

**PARKS AND RECREATION
ADVISORY BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

In-Person and WebEx

Location: Government Center, 2001 S. State Street SLC, Utah 84118

May 10th, 2023 | 11:30AM-1:00PM

In Attendance

Board Members: Jerry Cordova-Ong, Lynnette Wendel, Chris Hill, Carl Fisher, Lisa Smith, Robynn Masters, John Warnas, Connie Burgess, Soren Simonsen, Danny Shoenfeld

Absent: Nate Salazar, Jaren Cooper, Mont Millerberg

Staff: Jerry Brewster, David Johnson, Adam Johnson, Jon Ruedas, Andrea De Paz, Brent Laulusa, Martin Jensen, Jan Donchess, Robin Chalhoub, Doranne Pittz, Liz Sollis, Patrick Leary, Julie Peck-Dabling

Citizen Participation: Steve Van Muren,

CALL TO ORDER

Carl calls for the introduction of all attendees.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

No public comments.

BUSINESS ITEM – APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion to approve April 2023 minutes. Only correction – Martin Jensen was not in attendance for the April meeting, though it showed him as “present” on the minutes draft. Carl motions to approve, board approves the minutes. June 14th is decided as the next board meeting date.

DIRECTOR’S REPORT

On a recent trip to England, Martin remarks on his visit to Hyde Park – one of the world's most famous parks. 500 years old and 363 acres which is funded by the English government. It reminded him of the work done here and how important it is and all the regional parks we are building that hopefully will also be here 500 years from now as well.

Updates from the past month:

- Looking at filling vacancies and hiring for critical positions
- Though we are on a calendar year budget, this is the timeframe where we start preparing and looking at 2024. We just submitted mid-year budget adjustment submissions.
- Budget direction from Mayor’s office: “new requests for structural expenditures will be a challenge given the outlook for revenue inflation in the current economic climate.” Meaning new requests will be tough as inflation’s gone up.
 - We’re in a planning phase, we are just wrapping up the last bond round, as those projects are almost done.
 - ARPA Transformational Initiative is being spent which was given to us to upgrade some of the irrigation systems in our parks.

- Finishing up Master Plans - flyers are out in the East side about our Big Cottonwood Park; trying to update all our key parks' master plans.
- We have started the Master Plan update process. Letters have gone out to cities and school districts asking them what is important to them, what they're hearing from constituents, and what they want to see in the future. This gives us the opportunity to meet with them and gather all that information to put into the plan.
- As mid budget adjustments were made, we're now looking into our capital expenses – prioritizing projects that need immediate fixing. Facility Improvement Fees will help us have dedicated money to set aside for improvements that the patrons have let us know about.
- Started work on the Butterfield Trail network as we had to wait for biological clearances on animals and snow to clear. We replaced 2 key bridges that we've had for a long time. Opening a bid tomorrow to finish the remaining trail work that needs to be done to start on the trailhead, with a hope to have that available at the end of the year.
- June 22nd: Grand opening of Bingham Creek Regional Park, we'd love to have everyone join and help us celebrate.
- Pioneer Crossing – held a meeting out there and it was great to be able to walk around and see the area completely changed.

FLOOD UPDATE

Patrick clarifies the meaning behind detention vs. retention pond: retention keeps the water in, detention meters it out slowly. The County has 4 major detention facilities as part of the flood control network:

- Sugarhouse Park: SLC Public Utilities is using it to draw down water from Mt. Dell and Little Dell reservoirs, detain it, and let it slowly drain down through the system into the city. Looking at another week or two weeks of this process due to the snowmelt. We have been trying to keep everyone off the "lake" that's formed in Sugarhouse as it is not a safe condition – there are hazards in the water.
- Wheeler Farm – for Little Cottonwood
- Creekside Park – for Big Cottonwood.
- Ben Franklin Park – for Millcreek Canyon

Liz and the communications team meet with the mayor's emergency team to go over everything. Signage, social media outreach, and other traditional efforts are being used to get the messages and information across. Once the control efforts are done, the park's going to look different as clean up initiatives start.

Different entities are in charge/oversee different needs:

- County has flood control and engineering, so we control the main waterways that are built to pull the water out of the canyons.
- State oversees shore to shore, jurisdiction of the waterways. But the flood control and detention of the water, the County oversees that.

Proactive control measures have been in place as we have worked with flood control, so we have a place of communication stemming from that. Once we are out of this crisis response, we will continue preventive efforts such as pulling trees at Wheeler Farm that have created a liability, and other items like that.

Other things to note:

- Yellow Fork and Rose Canyons – we are seeing water in areas not previously seen before, as well as landslides and mudslides on the road. It's not passable right now and it's closed to the public.
- We are working with a few County and City departments to eradicate some of the myrtle spurge at Grandeur Peak. We are spraying it blue, which we have made signs to inform the public about the toxicity.

OUTDOOR POOL UPDATE

Doranne explains that the regional model of opening up the outdoor pools, that we did last year as it worked well for staff and patrons. We are spending money on a lot of different problems right now, but that is normal – nothing out of

the ordinary for this time of year. The majority of maintenance issues are coming up from aged facilities – replastering, boilers and ongoing issues like that. Regional model opening:

- This weekend: Salt Lake City Sports Complex and Draper pools are opening
- Memorial Day: Taylorsville, South County, West Jordan, and Crestwood are opening
- June 10th: Redwood, Magna, and Liberty Pool will be opened

With lifeguards, we are in such a better spot than we were last year. From getting hired until being an active lifeguard takes two weeks, due to the training and hiring process. Our numbers are constantly changing as we have employees waiting/in the middle of training before they become lifeguards. We are fully staffed in a few of our pools, a lot of that is the increase in pay, the flexibility of the schedule and multiple community events to increase awareness of job openings. Also, we were working with HR to bring I9 appointments to the community instead of having the community come to one HR location – we instead come to you which has made a difference in the hiring process.

Priorities:

- Open plunge – open to everybody, inviting, and fun for everyone in the summer.
- Swimming lessons – we want to make sure we have plenty of options.
- County swim programs
- Water Aerobics
- Lap Swimming
- Swimming rentals

An incident did happen at JL last week, and the team there saved a life which is something that should be commended. Those two weeks of training matter especially in situations like those.

FACILITY IMPROVEMENT FEES UPDATE

Brent reminds everyone what the FIF is. Implemented in 2020, it includes:

- \$1 per monthly membership passes at the rec centers, \$.50 on daily pool passes, \$1.00 on every 9-hole round of golf, and 10% of a pavilion rental. We collect the monies that we use to fund projects that would normally not be able to fund. The projects come from patron and staff feedback about what is needed.
- To date, we have collected approximately:
 - \$980K in golf
 - \$583K in recreation
 - \$161K in parks
- This year we have appropriated money from that reserve to projects, some of which include:
 - Golf: tree removals, improving cart paths and bridges.
 - Wheeler Farm: improve pads around their barns, new anti-dust technology for the new pads.
 - Recreation: jump harnesses for ice skaters to have a safety net when they practice, converting rooms from linoleum to hardwood, fixing fitness room mirrors, refinishing a couple of gym floors.

Jerry Cordova-Ong asks if patrons are aware that their money is going into these projects? Brent mentions that on the receipts, we itemize that out, so they are aware. Thinking of raising awareness by having some sort of plaque or sign in the lobby stating that the facility improvement fee is to thank for these improvements.

BOARD BUSINESS

ADJOURN

Carl takes motion to adjourn, Jerry Cordova-Ong seconds.