

MURFREESBORO PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION AGENDA  
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 6, 2024

12:00 NOON

Call to Order

Prayer and Pledge of Allegiance

Public Comments on Actionable Items

New Business

- I. Consider Minutes of the February 7, 2024, Murfreesboro Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting
- II. Consider Bradley Academy Museum and Cultural Center Operation Days and Times
- III. Consider Advantage Arts
- IV. Consider Fees for Outdoor Adventure Program Packages
- V. Natural Resource Update on Bird Survey
- VI. BOGO Recap for Patterson Community Center and Sports Com
- VII. Upcoming Programs and Events

Other Business

MURFREESBORO PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MINUTES  
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2024 12:00 NOON

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

MPRC Member(s) Absent: Mr. Tim Roediger

City Staff Present: Mr. Nate Williams, Exec. Director of Recreation Services  
Mr. Thomas Laird, MPRD Asst. Director  
Ms. Rachel Singer, MPRD Asst. Director  
Ms. Kelley Baker, Asst. City Attorney  
Ms. Lynn Caldwell, Ms. Brittany Garrett, Ms. Susan Hicks,  
Mr. Chad Hill, Ms. Kristin Hopkins, Ms. Mitzi Hughes,  
Dr. Gernell Jenkins, Mr. Mark Owens, and Mr. Eric Quiroz

Others Present: Mr. Steve Luker, Rockvale High School Principal  
Mr. Alex Sears, Rockvale High School Band Director  
Mr. Chris Lowry, Rockvale High School Asst. Band Director

After the meeting was called to order, Dr. Gloria Bonner led everyone in a prayer and in the Pledge of Allegiance. Mr. Miller then announced that no one had requested to address the commission during the Public Comment time designated for the first of the meeting.

Mr. Miller next presented for approval the minutes of the November 1, 2023, Murfreesboro Parks and Recreation Commission meeting. Mr. Kent Syler made a motion to approve the minutes as read, and Mr. Shacklett seconded. Motion passed by the following vote:

Aye: Dr. Gloria Bonner  
Mr. Leroy Cunningham  
Dr. Trey Duke  
Mr. Eddie Miller  
Mr. Charlie Montgomery  
Mr. Bill Shacklett  
Mr. Kent Syler  
Mr. Shawn Wright

Nay: None

Ms. Susan Hicks, Cultural Arts Supervisor, announced the following awards from the 2023 Murfreesboro Christmas Parade, which were presented by Ms. Rachel Singer and MPRC Chair Eddie Miller:

Band Grand Champion (out of six bands) – Rockvale High School  
(Recipients: Band Director Alex Sears - Asst. Band Director Chris Lowry,  
Principal Steve Luker)

Grand Marshal Award – to Dr. Gloria Bonner for graciously accepting the title and performing this service to the City.

Mr. Miller said he was proud of all the bands who participated, and especially proud of Rockvale’s Band because his mother was a basketball player and graduate of Rockvale High School “back in the day.”

Ms. Hicks next presented for approval an increase to the Perform Murfreesboro membership fee from \$25 per show per participant to \$50 per show per participant due to the rising cost of production supplies, t-shirts, and cast gifts. She mentioned that financial assistance will still be available for children who cannot afford the membership fees. Dr. Duke asked if the goal of the increased fee was just to help break even, not to make a profit. Ms. Hicks said that was correct. Dr. Bonner thanked the department for providing financial assistance to the children who need it. Mr. Williams asked for an estimate of how many participants need the assistance each year. Ms. Hicks thought it was around 5-6%. Mr. Miller asked how many shows there were annually. Ms. Hicks said 4-5, with 45-78 kids participating at the various productions. Dr. Bonner made a motion to approve the membership fee increase. Mr. Montgomery seconded. Motion passed by the following vote:

Aye: Dr. Gloria Bonner  
Mr. Leroy Cunningham  
Dr. Trey Duke  
Mr. Eddie Miller  
Mr. Charlie Montgomery  
Mr. Bill Shacklett  
Mr. Kent Syler  
Mr. Shawn Wright

