

Leisure Services Advisory Committee Minutes
Wednesday, September 27, 2023 – 12:00 p.m.

The Leisure Services Advisory Committee held a meeting on Wednesday, September 27, 2023, at 12:03 p.m. in the City Council Chamber, 10 North Main Street, Cedar City, Utah.

Members Present: Leisure Services Advisory Committee Chair Craig Andersen; Leisure Services Advisory Committee Members Heather Johnson, Brad Anderson

Absent: Christy Hugh, Christy Florence, Ron Riddle

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

Visitors: Mayor Garth Green

Craig Andersen welcomed the two committee members along with the mayor and thanked them for coming.

1. **Approval of Minutes from Wednesday, August 16, 2023:** Minutes were not approved due to not a full quorum. May minutes and August's minutes floating in the cloud somewhere.
2. **Scheduling of Sports Complexes for 2024:** Ken – He handed out what is on our system on the website. For an update, we split into two groups. The first group is our Recreation programming and our city events. They have a first shot at the things that they would like to reserve. (Flag Football, Half Marathon, T-Ball, Machine Pitch, Basketball, etc.) All those things are in the calendar. The second group, which are just finishing up by the first of October, are the groups that are non-funded. We're talking about the two soccer organizations that schedule the Bicentennial Complex. Then the two Little League organizations (American and National Leagues). Then Iron County School District with their baseball and softball teams. Softball uses each complex and Cedar High baseball uses the Veterans Little League Complex, and then Summer Games. We have put all their schedules in currently and it's on-line. You're welcome to go to our website and you can look from month to month. You're just looking at a sample so you can see what it looks like. I did random months, so you can see that we did May and April and then June. If you look at June, it has Summer Games every weekend, so they're penciled in for their tournaments and festivities. So, the Mayor can go pull it up and he can see everything that is scheduled. I wanted to bring it to this meeting because on the first of October, we will open it up to everyone else. So, this is for all the tournaments and reservations that anyone wants to reserve the complex for any profit events. So, the non-profits got in and then we go to the profit side after the first. So, these will be all the baseball and softball tournaments. They'll be able to look at the weekends that are available, so if I'm a baseball person, I look at June and see that Summer Games has this weekend and this weekend and I can find which weekends are available. It gives them the opportunity before they fill out the form to see exactly what's scheduled. We will then take those reservations to our committee that will meet to formulate the following schedule. Then we'll say, after that group, here's what's still available. I think we had two weekends available after we got them all scheduled. Anthony takes certain weekends for field maintenance. He usually books it on the holiday weekends, for instance the 4th of July and 24th of July. That way the Parks guys can do maintenance on Thursday and Friday, and the fields can have a little rest now and again. Are there any

questions on the scheduling process? Mayor, did I explain that correctly? Mayor – Yes, that’s what we wanted. We wanted to give the people a pecking order. We wanted the city programs to get what they needed on there. And, then we wanted the Summer Games to schedule what they need because we consider them a high priority. Then, we wanted to give the for-profit people to schedule it, and I wanted a penalty where they lose their deposit if they reserved a day or week and end up cancelling it, so they don’t get excited about booking something just in case and thinking golly, what if, because they’ll lose a little money. I think you’ve done it just like I asked, and I hope everybody feels like it has been dealt with fairly and it’s now way early rather than three months from now, because they need to make their calendars and they need to know what they do have. Ken – So, November 16th, we’ll be able to meet as a committee and finalize the year. Mayor Green – And then after that, it’s a free-for-all. Ken – It will be first-come, first served after that. Mayor Green – Right, so good job! Craig – So, I just want to ask a question, as far as in June where it says Little League. Is that just practice time for the July Little League tournament? Ken – So, we’ve scheduled Little League all the way through until the completion of All-Stars. I know their season is over, but it’s still under their umbrella. Craig – I think that’s great because they still need that time for practice. Ken – So, if you hear of questions Mayor, coming from your side, please have them get the forms on the website. It’s on the Leisure Services page and they can look at the calendar and the form and they can submit the form. So, even though we knew Summer Games was coming, we’re making them go through the same process, so everybody will be on the same page. Yes, we’re saving them their usual weekends, but we’re having them go through the same process. I think we’re good with the scheduling. I just want to make sure that you guys know how it works. Now, this is just for the three ball complexes. It’s not for parks, pavilions, or anything else. It’s just for Veterans, Bicentennial, and Fields at the Hills. We start taking reservations for parks and pavilion reservations after January 1st.

