

Bingham Creek Regional Park Authority | Minutes

Date/Time: November 18, 2024, 12:00 pm – 1:00 pm

Location: South Jordan City Hall/ Zoom option

Board Members		Attendance
Don Tingey	Chair	In person
Angela McGuire	Vice Chair	In person
Lars Erickson	Board Member	In person
Amber Brown	Board Member	In person
Colby Hill	South Jordan Representative	In person
Patrick Leary	Salt Lake County Representative	Remote

Others Present: Anna Crookston, Dan Langford (online), Mike Anderson, Isaac Highman (online), Nick Cummings (online)

This meeting was conducted both in-person and electronically via Zoom. Agendas, recordings, and meeting minutes can be accessed on the Utah Public Notice site at utah.gov/pmn.

Board Chair brings the meeting to order.

PUBLIC COMMENTS –

Mike Anderson

Mike Anderson said I am here regarding an application for the Mountain Ridge Youth Lacrosse Program, for the opportunity to use one of your parks. I believe the application has been accepted, and for the Bingham Creek Athletic Field, we are looking at March 8 of next year. We have run a tournament for the past couple of years, almost a decade now, with the exception of some COVID years in the middle when we weren't able to run it. It is the earliest lacrosse tournament held in Utah. We call it our Spring Thaw because it occurs right at the very beginning of the season. The last couple of years, we've had teams from Idaho come down. Typically, it involves youth teams from the area—about eight to ten high schools, essentially the feeder programs. We run a large tournament that serves as a fundraiser for the youth in our community, helping us provide scholarships, equipment, and other necessary support while also raising awareness about the game. Because of this, we submitted an application and I was told I needed to be here for any questions, comments, or concerns."

Don Tingey advised the board that this item would be discussed later on the agenda, but if the board would prefer, they could move up the discussion now.

Angela McGuire asked if the applicant was aware that the fields had sustained some damage this year due to heavy use. She mentioned that prior to the application submission, there had been discussions about allowing the fields to rest next year and not scheduling any events on them. She wondered if the county had informed Mr. Anderson of this when the application was submitted.

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Mike Anderson stated he was not aware of that. For the last few years, they have utilized the Equestrian Center and Bastian Agricultural Center. Last year, the situation had escalated to the point where they felt the need to place the girls' teams on one set of fields a couple of miles away, while the boys' teams used others. Their concern is that they would like to keep all teams together if possible. He acknowledged that there is significant concern about allowing the fields to rest, especially later in the season when the grass begins to take root and grow.

Angela McGuire noted that the fields didn't have enough time to establish properly and, as a result, the grass didn't grow as expected. She said they allowed programming on the fields but are now facing challenges with the condition of the turf.

Don Tingey added that the board had previously decided not to schedule any events on the fields for 2025, with a reevaluation of the situation for the spring of 2026. This plan would allow for specialized top dressing, over seeding, and fertilizing to help the grass establish better.

Mike Anderson asked when the top seeding and dressing would be done, or if it had already begun.

Don Tingey explained that fertilizing is happening now, with additional work planned for the spring. He emphasized that spring is a critical time for preparing the fields for the fall. The board had already informed other leagues that they would not be able to use the fields in 2025 and advised them to plan accordingly.

Angela McGuire mentioned that the tournament would be great, but reservations are typically made a year in advance. She added that Mr. Anderson had mentioned the Equestrian Center and/or the city as potential alternatives for opening up some additional fields.

Colby Hill explained that the city's policy prohibits sports events before April 1 for the same reason: fields require top dressing and fertilizing, and there is no guarantee when the snow will melt. This policy accounts for the possibility of late snow in March, which could delay necessary field maintenance.

Don Tingey asked Patrick Leary for his thoughts on allowing playtime, and whether the county has a specific timeframe for league play.

Patrick Leary said the county would likely want to match South Jordan's schedule, with a general timeframe of April through October for league play.

Mike Anderson discussed the challenges of running a lacrosse season in Utah, particularly since the season typically ends by the end of April, coinciding with the end of the school year. One of the main difficulties for younger players is the limited

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availability of fields, as many are reserved for other sports, particularly football, which requires well-maintained grass fields for the fall. In contrast, lacrosse can make do with fewer field resources since the league's schedule is less demanding. Games are typically played on a single day, rather than throughout the week, which helps reduce wear and tear on the fields. Additionally, lacrosse games are scheduled early enough in the season to avoid disrupting grass growth, as the games generally involve players spread out across the field, with minimal concentration of activity in one spot. This is in contrast to sports like football, where players tend to congregate in specific areas, leading to more damage to the turf. As a result, lacrosse is less damaging to the fields, especially on turf fields, which is why places like Park City are more willing to accommodate lacrosse teams.

