**Wasatch County Parks & Recreation SSD #21**

**Board Meeting**

**May 12, 2020**

**Minutes**

**Attendance by Remote**:

Jeff Wade, Chairman Tom Bonner, Director

Danny Goode, Vice Chairman Heath Coleman, Asst. Director

Kendall Crittenden, Member Amaria Scovil, Rec. Center Director

Marilyn Crittenden, Member Erik Lappe, Rec. Center Programs Director

Steve Farrell, Member Jon Provost, Event Center Director

Mark Nelson, Member Laurie Duke, Admin. Assistant

Spencer Park, Member Mike Davis, County Manager

Board Chairman, Jeff Wade, called the meeting to order at 3:25 p.m.

**Minutes**:

Tom Bonner presented the minutes for April 14, 2020.

Board Member, Spencer Park made a motion to approve the April 14, 2020 minutes.

Board Member, Kendall Crittenden seconded the motion. Motion carries with following vote:

AYE: Board Chairman, Jeff Wade

AYE: Board Vice-Chairman, Danny Goode

AYE: Board Member, Kendall Crittenden

AYE: Board Member, Marilyn Crittenden

AYE: Board Member, Steve Farrell

AYE: Board Member, Mark Nelson

AYE: Board Member, Spencer Park

NAY: None

**Warrants:**

Tom Bonner presented the warrants for April 9, 2020 through May 8, 2020 in the amount of $17,129.35.

Kendall Crittenden noted that there were not any pass through items and asked Tom how long it has been since that happened. Tom responded that in his 25 years at Parks & Recreation that has never happened.

Board Member, Kendall Crittenden made a motion to approve the warrants for April 9, 2020 through May 8, 2020 in the amount of $17,129.35.

Board Member, Marilyn Crittenden seconded the motion. Motion carries with the following vote:

AYE: Board Chairman, Jeff Wade

AYE: Board Vice-Chairman, Danny Goode

AYE: Board Member, Kendall Crittenden

AYE: Board Member, Marilyn Crittenden

AYE: Board Member, Steve Farrell

AYE Board Member, Mark Nelson

AYE: Board Member, Spencer Park

NAY: None

**COVID-19 Parks & Recreation Update**:

Tom asked Amaria Scovil to give an update on the Recreation Center. Amaria reported that the Rec. Center opened last Wednesday, May 6th, with restrictions in place under the recommended guidelines to keep patrons safe. The hours are 7:00 to 9:00 a.m. for the track only and 9:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Monday through Friday for all other areas by reservation only. Contact sports are only allowed for members of the same household. All transactions are credit card, no cash accepted. Amaria reported that we have only had about 10 people a day.

Kendall asked if the people coming in are from the same family and she replied that yes the ones who are reserving are members of the same family, but we have had a few walkers use the track.

Tom asked Jon Provost to give an update on the Event Center. Jon reported that they are also adhering to all safety guidelines. The restrooms are closed and they have blocked off the seating area. He said that they have had about 6 people a day at the Event Center.

Tom Bonner explained that at all the facilities they have been cleaning, painting, and getting lots of projects done that they normally do not have time for. He reported that the staff laid about 21,000 square feet of sod around the new pickle ball courts today and that the courts are finished. They will let them cure for the weekend and then they will be open.

The programming staff has been helping the parks staff with all the mowing and maintenance since we do not have any of our part time staff. He also said that the Event Center employees have been assisting with the setting up and tearing down each day of the COVID 19 testing area that is set up in their parking lot. Tom also reported that some of the staff have been helping the Chamber of Commerce and Health Department pass out personal protective equipment for small businesses at our Rec. Center parking lot.

Tom asked Heath Coleman to report on our Memorial Day Celebration. Heath explained that this year it will be a “Drive-By Tribute”, honoring the men and women that have protected and are preserving our freedom. The Drive-by route is along Veterans Memorial Park on 600 West. Beginning Saturday, May 23rd, the Rec. Center staff will be posting about 40 signs along the route and the public has been invited, through social media, to post a yard sign or poster to honor a Veteran or all Wasatch County Veterans. The signs will be displayed Saturday, May 23rd through Monday, May 25th.

On Memorial Day, May 25th, from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. the route will be decorated with 100 American Flags and balloons, along with the signs. The Veteran Rock Memorial will be surrounded with all the military flags and a wreath will be placed. Adaire Willoughby and Brett Holmes have prepared a special video about 12 to 15 min. long. Anyone driving by will be able to turn to radio station FM 98.3 to hear the audio for the video that will play on repeat throughout the day. Amaria was able to get Governor Herbert to do a 30 second presentation that will be included in the video and we were able to get drone footage of Neil Anderton saluting the flag on Memorial Hill. They did a great job on the video and it will also be posted on all of our social media outlets.

Mark Nelson asked Heath about how many people he expected would be standing, or on bicycles or chairs on the street. Heath reiterated that this is a drive-by tribute, so he doesn’t expect any spectators on the street. Mark asked if there were cars parked in the gravel parking lot if that would disrupt the event and Heath replied that he doesn’t think it will.

Heath asked Mark if we can post flags on the railroad side of the route and Mark replied that would be fine, but just asked that they put the rebar on the edge of the sidewalk. Heath said that they will be putting up the flags about 7:00 a.m. Monday morning. Mark said that he will come to the site on Monday morning. Mark commented that the train will be running from 10:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. that day.