3. **TRCC Funding Projects – Restroom Facility at Veteran’s Little League Complex:** Ken – This is the funding grant that we apply for every year from Iron County. We usually do a 50/50 match. These are things that have-to-have visitors and tourists tied to it. We can’t just say we need money for a new mower or anything like that. It has some restrictions, but we’ve been able to fund a lot of projects. The arena has benefited from this grant and the baseball parks because we can tie visitors to those projects. The #1 project on our list is to have a second bathroom at the Veterans complex. We need another one and this will give us a way to get a matching grant to help fund it. So, the highlighted place between Fields 10 and 11, we want to put a restroom in there and landscape to finish it off. Craig – I’d say if you didn’t put it there and you put it to the left even more, that’s the space where it needs to go. Somewhere over there. Over that way. it might be even better, over by the Conex boxes. Ken – Anthony and I went over to look around and the sewer lid was right there at our feet. So, we wouldn’t have to tear up the new asphalt. The power is already there to the fields and all the utilities were tied there. I’ve never liked the unfinished look behind those two fields and now that we have the new asphalt, I think that it’s hard on a regular weekday to have only one restroom. The little kids at fields 9 & 11 have a long way to run and they wait until the last second. The park is also right there, so if you have little kids playing at the park, we just love the idea of it being right there. It will also tie into baseball tournaments, so that’s the grant aspect of saying that we have tournaments and need another bathroom. We make them bring in porta-potties because they have so many people, but it would do us good to have another restroom, even just Monday through Thursday. Craig – Yeah, I like it. Ken – Okay. So, as you’re thinking about projects, it can be a variety of things, it just must tie into visitors. Last year we got money for amenities at the new pickleball courts. They’re buying shades, benches, and landscaping. Think out of the box and anything at the complexes where

we have visitors. Anything that we can tie to say there are people from out of town. Even if it's only one day a week, like with baseball. We do have tournaments, so it checks the box. Anything you can think of, let us know. When we hear the division reports next month, I'd love to hear of any ideas you have. Their calendar year is different than ours, so we must submit their paperwork at the beginning of the year because they run January to December on their budget.

4. **RAP Tax Information:** Ken – I'm going to pass one of the signs around that we had made for RAP Tax. We had these RAP Tax signs made and they will be on all the projects that RAP has paid for. So, you'll see one at most of the playgrounds. If they scan the QR code, it will take them to our website where they can see the complete list of what projects we've paid for with RAP Tax money. If the community can understand that it's such a small amount of the tax base (.01%) and it not only includes the residents, but visitors too. We, as city employees, can't voice our opinions, but you guys can. So, if you just refer people to the website or help them understand what RAP Tax does. This form was made by our media person and if you go down to Parks and Recreation projects, it lists the Pickleball courts, the renovation of the skate park, Fiddlers Park, playground equipment, etc. I just think it helps educate people on so many things that they are not aware of. We make sure we spread it out, so the arena, the golf course, the parks, have all benefited from RAP Tax money. No one can say that we don't care about all the venues because there is a huge variety of things, we've done for all our areas. It's sales tax so visitors pay for it every time they get gas, eat at our restaurants, or shop in town. The scary thing for us is the school board bond and the jail will be on the ballot too, and we don't want people to just say no, no, no to all of them because they don't realize who it's associated with. We don't want it to get hammered so we really want to educate the community on all the good that it does. Craig – Just have them put this square in the newspaper and newsletter so it stands out. Ken – She just finished this, but we'll get it out there as it gets closer. We don't want to put it out too soon or they'll forget by the time the election is here.
5. **Renovation at Field at the Hills:** Ken – Just for your information, we're renovating all the outfields. We have the seeder up there now. Anthony is going to aerate it, put holes in it, put topsoil, then the seed, so it's going to look rough through the winter, but it's going to look great in the spring when the new grass comes up. You'll start seeing them start working on it starting tomorrow. If anyone asks you folks what's going on, you can let them know. Craig – What happened to the grass up there? Was it diseased? Ken – Yeah, it created tufts. Craig – There were like craters and the balls would just disappear. Do you use a top dresser too, so when they aerate the greens and come through with all that sand? Ken – Yep. Heather – How are you going to prevent it from happening again? Ken – We have new machinery, and we also got a new \$25,000 motor pump for irrigation, so I think the combination of equipment and water will be great. Now, we'll be able to get all the fields watered every night completely because we have four stations and before we only had one and we couldn't get them all watered during the night. The fields really suffer during the heavy use times because it can't water every night. I think we'll see a big difference next year.
6. **Playground Equipment Ideas:** Heather and Craig were here for the Fiddler's conversation, so if you guys would just look and try to find any playground equipment that you might want out at Fiddlers. We cancelled the field trip we were going to go on because the Fiddlers ladies couldn't go and moved it to next month sometime. What we want to do is almost two playgrounds – a north and a south end. I want some things for older kids and for little kids. And then we have the all-abilities section. If you see those things, follow up on them. Look at Big T Recreation Company. That's the company that we deal with, and they have lots of

