

Leisure Services Advisory Committee Minutes
Wednesday, May 24, 2023 – 12:00 p.m.

The Leisure Services Advisory Committee held a meeting on Wednesday, May 24, 2023, at 12:02 p.m. in the City Council Chamber, 10 North Main Street, Cedar City, Utah.

Members Present: Leisure Services Advisory Committee Chair Craig Petersen; Leisure Services Advisory Committee Members Heather Johnson, Christy Hugh, Christy Florence, Brad Anderson, Ron Riddle

Absent:

Staff Present: Leisure Services Director Ken Nielson; Leisure Services Executive Assistant Ruth Sessions

Visitors:

Craig Petersen welcomed the committee and thanked them for the time to come.

1. **Approval of Minutes from Wednesday, February 22, 2023:** Heather Johnson made a motion to approve the minutes from Wednesday, October 19, 2022. Ron Riddle seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.
2. **Pickleball Update:** Ken - The PRT Builders have not had any real delays except a little weather. They plan on surface coating the second week in June, and it still is on schedule to be c by the end of June, early July. The pickle ball people have been contacting me and are excited. The Parks Division is going to put some xeriscape down and it will look nice. If you have not seen them, drive by and look at them. There will be eight courts and we are producing a fee structure, so it will help us add more courts down the road. St. George charges \$30-\$70 for a tournament. League play for eight weeks, they charge \$40. We plan to have tournaments, league play, and free play. We will decide on a rental fee if there is a group that wants to rent all the courts for a tournament that are not associated with us. They will be open all day and locked up at 11:00 pm. I do not know if I told you, but we got \$100,000 from the County Restaurant Tax. Gabby will be sending out notices for a small grand opening. They took a cool drone picture, so I will send that out to everyone. Rotary is paying for the trees, and I went to the TRCC folks at the county and got them to give us a grant for pickleball courts for \$100,000. That can go into shade structures and benches and all the amenities that did not come with the building. We can spruce it up the way we want and put signage in.
3. **RAP Tax:** Ken - It is that time of year again and the RAP Tax application is due on June 1st. I have two ideas and the mayor has a thought, but this group is here to give your thoughts and ideas. We have gotten money for all our divisions over the years. I will hand out this drawing before we talk about it. One of the things we want to renovate is the skate park. If you have seen the pieces out there, they have done their time. We cannot fix them anymore.

We have fixed them over and over, but they need to be replaced. There is a company that we have found that will come in and renovate and warrant it for twenty years, which is huge in our world. They will design it based on the space that we have. Their quote is for \$160K and they will come in and remove all the old stuff and put the new pieces together. The skate park material is better now and will not get so beat up. I do not think it was designed for scooters, but we have heavy scooter use. All these projects, I would like to discuss it here and then take it to Council. The skate park is our highest concern on our liability insurance. In Leisure, we always worry about liability and the skate park is the number one thing to me because of the breakage and all. I do not want to take it away because it is so heavily used, but it does cause a huge liability issue. Heather – Will it hold up to weather better? Ken – Yes, and they have built them in Richfield and West Valley and all over Utah and they will take care of any damage. Another thing is that if something happens, they come in and powder coat what needs to be fixed. The company is out of Joplin, MO, but they live in Utah because Utah ranks the highest in the country for building skate parks. Because of the stunts and all that are done at the skate park is just scary when it comes to liability issues and this material will not be as dangerous as concrete. Ron – RAP Tax will be on the ballot this year for its 10-year renewal, so we want to encourage people to vote for that. The more I learn about RAP Tax, everybody should know it is a good thing. Ken – Thanks Councilman Riddle. Ken – We have lots of projects that we need to ask for money for. The other item is the bleachers at the arena. The liability laws have changed, and we have a couple of sets that are not going to pass inspection. We have two sets of outside bleachers that will not pass inspection and need to be replaced. We reached out to the clubs for contributions, and we received \$10K each from the Little Iron Rangers Rodeo and the Stock Show, because they use those bleachers. They are \$35K each so with those donations, it will really cut down on what we pay. If you notice at the Little League ballpark, the new bleachers have a back on the top bleacher and they have a back where your feet go so no one can fall through. They have all been replaced now, so they pass URMMA requirements. The third thing in talking with Mayor Green, he would like to put the remainder of the money in Fiddler's Park. That Park, as we have discussed before, is number one on our priorities as far as parks go. We are currently getting the land situated, so want to help move that forward. Rotary is not asking for more money this year because they need to move in one direction. Their direction is going to be in fall. The irrigation folks would not change the irrigation schedule so Rotary cannot start until the irrigation is finished. They cannot change the irrigation ditch but just revamp it a little bit. They would like to smooth the rocks that are in the creek as they are too sharp. They want to smooth it out and make it more accessible and they are moving the water feature to the south end of the grass area and not taken the grass area that is near the creek. They changed the design a little bit, but they had to because they could not mess with the irrigation water. That project is still a go, but it is just starting in the fall. The Parks Division Head, City Manager and I checked out the plans and there are some things that we really like. We had them change a few things to help with our maintenance. We have done a lot of things for the parks, etc.

