

MURFREESBORO PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION AGENDA
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 2021

12:00 NOON

Call to Order

Prayer and Pledge

Consider for Approval the Minutes of the August 4, 2021, Murfreesboro Parks and Recreation Commission meeting.

New Business

- I. Presentation of TRPA Awards
- II. Buy One, Get One Free Offer for Sports Com / Patterson Community Center
- III. Consideration of Changes to Nonmember Daily Fee and Court Bookings at Adams Tennis Complex
- IV. Consideration of Retroactive Approval for Murfreesboro Parade Entry Fee
- V. Update on McKnight Park Softball Complex Fence Replacement
- VI. Introduction of New Cultural Arts Assistant Program Coordinator
- VII. Update on MPRD Programs and Events

Other Business

MURFREESBORO PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 4, 2021

12:00 NOON

MPRC Members Present: Mr. Eddie Miller, Chair
Dr. Gloria Bonner, Mr. Leroy Cunningham,
Mr. Rick LaLance, Mr. Ronnie Martin, Mr. Ricky Turner,
and Mr. Don Turner (ex officio)

MPRC Members Absent: Mr. Trey Duke and Mr. Tim Roediger

Other(s) Present: Ms. Kelley Baker (Asst. City Attorney)

After the meeting was called to order, Mr. Ricky Turner led everyone in a prayer and in the Pledge of Allegiance. Mr. Miller welcomed all to the meeting and said that Mr. Nate Williams was going to discuss the first agenda item.

Mr. Williams provided the commission with an MPRD revenues and expenditures report, which included a snapshot of the last five years. He pointed out that total revenues were down in 2020, as expected due to the pandemic, but added that staff adapted and continued to provide programming the best that they could under the circumstances. Mr. Williams stated that revenues for the Adams Tennis Complex, however, did manage to increase during 2020.

Ms. Susan Hicks introduced Ms. Leslie Wright, the new Cultural Arts Facility Coordinator, who has been working with the department for two years as a programmer. Ms. Wright said that she was grateful for the opportunity. Mr. Williams then introduced Ms. Monica Donahue and said that she was the department's new Finance/Personnel Supervisor, taking the place of Ms. Cindy Nance who recently retired.

Ms. Hicks next presented for approval Frightensburgh classes to be held at Patterson prior to the actual Frightensburgh event scheduled at Cannonsburgh October 15-16, 2021. There will be youth and adult classes offered where participants can learn how to scare people and obtain information about scary makeup, costuming, and props. After the classes, there will be auditions for those interested in working at the Cannonsburgh Frightensburgh event. The cost for the class is \$75.00, which includes a \$25.00 participation fee, \$50.00 supply fee, and a Frightensburgh t-shirt. Mr. LaLance made a motion to approve the classes and associated fees. Dr. Bonner seconded. Motion passed by unanimous vote.

Mr. Thomas Laird announced that the Barfield Crescent Park Disc Golf Course has been open for 20 years now and stays busy and even very crowded at peak times, adding that the popularity of disc golf has grown over the years locally, nationally, and internationally. He mentioned that more people took on the sport in 2020 during the pandemic when outdoor recreational activities were sought. Mr. Laird explained that due to the continued

popularity of disc golf and the already high usage of the Barfield Crescent Park course, staff would like to install a permanent 18-hole disc golf course across town at 1318 Central Valley Road on 56 acres of unused City-owned land adjacent to the North Murfreesboro Greenway Trailhead. The idea is to alleviate crowding at the current disc golf course, while giving two, disc golf course options for local and out-of-town players.

Mr. Laird further stated that the Richard Siegel Soccer Park maintenance crew has cleared and mowed the fairways and has installed disc golf baskets on the temporary Central Valley Road course for locals to use until the proposed permanent course is completed, which will include tee pads, benches, and signage. Mr. Williams mentioned that maintenance and athletic staff, as well as Mr. Laird, have put a lot of work into the course already, around \$100,000 worth if bid out. Mr. Laird said there should only be minimal costs with continued in-house work on the permanent course. Mr. LaLance asked what the anticipated cost would be. Mr. Laird thought it might be \$20,000. Mr. Williams stated that funds are allocated in the operating budget for needed disc golf course items and work. Mr. LaLance said that disc golf courses are generally low maintenance recreational venues. Mr. Laird added that funds can also be obtained through tee pad sponsorships.