Patrick Leary mentioned that the county has new turf fields in Murray, which include three fields—two full-sized and one larger rugby-sized field—located behind the county ice sheet at Murray Park. These fields are designed for year-round league play and just opened four weeks ago. They might be a good option for the league, and their availability can be checked on the county parks and recreation website.

Mike Anderson expressed appreciation for this information and said he would look into it. He was uncertain whether three fields would be enough to accommodate the number of teams, but he would definitely consider it as a secondary or tertiary option if needed.

Don Tingey mentioned that the Bastian Center, with its polo fields up front, where they have played in the past, is still available and amenable to their use.

Mike Anderson confirmed that the Bastian Center is amenable and has been supportive in the past. However, parking has been a significant issue. Last year, the concern was having all the girls' teams at one location without bouncing between locations. This arrangement diminished some of the unity the teams had enjoyed in previous years and impacted outreach efforts. He added that the arrival of a new professional lacrosse team has been a positive development, as they are eager to engage with the local youth community. He emphasized that having a large pavilion and more fields would be incredibly beneficial. While he understands the challenges related to field seeding and other concerns, he remains hopeful for future improvements.

The board discussed the need to make a decision regarding the 2026 season to be prepared for future requests.

Mike Anderson acknowledged that it is an exception to the rule to allow early-season play. He explained that the reason for the exception is that it is a one-day event.

Don Tingey recommended to the board that, based on the decision not to schedule play in 2025, the request be denied at this time, and that consideration for 2026 take place at a future date, ideally around the same time next year, if not earlier.

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Lars Erickson asked if the issue was about overcoming the early deadline. He mentioned that if the tournament was set for March 8 of next year, he would want to discuss the matter with maintenance to see how they could accommodate it.

Don Tingey agreed that it is a discussion for another board meeting, emphasizing the importance of preparing for future requests and looking at it holistically.

Angela McGuire suggested that the county also needs to ensure that future permit requests of this nature are stopped at the county level.

Patrick Leary confirmed that they are aware of this and will ensure future requests are appropriately managed.

Mike Anderson concluded by expressing appreciation for the opportunity to hear the board's concerns and ideas, including the suggestion of the Murray fields. He acknowledged that the issue of available fields is becoming more pressing as the number of kids involved in the program grows, and finding solutions to work with cities and counties or possibly building their own fields is becoming increasingly necessary.

Action: Don Tingey moved to deny the request for this year and reconsider it next year. Amber Brown seconded the motion. The board approved the motion unanimously.

Dan Langford

Dan Langford, a resident of South Jordan and leader of the Daybreak Disc Golf Club, provided an update on the use of the course. The club was currently halfway through its PDGA-sanctioned Disc Golf League, which took place every Saturday. Some visitors may have noticed white and red flags marking out-of-bounds areas on a few holes. The league had a small entry fee, and play was spread throughout the day on Saturdays to avoid large crowds that could limit others' use of the course. Players were eligible for prizes for aces or the closest throws to particular baskets, and some divisions offered payouts. Higher-rated players received PayPal payouts, while most amateur divisions were awarded store credit to the nearest Disc Golf store in Herriman, called Sports Connection, helping to support local businesses. The league had been successful, with many participants. A portion of each registration, along with additional donations, was being handled by Elevate Utah, a local nonprofit for disc golf. The funds were earmarked for improvements to the Bingham Creek course. So far, nearly \$200 had been raised, and by the end of the league, the amount could grow to \$500 or \$1,000. At that point, Mr. Langford planned to inquire about using the funds for course enhancements. He thanked the community for providing the course and expressed his willingness to address any questions or concerns.

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Don Tingey thanked Mr. Langford for all his efforts at the disc golf course. He added that Andrea Sorenson had expressed her appreciation for his help with signage as well.

Angela McGuire asked if a request had been submitted for the tournament play.

Dan Langford responded that they had not submitted a request for reserving the entire course because they knew the numbers would be low enough that it would be unnecessary for the current play. They had intentionally spread the play out across the entire day on Saturdays, so they weren't all meeting at the same time. They knew the numbers would be low enough not to limit anyone else's access to the course. If they needed to reserve the course for a future tournament, they would be happy to discuss that.

Angela McGuire said they should at least have a heads-up or some indication that such an event is taking place.

Amber Brown asked if there were guidelines regarding when an application needed to be submitted.

Patrick Leary said that if they were reserving the course for a tournament, they would likely need to submit a special event request, but since Mr. Langford mentioned that they were not inhibiting other people from playing or keeping anyone off the course, this may not be necessary at the moment.

Dan Langford clarified that they weren't causing large crowds or making the course undesirable for others. He said that if they hoped to run a large tournament next year, or even a multi-day tournament, they would absolutely submit applications and pay whatever was necessary.