**Events Discussion**:

Tom posted an “Events List” that he also emailed to the Board. He reported that some of the events have been cancelled or postponed. The State Finals Rodeo has been cancelled, along with the Jr. High Finals Rodeo. As of now, we still have some softball tournaments scheduled for June. If the county has moved to yellow by then, and we have approval from the county to hold these events, Tom said that he will have the groups give us their safety plan of what they will do to keep their participants safe.

Tom said that our pressing issue right now is the County Fair. He said that he invited Mike Davis to this meeting and wanted to discuss with the Board whether our big events like the Derby, Rodeo, Party in the Park, etc. are going to happen. He said that our drop dead date for a decision is June 1st  because that is when we start spending money on them.

Jeff Wade said that he agrees that we need to give our contracted services an answer by June 1st. Tom said that yes they are foremost in our mind, but we also need a decision for people from all over the country & Canada that are building cars for the Derby, and those who are planning to come to our rodeo.

Jeff then asked what would happen if we cancel our Derby and Rodeo on June 1st and then July 1st we get the approval that we can hold events. Heath answered that the staff have been discussing different scenarios for if that happens. We could still do our Jr. Livestock Show and maybe stretch that over a few days. We could use the outdoor arena for Mutton Busting where we could control how many are in the arena at a time. They have talked about a Drive-In Movie night and different contests and ideas that we could still put on during Fair Days.

Tom clarified that Jeff’s question was mainly asking about holding our Derby and Rodeo and Tom said that if the county went to green after we had cancelled those two big events we probably would not be able to hold them at their scheduled dates of July 31st through August 8th. He said that maybe we could schedule them for a later date, sometime in September or October, if we could get the participants and funding.

Jeff commented that he is glad Parks & Recreation are planning for some kind of Fair Days Celebration. Tom said that he is confident that we will still have a Fair Days Celebration, but it probably won’t be our typical Fair Days due to COVID 19.

Mark Nelson said that he feels it is vitally important that we announce as soon as possible that there will be Fair Days, even if it is modified. Tom agreed and said that he has no problem putting out a statement because the public wants to know if the county fair is going to happen, but we need a decision on the big events.

Kendall suggested that the final decision regarding the big events be put on their agenda for their regular County Council Meeting on June 3rd. Tom said that the reason they set the June 1st date was because that was 60 days out for contracts, but that June 3rd would be fine, at the very latest.

Mark said that assuming we are still in the yellow phase we should be planning how we can modify events so that we can still have them. Tom explained that the Fair Board is doing exactly that, as Heath mentioned. Mark said that Wasatch County is the playground for 2 million people that live within an hour of us and want to come here and we should be thinking of them also. Tom answered that we will do everything we can do within the guidelines we’ve been given. Mark responded that he understands, but that we need to make sure that the leaders who are making the decisions hear all sides of the pandemic. Mark feels that right now the medical side has 95% of everyone’s attention. Danny responded to Mark that in the COVID 19 calls they have a variety of people from all aspects of life and he does not think anyone has been dismissed or not heard. Mark replied that he is exaggerating, but feels we are off the mark on some of these decisions.

Mark asked if anyone knows if school is going to start on August 21st. Jeff replied that he does not think they will know until the State lets them know. Danny said the School District is on the COVID 19 calls and they are waiting to hear what the governor tells them. Danny explained that the decisions Wasatch County had made previously were made by the council and Randall Probst, and he didn’t hear any disagreement then. Now the governor has taken over so the county is not really in control of their own fate. Mark said that he understands.

Tom asked if Mike Davis had anything to say in regards to the County Fair. Mike commented that he is in favor of doing the events we can. He said that one of the limiting factors is how we are going to pay for some events. The large events require essentially a sell-out crowd and that will be a difficult move financially to get that type of revenue. He is in support of doing as much as we can and getting creative and coming up with some new events. Danny suggested we could do the BBQ in the Park as a drive-thru event.

Jon commented that he worked with Jodi Richins and made a graph of the main grandstands to keep the social distancing parameters, seating in groups of eight, four, and two. With those guidelines we could sell one-fifth of the grandstands.

Tom asked the council to call or email him any ideas they may have to see if we might be able to make them work for our community.

Marilyn said that she appreciates Tom & his staff in moving forward to try to keep as many activities as we possibly can. She feels it’s important to set an example of resilience and be a positive influence for our community during this difficult time. Tom responded that he, and his staff, will do everything possible under the parameters we have to do our best to get events back on the schedule.

Spencer asked about doing smaller events and maybe going back to a Derby and Rodeo with only local participants, going back to a small town feel. Tom replied that moving forward this year it will be more community centered because of the situation we’re in, but that he likes the idea of going back to the more traditional small town Fair Days. Jon also agreed and said that the only reason we have gone to professional events is because it sells tickets. He said that they have talked in depth of getting back to more traditional events. Mark commented that we could do an event to honor people who have been on the front lines of this pandemic and that there are lots of options of what we could do.

Tom asked if there were any more questions. There were none, so Jeff asked for a motion to adjourn.

Board Member, Marilyn Crittenden made a motion to adjourn.

Board Member, Kendall Crittenden seconded the motion. Motion carries with the following vote:

AYE: Board Chairman, Jeff Wade

AYE: Board Vice-Chairman, Danny Goode

AYE: Board Member, Kendall Crittenden

AYE: Board Member, Marilyn Crittenden

AYE: Board Member, Steve Farrell

AYE: Board Member, Mark Nelson

AYE: Board Member, Spencer Park

NAY: None

Meeting was adjourned at 4:11 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Laurie Duke