

**PARKS AND RECREATION
ADVISORY BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

In-Person and Webex

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

October 16, 2024 | 11:00AM-12:45PM

In Attendance

Board Members: Chris Hill, Collin Dumke, Connie Burgess, John Warnas, Courtney Peterson, Jason Malczyk, Shauna Ayres, Robynn Masters, Kris Millerberg

Absent: Nate Salazar, Dan Schoenfeld, Jaren Cooper

Staff: Chris Otto, Patrick Leary, Jerry Brewster, Adam Johnson, Julie Peck-Dabbling, Doranne Pittz, David Johnson, Danielle Calacino, Walt Gilmore, Callista Pearson, Brent Laulusa, Isaac Higham, Robin Chalhoub, Robert Sampson

Citizen Participation: Steve Van Maren, Spencer Millerberg

Call to Order

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

Public Comments:

No public comments are made.

Business Item – Approval of September 2024 Minutes

Chris Hill calls for a motion or any discussion on the September 2024 meeting minutes. Connie Burgess motions to approve, Collin Dumke seconds, all approve.

Division Director's Report

Chris Otto shares some division wide updates with the board including:

- A recap on his time spent at the National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA) annual conference, and his key takeaways. He says he learned just how big Salt Lake County Parks & Recreation really is once he met other people and learned about their much smaller agencies.
- Budget problems with aquatics specifically and how they are working on how to manage that. He explains that because of some accreditation issues and the demand for an increase in lifeguards due to safety they are dealing with budget constraints.

Board Business

- Last meeting, Courtney Peterson asked how other board members find out what their constituents opinions or needs are regarding Parks & Recreation, and wanted to have a discussion about it this month. David Johnson reminds the board members their role is to give advice, information, and recommendations to the mayor, council, and parks and rec staff. He says if they decide to go out to individual city or neighborhood meetings and listen to what people have to say, they can bring that back to the advisory board to discuss, but they shouldn't attend any meetings stating they are there representing Salt Lake County or a certain position or

policy the County holds. Julie Peck-Dabbling also reminds the board that the division does currently work with all the individual cities often and is in constant communication with them. Chris Otto tells the board that there are currently active surveys out there for the community to fill out and give feedback that helps inform what comes out of the 10-year master plan, and what to plan from both the programming perspective and from building out new amenities.

- Collin Dumke opens the conversation on inclusive playgrounds, both adaptive and all abilities, and the role the County plays in providing them to the community. Collin advocates for more inclusive playgrounds throughout the County and specifically mentions Holladay Lions, where there is space and need for one. The board and staff have a thoughtful discussion on how accessibility is taken into consideration with each new project or upgrade to an existing facility, and if creating a policy or best practice would benefit design plans for all future projects. Isaac Higham with the County Council confirms that the Council likes to hear from advisory boards and receive policy change recommendations from them to consider and adopt. Julie mentions that budget will always add a challenge in getting any playground built, so they need to consider how many bells and whistles they should have or if they should build them in phases. They all come to a consensus that the parks and rec staff will work with the DA's office to draft language for the board to vote on in a future meeting that will either recommend a policy or best practice that aligns with the master plan which County Council can consider.
- Chris Hill mentions the use of trails in the county and the safety risks that exist there among the user groups. He acknowledges that the user conflict and user management is a controversial issue but wants the group to be able to tackle it. Chris Otto lets the board know they are in the process of proposing a modification to the ordinance to restructure the Open Space Trust Fund Advisory Committee to be an Open Space and Trails Advisory Board. Chris Otto says that by doing this, they hope to add trail management to that board's plate where they can actively talk through and tackle the issues. They all agree it's an important issue to the board and staff, and they are going to handle it the best they can.
- Chris Hill decides to skip the discussion on the parking situation at the SLC Sports Complex, but Julie tells him Doranne Pittz will send him and Robynn Masters an update on the work they're doing directly.

Naming Request – Butterfield Canyon Bridges

Chris Hill introduces a naming request Salt Lake County Parks & Recreation received for two bridges in Butterfield Canyon, and has the requester, Spencer Millerberg, introduce himself. Patrick Leary quickly tells the board how Spencer was involved in the development of the Butterfield Canyon trail system and had pledged a contribution to it, and there were talks about the consideration of naming a bridge after the Millerberg Family Foundation. Patrick also tells the board that when naming requests are received, staff must follow the ordinance and provide the board with relevant information and history regarding the request for them to vote on moving the recommendation forward or not.

Jason Malczyk asks about recognition versus naming, and says it's not mentioned in the ordinance. He also asks if the ordinance was made before the County started managing trails and voices his concerns about naming things due to the many ramifications it could cause in the future.

Spencer tells the board his reasonings for why they are requesting one bridge be named Millerberg and the other bridge to be named Darten and gives them background on his family's involvement and Jo Darten's involvement with the trails. He says he wants the naming of the bridge to create a movement of goodness with hopes it helps other people become more philanthropic, and he thanks the board for considering his proposal.

The board decides they need more information before they feel comfortable making a decision, and Chris Hill tells the staff to take the time to gather what they need, then come back to the board.

Section Update

Callista Pearson gives updates for the Community Engagement section by telling the board that they are hosting an exhibition game at the new Salt Lake County Athletic Fields located behind the County Ice Center tomorrow, October 10. She also mentions that the U.S. Capitol Christmas Tree will be at Wheeler Historic Farm on November 9 as part of its tour on the way to Washington, D.C.

Jerry Brewster gives updates for the Golf section by telling the board that they have wrapped up two large projects they are excited about and are having a record-setting year in both revenue and rounds, being up \$90,000 in revenue from where they were at this time last year. He also tells them they recently hosted the 6A and 4A high school golf state championships at two of the courses.

Doranne Pittz gives updates for the Recreation section by telling the board they are wrapping up the process of choosing a new point of sale system, and highlights that on October 1 they expanded the My County Rec Pass to include 0–4-year-olds. She says they are up to 64,500 registered kids and have started to create partnerships with other organizations to contribute to the program, in hopes that it will continue past the pilot. Doranne also mentions that they are gearing up for Junior Jazz season and are going through a full section assessment to look at budget and making sure they're using all their resources efficiently.

Walt Gilmore gives updates for the Planning section by telling the board they are working on a deferred maintenance tool to assess the health of all the facilities the division manages. He tells them it's a dashboard his team has created, and they will be showing it to Robin's team this week and looks forward to sharing it with the board later.

Brent Laulusa does not have any updates for the Administration and Finance section, but mentions TRCC (Tourism, Recreation, Culture, and Convention) funding. Robin Chalhoub clarifies that currently 40% of the TRCC fund goes towards Parks & Recreation operations, and the Community Services Department will put \$6 million more towards Parks & Recreation's capital projects and deferred maintenance this year. Robin adds that they have separate line items in the TRCC fund for the My County Rec Pass program and the point-of-sale system, which is where both are funded from. She emphasizes that the TRCC fund is a significant contributor to the overall operations and functions of the Parks & Recreation division.

Patrick Leary gives updates for the Parks section by telling the board they are winterizing the parks by shuttering the restrooms, aerating and fertilizing, and putting everything to bed for the season. He also mentions they successfully hosted two separate high school mountain bike races in Butterfield Canyon that saw a large attendance.

Chris Otto proposes the idea of providing the board data on the My County Rec Pass regarding its usage and where it's impacting operations in January's meeting and says he's optimistic that the data they're seeing is going to compel the Council to continue the program.

Adjourn

John Warnas motions to adjourn, Connie Burgess seconds, all approve.