Colby Hill noted that anytime private money is being made on public land, the board should ensure that the event is properly insured and that the correct process is followed.

Don Tingey agreed with Mr. Hill and emphasized the importance of staying consistent with expectations.

Patrick Leary explained that other disc golf courses in the county followed the regular permitting process when running tournaments.

Dan Langford noted that those courses hosted multiple leagues each week and collected a lot of money. He clarified that what they were doing was league play on Saturdays, not a tournament where they were restricting access to the course.

Colby Hill pointed out that it was still an organized event.

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Dan Langford responded that the other clubs held several league plays a week and collected substantial funds, and that they were being transparent about their operations. He acknowledged that this might be either his or the other clubs' mistake, but that it was important to understand and manage expectations moving forward.

Don Tingey said they required other leagues to go through the appropriate process and wanted to maintain consistency in how this was handled.

Dan Langford pointed out that those other leagues would limit access to the fields by reserving them, preventing others from using the fields during that time, whereas they were not doing that.

Lars Erickson said that the goal was not to impede their activities but to establish a set order of operations.

Don Tingey acknowledged that they were learning as they went and emphasized that consistency was key. He expressed appreciation for all Mr. Langford's efforts to activate the park and the disc golf course.

Dan Langford added that if it would be helpful, they could schedule time at a future meeting to further discuss the issue and answer additional questions. He suggested inviting others from different disc golf clubs with more experience to offer their opinions, providing a way forward to continue the conversation.

Lars Erickson asked if they needed to ask Mr. Langford to submit the necessary forms and follow up after that.

Dan Langford stated that the current league was scheduled to end on the first Saturday of December. He also noted that he had been playing league play there since the course opened, but this was the first time he had been collecting donations earmarked for future course improvements.

Don Tingey suggested scheduling a future board meeting to discuss recommendations on how other courses are maintained and operated.

Dan Langford confirmed that he would gather some additional information. He mentioned that since this was a PDGA-sanctioned league, there was PDGA professional Disc Golf Association insurance that would come into play should anything happen during a PDGA-sanctioned league event.

Lars Erickson, with the mention of a donation from Elevate Utah, asked if there was a process in place to receive that donation.

Don Tingey responded that there was no specific procedure in place but that donations could be accepted through the interlocal agreement.

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Dan Langford clarified that Elevate Utah is a nonprofit organization, and they would work with the board to figure out how to manage the donation process.

Patrick Leary agreed to share the county's donation policy, which the board might want to adopt.

Nick Cummings

Nick Cummings stated that he was with Red Canyon BMX and would be attending the meetings as they moved forward with the TRCC grant. He mentioned that if there was anything relevant to the northwest corner of Bingham Creek, he wanted to be available to the board. The main contractor was scheduled to come out over Thanksgiving weekend to conduct a site inspection, gathering measurements to prepare a plan.

Don Tingey inquired about the final dollar amount for the grant.

Nick Cummings responded that the County (TRCC) would fund \$303,000, and they (RAD Canyon) were responsible for \$75,000, plus \$95,000 in in-kind contributions. He believed, based on his understanding from the grant committee, that the \$75,000 could be in-kind and in donations from some of their contractor affiliates, bringing the total to just shy of \$390,000.

The board congratulated them and expressed their anticipation of their success.

Don Tingey closed the public comment portion of the meeting.

Approval of October 21, 2024, Minutes

Don Tingey asks if the board has any edits to the minutes and suggests two changes to be made.

Action: Angela McGuire motions to approve with changes. Lars Erickson seconds the motion. The board approves unanimously.

Don Tingey introduced Anna Crookston as the new Parks Authority clerk.

Maintenance and Construction Update, Patrick Leary, Salt Lake County Parks and Recreation; Colby Hill, South Jordan City

Patrick Leary informed the board that they were cutting down plants and preparing for winter. The fertilizing was successful, and additional measures were taken to help the grass grow next year.

Financial Items

Don Tingey presented the financials from the previous month.

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Angela McGuire inquired about the total pavilion rental income for the year.

Don Tingey noted that the last he checked the income was just around \$7,000 to \$8,000 for the year.

Angela McGuire asked if a check would be sent at the end of the year.

Don Tingey confirmed that this would be the case, as it had been done last year, and he expected the same this year.

Patrick Leary stated he would send the previous month's budget summary to the board.

Administrative Items

Wasatch Front Waste & Recycling Lease Agreement.

Don Tingey mentions the lease agreement will be \$10,000 per year to lease about 200 square feet of property.

Angela McGuire confirmed that a check would be issued to them.

Amber Brown asked where on the map the lease would be located. The board discussed that it would be next to RAD Canyon's fence, near the maintenance building.

