

MURFREESBORO PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION AGENDA  
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 6, 2023

12:00 NOON

Call to Order

Prayer and Pledge

Public Comments on Actionable Agenda Items

New Business

- I. Consider Minutes of the August 2, 2023, Murfreesboro Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting
- II. Consider Community Babysitting Program
- III. Consider Youth in Harmony's Participation with Middle TN Vocal Association
- IV. Consider New Fees for Barfield Bash
- V. Natural Resource Division Update
- VI. MPRD Programs and Events

Other Business

MURFREESBORO PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MINUTES  
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 2, 2023

12:00 NOON

MPRC Members Present: Mr. Eddie Miller, Chair  
Dr. Gloria Bonner, Mr. Leroy Cunningham,  
Mr. Charlie Montgomery, Mr. Bill Shacklett, Mr. Kent Syler,  
and Mr. Don Turner (ex officio)

MPRC Members Absent: Dr. Trey Duke, Mr. Tim Roediger, and Mr. Shawn Wright

MPRD Staff Present: Mr. Nate Williams, Executive Director of Recreation Services  
Mr. Thomas Laird, Assistant Director  
Ms. Susan Hicks, Ms. Kristin Hopkins, Ms. Mitzi Hughes,  
Dr. Gernell Jenkins, Ms. Cayce Neal, Mr. Mark Owens,  
and Mr. Eddie Sanders

Others Present: Ms. Angela Jackson, Exec. Director of Strategic Services  
Ms. Katie Drive, Staff Attorney

After Mr. Eddie Miller called the meeting to order, Dr. Gloria Bonner asked the commission to please pause for a moment of silence in memory of Mr. Don Turner's wife, who passed away over the summer. Dr. Bonner added that the Turners had been married for 63 wonderful years and that Patricia will be greatly missed by this community.

Dr. Bonner next led the commission in a prayer and in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. Katie Driver announced that a new Tennessee law stipulates that municipalities must allow the public to speak at the beginning of board/commission meetings on actionable agenda items. Information on how they may sign up to do so is listed on the City's website. Ms. Driver added that no one had signed up to speak at today's meeting.

Mr. Miller presented for approval the minutes of the April 5, 2023, MPRC meeting. Mr. Kent Syler made a motion to approve the minutes as read, and Mr. Bill Shacklett seconded. Motion passed by unanimous vote.

Dr. Gernell Floyd introduced Patterson Community Center's new Facility Supervisor, Mr. Eddie Sanders, who is joining the Patterson leadership team with over 25 years of athletic administration and leadership experience, most recently having been employed with Collegiate Services as Director of Operations for the MTSU Women's Basketball Program under Mr. Rick Insell. Mr. Sanders said he is excited to be working with the City and plans to build upon the goals and visions already apparent at Patterson.

Mr. Nate Williams also introduced a new employee, Ms. Lynn Caldwell, who will be filling the vacancy left by Ms. Melinda Tate. He encouraged the commission to check out the

MPRD website and Facebook pages to see what unique marketing strategies are added by Ms. Caldwell and to see how the department is branded through her input.

Mr. Miller welcomed Mr. Sam Huddleston, who gave an update on Blackman Park. Mr. Huddleston said that the City just entered into a contract with Gresham Smith to develop a master plan for Blackman Park. He added that the Mayor and City Council will be updated on the proposed park project at the next Council Workshop. Mr. Williams shared a conceptual drawing of the future park, and Mr. Huddleston pointed out the different areas of the property, 150 acres total. He explained the intended uses for the park which will include: Park/Open Space, School/Education, Public/Community Facilities, an area for drainage, and a TVA easement. He also mentioned that the designated open spaces are expected to weave in and out of the other usage areas to allow park opportunities for everyone on the property.

Mr. Williams explained that the future development of Blackman Park is being guided through a Big Team approach with City Hall staff and Parks and Recreation staff in order to keep plans on a fast track for completion. Mr. Williams added the property will be used as a passive park and is expected to include a trail, pavilion, a destination playground, and natural areas to be preserved and protected. Mr. Syler said that it looked like a good location with all the housing nearby. Mr. Huddleston agreed and said that “so many rooftops in the area kind of jumped out at staff as a place to serve a neighborhood with a community park element” and to allow easy access for pedestrians and cyclists. Further, Mr. Huddleston said that most people have to drive to the other large parks in the City to get to the various organized sports being offered. Blackman Park will be a different kind of place than what is already available to the community. Mr. Huddleston additionally said that the City’s current Greenway, Blueway, and Bikeway Master Plan can tie in with the usage plans for Blackman Park. Mr. Williams stated that the size of Blackman Park would be a little bigger than all the spaces available at McKnight Park where Sports Com, McKnight Fields, and StarPlex are housed.

Mr. Williams provided the FY23 Finance Report to the commission and said that the report indicates the highest revenues and the highest expenses so far for the department. He stated that staff managed expenses well in the last fiscal year and did the most they could with the tax dollars available to them. Mr. Williams also shared a graph of how each facility has performed in recent years, with all revenues being up, except for the Adams Tennis Complex (ATC), which is rebounding now. He added that Richard Siegel Park has had the most significant increase in revenues due to the City’s partnership with TSSA. Mr. Williams also said that the department greatly appreciates the Council’s support with a good operating budget.