designs and photos. I'd like a concept that is more rustic and has walls. They didn't want the bright colors. They wanted a more natural look but with no wood. It might have Trex, but it is not going to be wood. Heather – One thing I don't like about Park Discovery is that you can't see your kids, so no matter what we do, I want to be able to see the kids. So, we're in the information gathering stage for playground. Even if you travel up north or anywhere, check out their parks, so take pictures and send those ideas. There are certain things that Anthony and I want and want to stay away from experience, but we're open to everything right now. We will be doing an all-abilities section, but there are a million of those too. We need to have a pad that is a solid surface with no cracks, so it prevents water from getting in there and forming ice. It's a section that we want to do because we don't have one in the city. In fact, the school district was saying that none of their elementary schools have any of the all-abilities and they need to work at changing that. It's a matter of finding what works for us, but all-ability features are very expensive, so I don't want to think that we can make a whole big section, or we'll never pay for it. The Fiddlers people would love just a little section. They understand that it's expensive. Heather – So, what makes it all-ability is just the surface? Ken – The surface makes it that way and something where they can go from wheelchair into a swing or into an apparatus, whatever that may be, so they don't have to walk. A lot of the ones I've noticed, even if it has a ramp to it, have a ramp to it. So, instead of steps, it has a ramp and then they can make it work. Craig – So, this one is the Farmington, and it has eight pickleball courts next to it and basketball. It also has a two-sided park, where it's totally a sports theme and they chose baseball for it, but it's also got a zipline and it's cool looking. Ken – Are you saying they used gloves and balls? Craig – They chose artificial grass for the surface. It's got a catcher's mask that kids can go in and kind of hide and come out through the mask. It also has shoes. Ken – A couple of things that Anthony likes are if the apparatus is going to provide shade, he wants it included, not the canopies that he has to put up. Nowadays, they just come included and it's up 24/7, 365 days of the year. It's usually made of the same plastic that they use on the playground. He also wants to stay away from total enclosure slides, because there is a gap in between them and it gets graffitied, so we don't want to have a gap. So yeah, send those things our way. The Fiddler's people will have their recommendations, but it will be this board that makes the final decisions. Heather – They probably wouldn't want a sports theme and that's okay. Ken – That is okay, but we also have a north and a south, so you could make one end more natural and do something different on the other end, because sometimes the all-abilities kids like colors. Craig – Right, they gravitate to bright colors. Ruth – We've had a hard time keeping our zipline at the Veteran's field working. Bigger kids get on it and break it often and they're expensive to replace. Ken – Yeah, at night you get the high schoolers playing on them.

7. **Other:**

Fiddler's is a matter of dealing with SITLA, so it's a matter of dotting the "i". Craig – Did they decide on an option? Ken – Yeah, I took it to the Council, and they want to keep it off Main Street. So, they want to do the smaller, commercial push-back and not have the border near Main Street, because that's going to be near 50 mph zone. You think they come zipping by this one. Wait until you get out there. Trucks will be coming by there just humming and you just can't use it for your kids, playing near that kind of traffic. So, it's always going to be wasted space for the user because they're going to go to the other end of the park. Craig – Or maybe that could be the parking lot. Ken – So, all the council agreed with that.

The other things I wanted to let you all know about. We received the stalls and bleachers for the arena, and the shade structure for pickleball, and the shade structure for Field #9 at Little

League is being installed on October 16th. So, Field #9 will have bleacher canopies like the rest of them, and then the pickleball will have the structure in the middle of the pickleball courts. It's a metal roof and is permanent. Straight Strip is coming Tuesday to line the parking lot at Veteran's. We had to have every tournament without the parking lot lines and nobody knows how to park. Brad – The last two or three times that we've done that trail, cars are backed clear up onto the trail. Ken – We're putting bollards in there because all they do is use the trail for parking. And we're putting bollards between Field #8 and #9 so they can't park there either.

If you haven't heard, the golf course front door was broken into. They threw a big boulder through the front door and every golf club was stolen. Luckily, he's insured but it's crazy. It didn't even happen on the weekend. It was on a weekday. They walked away with \$21K in clubs, but they left all my range finders, they left shoes, and they left the cash register, they left his office. They left a lot of expensive stuff but all they took were the clubs. He said that drivers don't have head covers on them but when someone sells one, they get the covers from Jared's office. The whole golf world does that so, if you see any golf clubs on-line without covers, let us know.