Don Tingey confirmed he would send an invoice for payment, which would be recorded as other income in the budget.

Action: Amber Brown motions to approve. Lars Erickson seconds the motion. The board approves unanimously.

2024 Fraud Assessment Report. (added Nomination and approval of new secretary/treasurer).

Don Tingey mentioned that the fraud risk assessment was required yearly for the State Auditor's Office. Some measures had been implemented, and a few more policies would be put in place, but the score was slightly higher than the previous year.

Angela McGuire asked who the treasurer was.

Don Tingey responded that he would have Angela McGuire, as Vice Chair, sign the report this year until a treasurer was appointed.

Angela McGuire confirmed Anna Crookston as the clerk and asked about #4, which involved confirming that the accountant had access to the blank checks.

Don Tingey confirmed that the accountant was responsible for creating all checks and reconciling bank statements monthly. The approval needed to be submitted to the State Auditor's Office to be compliant for the year.

Angela McGuire suggested nominating a Treasurer to ensure compliance for the year.

Action: Lars Erickson nominated Amber Brown as Secretary/Treasurer through the end of the year. Angela McGuire seconded the nomination. The board approves unanimously.

Action: Lars Erickson motions to approve 2024 Fraud Assessment Report. Angela McGuire seconds the motion. The board approves unanimously.

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Website URL Update.

Don Tingey shared that the City's IT Department was working on the website URL update. All required documentation had been submitted to the State, and approval had been granted. Both URLs would work, with the old one redirecting to the new one. The update should be live by January.

2025 Board Items Discussion

Don Tingey asked to revisit this topic if time permitted in the meeting.

Master Plan Subcommittee Update.

Angela McGuire discussed ZAP funding, noting that they were considering requesting \$12 to \$15 million for a splash pad destination park area, an off-leash dog area, pickleball courts, pavilion storage, and restrooms near the mountain bike area, which would allow access for disc golf and trail users.

Colby Hill asked if the \$12-\$15 million estimate was based on any engineering estimates. Angela McGuire explained that the amount was based on the estimates provided by Andrea Sorenson.

Don Tingey clarified that the amounts would need to be refined when preparing the ZAP application.

Angela McGuire would bring back a refined list after the site tour to facilitate further discussion. They were still in the process of determining the details.

Colby Hill asked when the ZAP applications were due.

Patrick Leary responded that he had the link and would send it out. He believed the application was due in July next year, with the general obligation bond scheduled for the 2026 general election ballot and funding expected in 2027.

Colby Hill asked about potential competition for the funds.

Don Tingey mentioned there were many projects requesting funding, making the process competitive.

Board Member Recruitment Update.

Don Tingey noted that there was currently one vacancy on the board.

Patrick Leary stated that the application process was always open, but there were no new applicants.

Don Tingey asked if the board should reach out to previous applicants.

Angela McGuire suggested opening the application process again but also considering previous applicants.

Don Tingey confirmed he would reach out to previous applicants to see if they were still interested.

Patrick Leary would do a social media blast and forward it to the board.

The board agreed that the deadline for applications would be January 6, 2025, to allow time for review and discussion before the January 20 board meeting.

2025 Board Appointments Discuss Nominations - Chair, Vice Chair and Secretary/Treasurer.

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The board discussed holding nominations for these positions during the December 16, 2024 meeting.

December Meeting (12/16/2024)

The next meeting was scheduled for December 16, 2024.

Angela McGuire mentioned that the CD would be expiring in January and suggested discussing that during the December meeting.

2025 Board Items Discussion

Don Tingey planned to bring a list of meeting items to the December 16, 2024 meeting and asked the board if they had any items to discuss earlier in the year.

Angela McGuire expressed interest in discussing using a small portion of the funds to complete smaller projects, potentially partnering with the South Jordan Arts to do a tunnel mural, electric boxes, or collaborate on disc golf.

Lars Erickson suggested discussing maintenance and its impact on the budget and the board's needs.

Angela McGuire inquired whether the mower for disc golf had been received.

Patrick Leary confirmed the mower had been purchased but was unsure whether it had arrived.

Lars Erickson also wanted to discuss and understand water-wise plants as part of the maintenance discussion.

Closing Comments:

Colby Hill stated he would not support organized sports before April 1, as the ground is still frozen in March and restrooms are not open.

Don Tingey expressed hope that the Murray turf fields would meet Mr. Anderson's needs.

Angela McGuire mentioned that in the future, the park might have turf to accommodate such requests.

Colby Hill added that most of the fields used by lacrosse are football fields that are already turf.

The board requested to publish a quorum notice for the December 2 site tour.

ADJOURN

Lars Erickson motions to adjourn. The board approves unanimously.