Mr. Ronnie Martin asked how the 56 acres has been maintained. Mr. Laird said the Murfreesboro Water Resources Department bushhogged the property until the temporary disc golf course was added, and now the soccer park maintenance crew mows the acreage about once a week and tends to the roughs every two or three weeks. Mr. Laird said that having the new turf fields at the soccer park has alleviated some mowing responsibilities of the soccer park crew, who can now help with the disc golf course mowing.

Mr. Leroy Cunningham asked if the plans for the new disc golf course would take away from another possible usage for the land. Mr. Williams said the property is available City space and is a good fit for a disc golf course. Mr. Laird added that due to the property's significant elevation changes, the land is not suitable for structures without a lot of subgrading, preparation work and costs. Mr. Cunningham asked about how many people in the local community play disc golf. Mr. Laird said that the department has not attempted to track usage of the disc golf course or greenway due to the venues being for public use. He estimated that there are around 200 members in the local disc golf association (the professional, serious players) and said that when the department has tournaments, the max number of participants allowed is 180, which was 90 just 15 years ago. Mr. Laird hopes to split the disc golf course traffic with two courses available, which should also be beneficial environmentally for the fairways with less people at each venue. Mr. LaLance made a motion to approve the addition of an 18-hole disc golf course at Central Valley Road. Mr. Martin seconded. Motion passed by unanimous vote.

Ms. Kristin Hopkins, Recreation Facility Coordinator with the Outdoor Murfreesboro Natural Resource Team, requested the commission's approval for staff to apply for an Education/Nonprofit Nursery License so that native plants produced by the Murfreesboro Indigenous Plant Project at the Barfield Crescent Park Wilderness Station may be sold from the station as well. The license would be free once the Tennessee Department of Agriculture approves the Station's license. Native plants to the area that are planted at homes of local community members help support pollinators and songbirds and aid in reintroducing ecosystem services back into the landscape. Dr. Bonner made a motion to approve staff's submittal of the education/nonprofit nursery license. Mr. Turner seconded. Motion passed by unanimous vote.

Ms. Hopkins also requested approval to establish a new chapter of the Tennessee Naturalist Program (TNP) at the Wilderness Station. The facility's staff would be in charge of the TNP curriculum of 10-11 four-hour classes of natural history topics for adults, and taught by field experts. Each student will have to complete 40 hours of instruction and 40 hours of volunteer work to become a certified Tennessee Naturalist. TNP has set the fee at \$250, and they will handle the registration process, including running the fees through their system. The TNP will purchase all student supplies and share the profit 50/50 with the chapter, which is expected to be \$2,500 for each session offered. Staff believes that by including this adult, expert-led, higher education course, the current Outdoor Murfreesboro programming will naturally be enhanced and diversified, while attracting more awareness to the Wilderness Station from all over the state. Mr. Miller asked how many people could attend each session. Ms. Hopkins said 20 would be the maximum allowed. Dr. Bonner made a motion to approve staff's request to establish the Wilderness Station as a new chapter of the TNP. Mr. Ricky Turner seconded the motion, and motion passed by unanimous vote.

Ms. Vonchelle Stembridge gave a recap of Bradley Academy Museum and Cultural Center's Juneteenth Celebration, held for three days this year, June 17-19. The celebration included an art exhibit at MTSU's Al Gore Center, where the City partnered with MTSU, Girl Scouts, Rutherford County and Murfreesboro City Schools with a "I Am True Black" theme. The exhibit will run through August 31st. An Authors' Night kicked off the 3-day celebration of Juneteenth, where a variety of genres were covered, including children's books, nonfiction, and self-help. Also, Read to Succeed gave away free copies of the book, *Stamped*, to encourage the community to join in with their annual book challenge. A panel discussion will take place at a later date. Youth Night was on the second night of the celebration, where there was live music, and representatives from the Rutherford County Health Department provided Covid information and tips to stay safe.