Mr. Leroy Cunningham asked why the tennis complex had a downturn in revenues. Mr. Williams said that there is a shortage of certified pros, and pros help bring in a lot of money at the ATC. He mentioned that a new policy is being developed for the future pros, and staff expects revenues to pick up again soon. He further said that there have been only two pros in the last nine months. Also, Mr. Williams explained that the membership value is up at the ATC, and the programming has increased.

Mr. Williams introduced Ms. Cayce Neal and said that she had formerly worked at the tennis complex but was now working in a new position in which she handles Special Use Agreements for not just our department but for other City departments. He said that there have been numerous requests for large-scale events on City properties, and Ms. Neal has been reviewing processes and procedures for such events to be held, as well as researching what other cities across Tennessee do in regard to their events. Ms. Neal stated that with the high demand for these special events, a fee structure is needed. She requested the commission's approval of the following fees: *a. Events offering the sale of food, beverages, or merchandise: \$150; b. Events with an admission fee/ticketed event: \$200; c. Events with an entry fee to participate or vend: \$300.* Mr. Shacklett asked if the festival requests were for multiday events. Ms. Neal said most were one-day events and that fees could be modified as needed. Mr. Miller asked if smaller events might be assessed a reduced fee. Mr. Williams mentioned that fees could be waived in certain instances where groups partner with a particular facility, department, or the City in general to promote community-wide events. Dr. Bonner made a motion to approve the fees as presented. Mr. Syler seconded, and motion passed by unanimous vote.

Ms. Susan Hicks requested approval of a new program, Junior Tech Classes for teens, with a proposed cost of \$50 per participant (\$25 registration fee and \$25 supply fee). She explained that some teens decide they don't want to be on stage anymore, but they are still interested in various aspects of theater. The proposed classes will allow teens the opportunity to take classes to learn about costumes, sound, lights, makeup, sets, props, etc., depending on their interests. The program would be offered during regular seasons of Perform Murfreesboro's shows, with each class being held at least six weeks. Dr. Bonner suggested that MPRD consider partnering with MTSU's dramatic arts program to expose teens to the MTSU campus and learn more about MTSU's world-class theatre opportunities. Ms. Hicks agreed that she would check on that. Mr. Cunningham made a motion to approve the Junior Tech Classes, along with its associated fees. Dr. Bonner seconded. Motion passed by unanimous vote.

Mr. Williams gave a quick update on upcoming projects. He said that the City has contracts with two design firms who will be helping with plans for outdoor improvements at Patterson Park: Griggs and Maloney for designing approximately 75 more parking spots at the park and Kimley-Horn for the design of a splash pad and new playground for the front side of the Patterson Community Center. He stated that funding is available for said Patterson Park work.

Mr. Williams further shared that the other three projects are to be conducted at Old Fort Park. Approvals are in the works at City Hall for the proposed skate park to be constructed behind Kids' Castle where Pavilions 1 and 2 used to be. He said that bids are expected to go out in September for this project.

Another project at Old Fort Park is for the redesign of the big parking area and ball field. The ELI firm (Energy Land and Infrastructure) out of Murfreesboro is under contract for that work, where parking will be improved; artificial turf and better lighting will be added; and stormwater areas will be updated.

The third project at Old Fort Park is for renovation of the 8 outdoor tennis courts, which are about 30 years old. The firm of Wold Architects and Engineers has been contracted for this project, which is to include court repair, fencing, and lighting. A pickleball element will also be considered as part of this project.

Mr. Williams further mentioned that funding is available for all of the Old Fort Park projects as well. Mr. Syler said that he has been lobbied hard about pickleball lately. Mr. Williams stated that pickleball is a growing sport, and the department is working hard to create as many community pickleball courts as possible. He said that a recent lighting project was completed at the Patterson courts where pickleball is played, and McFadden's outdoor court just opened with lighting, where staff allows time for basketball play and pickleball play at various times. Also, Mr. Williams shared that there will be sidewalks leading to the Patterson Park courts, and a history trail will be included that will tell the story of the Patterson campus and of Dr. Patterson and how much he meant to the community.

Being no more business, the meeting was adjourned.

Meeting adjourned: 12:35 p.m.

Minutes approved:

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Eddie Miller  
MPRC Chair

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Nate Williams  
Executive Director of Recreation Services



August 25, 2023

Murfreesboro Parks and Recreation Commission:

### **RE: Community Babysitting Program**

As an item for the MPRC agenda of September 6, 2023, it is recommended that the MPRC approve the following fee changes for staff to offer Ultimate Babysitters' Club programs to community groups.

### **Background**

The Ultimate Babysitters' Club is a popular program offered to youths that covers babysitting safety and basic childcare, as well as basic first aid, CPR and AED skills. Participants will receive a certification for each unit from the Health and Safety Institute (HSI). The program originated as a summer camp, and at the first of 2022, the MPRC approved offering it to individual groups in the community year-round. In June of 2022, HSI updated their materials as well as their fees. Below are the new costs of materials.