Heather – What's going on with the algae on the lake? It smells terrible. Craig – It's the same way and Utah Lake and all the other lakes. It was better recently. Heather – Is it everywhere? Ken - Have you seen it recently because it's not as bad as it was. Heather – The rocks were green as of two days ago. Ken – Then I'll call Public Works because they have a treatment to prevent that. The Health Department came and it's not hazardous, it's just annoying. Heather – It smells really bad.

Craig – Did the swimming platform die or what's going on? Ken – No, it's behind the Aquatic Center, but we had to get more weight for them because it's going out there by the buoy line, so we're going to put it on the shallow side of the buoy line. I told them that we can't fetch it off the beach every time the wind blows. And we have the liner in the lake so they can't pound it in. What they do up north is pound it in but they're getting tractor tires full of cement instead so that's still on the docket. The slide and the dock are behind the wall, but they didn't show up until after Labor Day. So, the slide is facing north, and the dock is around the backside, so if kids want to just climb up on the dock, they can do that. We didn't want to put any dock along the slide because then you have kids screwing around with the sliders. So, it will have a couple of thousand pounds of weight instead of a couple of hundred and we know that kids will eat it up! Craig and Heather – Absolutely!

So, Mayor, do you have anything?

Mayor Green – Yes, I do. So, there is still one issue on the Fiddlers Canyon Park, and I think you need to be aware of it and I think we're going to overcome it. The question comes down to (we never agreed to it) they would do the engineering to fill up that hole on the corner of 2400 at Nichols Canyon and Main Street. They would do the engineering to take it out of the flood plain and the city would use our efforts and our dirt and our trucks and our stuff to fill that thing up and bring it up to construction grade. That's what we agreed on from the beginning and they are trying to tell us that we agreed to also stub all the utilities for their two lots that are on the corner of that, and we never agreed to that. So, it isn't done but it will get done. I think we will prevail simply because we should prevail because we never agreed to do it and we don't want to spend another 200 grand putting in all those utilities for two commercial buildings sites for them. I want to design something. I know there will be criticism because there will always be those who complain about everything, and it will

never be what everyone wants it. I know that we need a restroom. I know that we need a pavilion. I know we need a playground. We need a whole bunch of trees and some grass, not too much. We need a sidewalk and parking lots and shrubs. We're going to put a sprinkler system in and we're going to take all those components and a blank piece of paper, with our dimensions on it, and start drawing it in and I think that would be a great start. And I'd like to see how others have incorporated so we don't mess it up. So, we don't have the parking lot a long distance from where the Dutch ovens have to be packed to. I'd like them to be nice and close if that's okay. So, that's what I want to do. That's what the story is, and I want to get started. I want to have a design figured out over the winter months. I'm willing to spend any amount of time that I possibly can. I gave him a list of dates. So, help me and I'd like to get those people out in Fiddlers. I want their input because they will be the most vocal when it's all done.

Now, the park west of town is going to be absolutely amazing. I call it a park but it's really a soccer complex. If you haven't seen that area, drive out there and take a look. They're moving a ton of dirt and we're going to have a great facility. I'm sure the fuel bill is over the top but they're doing a great job. He said that they'll be done by the 15th. I'm sorry that we're not going to get grass planted this year. It will be done in the Spring. The City Council went a little further and put the pipes in for lights so the conduits are going to be under the ground. The water will be out there and each one will be on their own valve, which will be awesome to maintain. It's really something, so I hope you'll drive out there and check it out. We say only six fields, but the international guys could play on four of them. It is a huge area of land. We were given water rights with the property which is valuable. We'll have irrigation (farm) water to use out there. Joe Burgess is building a new well to municipal standards. I'm excited for the soccer fields. Ken – Anthony and I talked to Shane and some other Musco folks about the lighting out west to make sure we have conduit in the right places and we're not off on the lighting and put it in the wrong places, so we came up with the design. They suggest that we just run the conduit and put in the blocks where the light poles will go and that's all we do and when it comes time to put the light poles up, it will be ready to put them up. We can put them in all at once or in phases. Mayor – I hope we can get another \$500K so we can put in another restroom and some more parking. Joe will be generous to us and let us tie into their pump system. We'll have to pump it, but it will work. We'll plant it in the spring and then let it go through a winter of establishing its root system and by the next spring we should see it coming in nicely. I don't think it will be ready to use in the spring but hopefully by fall, they'll be playing on it.

It's a sad day out at the north end. It seems like that is always my story, but we'll get through this one last hurdle, and we can get going on it.

Next Advisory Committee Meeting – Wednesday, October 18, 2023, at Noon: Heather Johnson made a motion to adjourn. Brad Anderson seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

Adjourned: 12:55 p.m.

Ruth L. Sessions, Executive Assistant
Leisure Services Department