Ms. Stembridge mentioned that each day of the event was bigger than the day before, with the large event on June 19th being three times bigger than in past years. She further said there were 59 vendors this year, as compared to 20-30 in other years. Additionally, there were numerous volunteers, including Delta Sigma Theta (who helped with the first Juneteenth celebration locally in 2003), dignitaries, representatives from Murfreesboro

Fire and Rescue Department, Murfreesboro Police Department, and Friends of Bradley. The event also included interactives, a kid zone (manned by Patterson's Youth Development group), a bookmobile, and a step performance by a local fraternity. A Frederick Douglas descendent, Kevin D. Green, a colored troop reenactor, put on a skit the second day of activities, where he educated patrons about the colored troops. Ms. Stembridge encouraged everyone to note on their calendars the next Juneteenth celebration, which is set for June 16-18, 2022.

Ms. Hailey Meyer, Outdoor Murfreesboro Assistant Program Coordinator, requested approval for three proposed programs to be held at the Wilderness Station: a 3-day Mini Rangers Camp (ages 3-4 for \$30), Kids' Day Out (a 6-hour Saturday program for ages 7-13 for \$50), and a free Winter Solstice Party for all ages, which will include a band for entertainment. Ms. Meyer mentioned that a version of the Mini Rangers Camp was held in the spring and was "wildly popular." Mr. Martin made a motion to approve the three programs and their fees as described, and Mr. LaLance seconded. Motion passed by unanimous vote.

Ms. Gernell Jenkins gave a Patterson Community Center update. She announced that Patterson held a summer enrichment program for kids 8-12 years old, which averaged 75 kids a day. Crystal Ellis-McFerrin and Derek Blake led the successful program for the kids, where there were structured, recreational activities provided throughout the summer, as well as free breakfast and lunch through a partnership with Murfreesboro City Schools. The program's participants were able to enjoy a variety of fun field trips and activities, locally and out-of-town.

Ms. Jenkins said that Patterson has a big day coming up on August 7th from 10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. where there will be a Back-to-School Drive-through Giveaway of socks, school supplies, and other helpful items for kids going to school in the fall. Then, at 5:00 p.m., Patterson will host an old-school Block Party in the parking lot where Darryl Jaye will be playing music from the 70s, 80s and 90s. There will be lots to do at the event, and the day's last event will be a free movie on the Patterson multipurpose field starting at 8:00 p.m. Ms. Jenkins added that staff has strategically worked with the Murfreesboro Police Department "to ensure that all safety protocols are met" for the crowd.

Ms. Jenkins thanked the entire Patterson staff for their help at the center all summer since the regular center programming was held in addition to the enrichment program. Ms. Jenkins announced that Patterson's next Muddy-Vator training was set August 9 through September 30, 2021, and would be led by Roger Brady, who has expertise in Muddy-Vator training, being a Muddy-Vator athlete himself with high honors from competitions he has participated in across the nation and in world events. Patterson considers him their "Super Hero." Ms. Jenkins next introduced Ms. Cindy Shadrick, who has 30 years' experience teaching adult and youth fitness classes on the ground and in water. Ms. Jenkins announced that Ms. Shadrick has another toddler physical education class beginning August 10, 2021. Ms. Jenkins further said that Patterson stays busy, and that

her update was complete. Mr. Miller asked if the pool had been busy as well this summer. Ms. Jenkins said this summer's pool attendance almost tripled compared to other summers.

Mr. Miller presented the Murfreesboro Parks and Recreation Commission Minutes from June 2, 2021, which included one change by Ms. Hughes prior to today's meeting. Dr. Bonner made a motion to approve the minutes as read. Mr. LaLance seconded, and motion passed by unanimous vote.

Mr. Ricky Turner asked why the annual National Night Out (NNO) celebration was not in August like it has been in the past. Mr. Williams stated that due to logistics, the event is scheduled for October 5, 2021, which will give staff and volunteers more time to prepare for it. Mr. Turner asked how many locations would hold the NNO. He thought one or two locations would be more beneficial to the public than holding it at numerous locations. Mr. Williams said that staff is considering Patterson and McFadden. Mr. Leroy Cunningham asked for a brief description of NNO. Mr. Thomas Laird said that 20 plus years ago, police across the nation were looking for fun ways to get involved in neighborhoods. The NNO was developed as an annual community event to allow police and residents to gather together for food, fun, activities, and music. It started off being held on the second Tuesday of every August across the U.S., but some places, like Texas, have picked cooler months to hold their NNO celebrations. City staff wants to try a cooler month this year as well.