4. **Golf Course – Tee Times:** We have had a conversation about the tee times at the Golf Course. We have people waiting too long in line to golf and would like to get a program that can schedule tee times so golfers just show up at certain times. It would make it easier for the staff. Most golf courses have gone to tee times, but Jared is monitoring right now

whether it was the Spring rush or not. We addressed this last year because it was the same thing, but if every weekend were like Easter weekend, we would have to go with tee times. We are just waiting to see if it is the new norm or because everyone was so sick of winter. On our new website, it has all our facilities calendars on it, so tell people to check our website if they want to know what is going on in our community. Golf has their tournaments and leagues on there too.

5. **Budget Information:** Ken – We are in the final stage of the budget, and I wanted to let you know some of the preliminary things that we have received. Personnel-wise, Cross Hollows was approved for a new full-time assistant arena manager, which will help Scott so much. It will make it so much easier to not always have to work evenings and weekends. It has turned into a year-round facility, which is great for everyone but him. It will be great, so he does not have to be there all the time.

We also received a full-time position for an aquatic coordinator that will help Marcie. Currently, we sit with eighty lifeguards on staff and that is amazing when you go up and down the state and talk to other aquatics people. She teaches a lifeguard class every few weeks and that has really helped get highschoolers on board, where they learn CPR and all the training necessary to get them certified. It has worked out well, but it is taxing on her time and hours. This new person will also help with our night and weekend coverage. I am sure you are aware that we are open until 9:00 at night and on Saturdays, and that is when the full-time staff is not there. We have a lot of incidents that happen from 5-9 and Saturdays, so this will give us a full-time supervisor to be there during those hours.

Some of the other things I just wanted to let you know are in Parks, we are still applying for money for the Cemetery expansion. The expansion area is west of the cemetery building for our next spot. We are running out of area quickly both by being sold and the business of the cemetery, so we need to move forward on that expansion. Part of that expansion is the renovation. They will be starting on the renovation this fall because we will turn off the water to start that. Anthony received a mower that will be in the cemetery that collects the grass. Most people don't know that you can start on one end and about three days later is about when you are done with the cemetery, but then you it is time to start all over again. Sometimes the grass gets quite long, and the mower will keep it from laying around.

Then the two trails that we want completed this year, that we have some different funding for from grants from UDOT and Outdoor Recreation Grants are the Industrial Road Trail, which we have been working on for a while. We are going to go from 300 West down to Airport Road, along where the railroad was. That trail is set to be completed along with the Fiddlers Trail that goes under Main Street and goes over and connects to the Canyon View schools. So, those are the trails that we would like to get done because they have been sitting there with this grant money.

For Cross Hollows arenas, Scott was able to receive funding for another 149 stalls, so this will almost put him to the point that he can go and recruit those events that need three hundred stalls. A lot of those events stay for four or five days. So, in the arena world, if you are familiar with shows like Yellowstone, and you have the reining people who have those

million-dollar horses, and they are staying that long, they are spending a lot of money for the community. Scott said that these are the people where the owners fly in to watch their horse and then they fly back out. Somebody else is driving their horse for them. But, to have those events, they require more stalls than we have ever had to even request those kinds of events. He has been in touch with people who have said that they are interested in coming if we have enough stalls. For us, it is an investment. We are going to put the stalls in so we can draw the larger events and make up for them that way. Scott was able to get another \$40K to finish his roping horses and chutes, so if you go into the indoor arena, it looks different than it did five years ago. He has chutes at the north end, where they can hold rodeos for a lot of the kids and Little Britches that are permanently there. That is part of the reason that he is so much busier because we have been able to make those improvements, along with heating and air conditioning.

Then the golf course got some mowers and vehicles and some money for some bunker renovations.

So, those are the budget items that are going through the process and that is all from me.

6. **Other:** Craig – Did they put the shade structures up yet? Ken – They should be, or they are putting them up this week. Summer Games comes in the last couple of weeks in June.

Next Advisory Committee Meeting – TBD: Heather Johnson made a motion to adjourn. Christy Hughs seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous. Adjourned: 12:48 p.m.

Ruth L. Sessions, Executive Assistant
Leisure Services Department