Farrell
AYE:	Mark Nelson
AYE:	Spencer Park
AYE:	Erik Rowland
AYE:	Luke Searle
NAY:	None
ABSENT:	Karl McMillan

Director's Report:

Tom Bonner reported that he received the engineer's estimate from Troy Ostler of CIVCO Engineering for the Vets parking lot. For the total parking area it is \$1,979,000. He also broke it down, for the north end it would be \$928,000. And for the south end \$1,051,000. This estimate includes everything: paving, storm drainage, curb, gutter, striping, lights, etc.

Mark commented that this type of work cannot be done in the winter and Tom agreed. Steve asked how thick the asphalt would be and Tom answered that the asphalt would be 4 inches. Mark asked if the estimate gave the number of parking stalls and Tom said that it did not, but he could check with Troy. Kendall asked about the advantages of paving this parking lot and Tom replied that it would clean up the area and make it ADA compliant. He also stated that they would like to put up a 4-foot fence around the perimeter for safety.

Steve asked Mark if the railroad is interested in having this done and Mark responded that it would be a huge advantage and even more so when the trail from Vets Park to Soldier Hollow is done. Mark said that trail could be done by next summer. Mark asked Tom if this project will be in the master plan and Tom answered that it absolutely will be in the master plan. Steve asked if the paving would be done this year and Tom said that would depend on funding. He will meet with Dustin to see if there are any options for this year.

Heath stated that there is a lot involved with the master plan and explained that this might be down the list for Parks & Recreation because we also have pressing issues for the Event Complex, Rec. Center and Senior Citizen Center. Steve asked why we got a bid for it if it was so far down the list and Tom explained that this is just an engineer's estimate that he got at Mark's request.

Volleyball Discussion:

Tom gave a brief history of our open net volleyball program. It started way back at the old middle school and then moved to Rocky Mountain Middle School and has been at the Rec. Center since it opened in 2010. Volleyball has been the only sport we have set aside a court at no reservation cost. All other sports have had to pay to reserve a field or court to ensure they would have a place to play. Continuing to offer open net volleyball while charging others to reserve has been considered unfair by many. We have one volleyball net set up in the Volleyball gym at all times. According to policy, that applies to all areas in the Rec. Center, players can take their chances on a first come, first serve basis or they can make a reservation to ensure there is a place for them to play.

As of right now, open net volleyball has been held on Tuesday evenings from 7 to 9 p.m. from October to April. The Rec. Center policy has been explained to the volleyball players and it has been recommended that players pay to reserve a court to ensure that a net is properly set up and that those who are invited to play will have the court. Open net by definition is for all who come to play. We have received multiple complaints by those who have been told they cannot play and rotate in. On many occasions players have adjusted the height of the nets, or have set up additional nets, which is against Rec. Center policy. Tom suggested to Kendall that we open it up for public comment.

Steve asked how much it costs to reserve a court and Tom answered that a full court is \$40. per hour, but for volleyball you only need half of the court so it would be \$20.00 an hour.

Kendall invited anyone who would like to comment to come to the podium and state their name and asked that they keep comments to about 3 minutes or so.

Chris Rasmussen addressed the Board and thanked them for their time to listen to their concerns. He said that he has been part of the volleyball group since the very beginning and since the Rec. Center opened and it has been a great facility. He stated that for years they did set up their nets because that was the direction given by the Rec. Center staff.

He disagreed with Tom on the reservation fees. He said that he has never paid \$20. He said he was quoted \$25. and paid \$30. and then when he reserved a court 2 weeks ago he paid \$40. He agrees that \$20. is more reasonable.

Chris claims that the difference between volleyball and some of the other sports is that if you walk in the Rec. Center with a tennis racquet and a ball you go in and play tennis and if you come in with a basketball you go to a court and shoot hoops because the other sports have more designated places. He said that during this time of year, they are usually the only ones in the Rec. Center on Tuesday and Thursday evenings. He commented that he doesn't think anyone is having to reserve during this time of the year.

Chris explained that volleyball has become very popular lately and so the challenge is if you have 30 people show up and only 12 can play at a time, you are trying to rotate in 18 people, so many don't even get to play. Chris took issue with Tom's comment that there have been complaints from people that said they have been told they could not play. Chris said that they have never turned anyone away, with the exception of a couple of weeks ago, when there were 30 people and they asked the last 4 people to go request another net be put up.

Tom agreed with Chris that volleyball is getting more popular and said that lacrosse, rugby, pickleball, etc. are also getting more popular and all of those participants are also trying to find more space in the Rec. Center.

Chris stated that their challenge in reserving courts is because they never know how many people are going to show up. They do not want to waste money by reserving a court when they do not know if they will need it.

After a lengthy discussion going back and forth, Erik stated that he wanted to get closure on this issue and asked Chris to be the spokesperson for the volleyball group. He asked Chris to meet with Rec. Center management to come to a solution. Tom stated that they just want to be fair to everyone using the Rec. Center. Chris stated that is also his request, that all groups be treated fairly. Erik commented that throughout the discussion, both sides seem to be close to an agreement and will be able to find a solution.

Nathan Child, a member of the volleyball group, addressed the Board and said that he has called some Rec. Centers in Texas, where he used to play, and others along the Wasatch Front and asked about their policies for volleyball. He said that all of them have open net and are expanding their programs. He said that he understands the problem is the volleyball net, but he requested that the open court for volleyball stay. Tom answered that they are committed to that and there will be one

open court. Tom confirmed that management will work with Chris, and the volleyball group, to resolve this issue.

Luke commented that during the discussion he looked through the reservation report for May included in the agenda packet and noticed that there were lots of reservations without charges and asked why. Tom explained that those reservations that do not show a fee are reservations for our Parks & Recreation programs, in which participants have paid a fee to be part of the program such as: Jr. Jazz, tennis, soccer, ceramics, etc.

Kendall thanked the volleyball group for coming and supporting the program. Mark commented that he feels the Parks & Rec. staff are doing their very best to be fair with a limited amount of space and hours, and high demand of many sports and increasing participants. He thanked them for doing a great job.

Kendall asked if there were any other questions or comments. There were none.

Spencer Park made a motion to adjourn. Erik Rowland seconded the motion. Motion passes with the following vote:

AYE:	Kendall Crittenden
AYE:	Steve Farrell
AYE:	Mark Nelson
AYE:	Spencer Park
AYE:	Erik Rowland
AYE:	Luke Searle

ABSENT:	Karl McMillan
---------	---------------

Meeting was adjourned at 3:52 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Laurie Duke