### **Fiscal Impact**

The registration fee will be to cover the costs of materials only. Materials can only be purchased in lots of 5. Classes would be for a minimum of 5 participants and a maximum of 10.

HSI Babysitting Manual : **\$53.00 for 5 participants**

HSI Babysitting Certification Card: **\$33.50 for 5 participants**

HSI CPR/AED/Basic First Aid Manual only: **\$74.75 for 5 participants**

HSI CPR/AED/Basic First Aid Certification Card: **\$66.09 for 5 participants**

Shipping is normally around **\$20-\$30**.

### **Recommendation**

It is recommended that the commission approve this community class with two options:

**Option One:** 6-hour Babysitting class only: **\$100 for 5 participants**

**Option Two:** 10-hour Babysitting and CPR/AED/BFA: **\$250 for 5 participants**

Allison Davidson  
Wellness/Fitness Coordinator

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August 25, 2023

For Murfreesboro Parks and Recreation Commission:

**RE: Approval for Youth In Harmony: Music (MTVA Participation)**

As an item for the MPRC agenda of September 6, 2023, it is recommended that the commission approve the Youth In Harmony: Music program to participate in MTVA sanctioned events.

**Background**

Youth In Harmony: Choirs of Murfreesboro program under the Perform Murfreesboro umbrella will provide opportunities for homeschool students to participate in state events that celebrate their vocal talent and skill through membership with MTVA: Middle Tennessee Vocal Association. MTVA is an organization comprised of elementary, middle, high school, and collegiate general music, vocal, and choral music educators. Their focus is to offer high quality, engaging events that both educate and inspire young student musicians throughout the Middle Tennessee region.

Murfreesboro has a rich history with the Middle Tennessee Vocal Association. Its vocal music educators have served as members of the MTVA Board as well as clinicians who have conducted honor choirs here across the state and nation. Our city and county schools have provided space for auditions and clinics, while multiple churches have graciously opened their doors to accommodate outstanding mass and honors choir rehearsals and performances throughout the organization's 80 years of service to Middle Tennessee.

MTVA provides events which span a calendar school year, and we will offer our home-school students the opportunity to register for five (5) regional/state choral events to honor, motivate, and enrich the lives of our growing vocal musicians.

**Fiscal Impact**

A student can participate in as many events for which they are eligible and can expect to pay approximately \$110 should they be selected to the highest-ranking honor choirs in the state of Tennessee. Music for these events will be acquired by each student who places in a select honor choir or chooses to join a mass choir. They will spend approximately \$35 on repertoire they will keep. Other events allow students to provide repertoire of their own.

Full Active Membership requires a \$177 fee.

Breakdown: \$102.00	NAfME (National Association for Music Education) Full Active Membership
50.00	TMEA Full Active Membership
25.00	MTVA Full Active Membership

Approval for student participation requires a one-time \$50 School Participation Fee which can be paid with the total registration fee for our first event of the year. For us, that first event is the non-auditioned regional choral experience, Middle School Mass Choir.

Example:	\$50.00	School Participation Fee (one-time fee)
	+ <u>80.00</u>	Middle School Mass Choir (10 students @ \$8.00 per student)
	\$130.00	First Event Registration Payment

**Recommendation**

It is recommended that the commission approve this new program, which is an extension of the Youth In Harmony: Choirs of Murfreesboro program under Perform Murfreesboro.

Susan Hicks  
Facility Supervisor





August 28, 2023

For Murfreesboro Parks and Recreation Commission:

**RE: New Fees for Barfield Bash**

As an item for the MPRC agenda of September 6, 2023, it is recommended that the commission approve new fees and the addition of wristbands for the Barfield Bash.

**Background**

This year staff would like to offer wristbands for the Barfield Bash, which would allow unlimited play time for each child who comes to the Bash. The wristbands would be \$15.00, and if multiple children are in a household, additional bands would be \$10.00 each. Game tickets will still be sold as in past years, 2 tickets for \$1 and 12 for \$5. Also, staff will be giving out prize tickets at each game booth that may be collected and used to purchase prizes at the prize booth. There will also be a free zone that anyone can use to play games and have a great time.

**Fiscal Impact**

The new fee changes will allow us to upgrade the prizes and make the experience a lot more fun for the kids.

**Recommendation**

It is recommended that the commission approve the new fees for the Barfield Bash.

Susan M Hicks  
Cultural Arts Supervisor



*... creating a better quality of life*

August 25, 2023

For Murfreesboro Parks and Recreation Commission:

## **RE: Natural Resource Division Update**

As an item for the MPRC agenda of September 6, 2023, the Parks Natural Resource Manager would like to provide an update on the activities and accomplishments of the Natural Resource Division.

### **Background**

The Natural Resource Manager will present the activities and accomplishments of the Natural Resource Division, specifically, the following items (slideshow):

- Murfree Spring Garden Project
- Youth LED program introduction
- IPC Lytle Creek Project
- Tennessee Naturalist Program update
- 6-month volunteer stats
- Next time...bird survey update, Youth LED progress, plant project highlights.



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