Mr. Miller asked if there were any other business to discuss since the agenda had been covered. Dr. Bonner complimented the July 4th fireworks show and said that it was well-attended by the public, with all parking spots along Medical Center Parkway being taken prior to the show. Mr. Don Turner mentioned that the City's youth golf program at Bloomfield Acres is doing well and staying very busy. He added that if any kids want to play at Bloomfield Acres, they can do so for free. Mr. Laird added that Ms. Emily Miller and Ms. Megan Brewer have been giving golf lessons to Special Olympics athletes, youth and adults, who will be competing in the local tournament soon. Mr. Turner and Mr. Laird agreed that Emily and Megan are both great pros, and very good with the Special Olympics' athletes and general public.

Mr. Cunningham asked if there was a detailed report indicating monies spent on Covid mitigations in 2020. Mr. Williams said that he can get that information for him but did not want to try to guess. Mr. Laird said that since patrons were not allowed in the facilities for a while, staff's duties were reassigned to help with deep cleaning at the facilities. Mr. Williams added that the MPRD outdoor spaces remained open during the building closures because the public needed somewhere to exercise. The trails and parks were heavily used. Also, Mr. Williams mentioned that a lot of people who had been unaware of the department's outdoor spaces before the pandemic got a glimpse of what is available with MPRD, and the department has gained a lot of new patrons. Mr. Williams said that he would try to get a rough estimate together as soon as possible regarding

COVID expenditures. Mr. Miller said that the public is blessed to have so many opportunities available through MPRD.

Being no more business, the meeting was adjourned.

Meeting adjourned: 12:55 p.m.

Minutes approved:

Eddie Miller, MPRC Chair

Nate Williams, MPRD Director



... creating a better quality of life

November 1, 2021

Dear Chair and Members of the MPRC:

RE: Nonmember Fee Change and Court Bookings

As an item for the agenda of the November 3, 2021, MPRC meeting, it is recommended that the following changes to nonmember ATC fees and court bookings be approved.

Background

Currently, the Adams Tennis Complex charges nonmembers a daily guest fee of \$10.00, and nonmembers are able to reserve courts seven days a week.

Staff would like to increase the nonmember daily guest fee to \$15.00 and restrict nonmembers to Friday-Sunday only court bookings.

This would increase the overall value of the membership and give current members exclusive access to court bookings on Mondays-Thursdays.

Fiscal Impact

There would be a minor increase in revenues with the new nonmember daily fee.

Recommendation

It is recommended that the commission approve the nonmember daily guest fee increase to \$15.00 and the restricted nonmember booking days to Friday-Sunday. The new fees and booking policy would go into effect immediately upon commission approval.

Respectfully,

Gary Arbit
Facility Superintendent of ATC



... creating a better quality of life

November 1, 2021

Dear Chair and Members of the MPRC:

RE: Murfreesboro Christmas Parade

As an item for the agenda of the November 3rd MPRC meeting, it is recommended that an application fee for the Murfreesboro Christmas Parade of \$10 per entry be approved.

Background

The Murfreesboro Christmas Parade has been a long-standing tradition in town. People line the streets each December to cheer on and watch vibrant floats, area bands, fancy cars, and dancing groups parade by. The theme for 2021 will be "The Spirit of Christmas," and we will be excited to see how each entry interprets this. This year Murfreesboro Parks and Recreation will take the lead in organizing and implementing the parade with help from the Exchange Club, WGNS, and Rutherford County Amateur Radio Emergency Services, to name a few.

Fiscal Impact

Applicants will pay on-line \$10 per entry. This will help to offset the costs associated with the event.

Recommendation

It is recommended that the commission approve the application fee.

Respectfully,

Rachel Singer
MPRD Assistant Director