Nay: None

Mr. Chad Hill, Patterson Wellness/Fitness Coordinator, described his proposed program, “Powerlifting Competition,” and requested approval. He said the program would include three competition areas: the squat, bench press, and deadlift, with each being held on a separate date. The bench press is currently set for March 9, 2024, with the commission’s approval, and the other two competition dates are to be announced. Mr. Hill mentioned that there will be male and female divisions and weight classes for participants ages 18 and over, or 16-17 with a waiver from their parent(s). The requested \$20 fee per competition area will cover costs for participant t-shirts, medals and trophies. Mr. Syler made a motion to approve the Powerlifting Competition program and its associated fee. Mr. Montgomery seconded. Motion passed with the following vote:

Aye: Dr. Gloria Bonner  
Mr. Leroy Cunningham  
Dr. Trey Duke  
Mr. Eddie Miller  
Mr. Charlie Montgomery  
Mr. Bill Shacklett  
Mr. Kent Syler  
Mr. Shawn Wright

Nay: None

Mr. Williams presented for approval the 2024 Facility Holiday and Hours Calendar for MPRD, pointing out that the department's facilities are open as much as possible for the public. Dr. Duke made a motion to approve the calendar as shown, and Dr. Bonner seconded. Motion passed by the following vote:

Aye: Dr. Gloria Bonner  
Mr. Leroy Cunningham  
Dr. Trey Duke  
Mr. Eddie Miller  
Mr. Charlie Montgomery  
Mr. Bill Shacklett  
Mr. Kent Syler  
Mr. Shawn Wright

Nay: None

Mr. Williams began discussion of the MPRD Facility Surveys by mentioning that the department strives to provide clean, safe, and fun facilities and has created a survey for the public to indicate their concerns/suggestions. He said that signs with QR codes leading to the survey are displayed at the various department facilities for the patrons to access. He added that the survey is very short and easy to fill out. Mr. Miller said he assumed that Nate goes over the surveys with the facility supervisors and follows up as needed. Mr. Williams said that he rarely has to be involved because Mr. Laird and Ms. Singer receive the survey results and then discuss the results with their staff, who will tend to any matters needing attention. Mr. Miller also said that he surmised that most surveys were anonymous but knows staff would follow up with anyone leaving their name/email address. Mr. Williams agreed. Mr. Shacklett was concerned that everyone may not see or be aware of the surveys and have a chance to voice their concerns. He added that every facility does not have a reception area or a desk to sign in where they'd see a sign with a QR code to access the survey, like at parks and ball fields. He suggested that the surveys be made available on the City's website, if not there already. Mr. Williams said that he thought the survey was online, but he would have it added if not.

Mr. Cunningham asked if there were a general policy to handle facility maintenance issues, like for the Sports Com pool debris, leaks in the Patterson gym, and mold on air duct pipes at Patterson, as indicated in the survey. Mr. Williams said that facility staff already knows about the majority of issues that come up and tend to them as promptly as possible. Some issues involve bidding out the work, which takes time. Mr. Cunningham wanted to make sure there is a way to inform the public that issues are being tended to, so patrons who may have voiced a concern in the survey do not think their issue is being ignored. He thought it would be good to let the different front desk staff know what's going on so they can relay the information to the public as needed. Mr. Laird said that Sports Com's indoor pool surface is just worn out, not dirty, and is set to be repaired after the outdoor pool opens this summer. Also, he added that the outdoor pool deck is being resurfaced currently due to age. Mr. Williams said that duct work at Patterson is being tended to as well and that money is budgeted for all the repair concerns mentioned by patrons in the survey. Mr. Williams said that front desk staff can be updated on projects/repairs, and the information can also be shared on social media in those cases.

Mr. Cunningham next asked the numbers of tennis players versus pickleball players. Mr. Williams said he'd check on the numbers but thought that right now there were probably 20 pickleball players on the courts at Patterson with 15 waiting to get on. Dr. Jenkins was present and verified his estimate. Mr. Laird said that there are probably 1700-1800 tennis players using the ATC and that there is a local pickleball association with about the same number of players. He added that for tennis you can have singles or doubles matches going on which require more courts for play, while pickleball matches use less courts with more players on the courts at a time, such as 6 players changing in and out for matches. Mr. Williams further mentioned that staff is aware of Murfreesboro's vibrant tennis community and now pickleball as well. Courts are being added as quickly as possible to accommodate the pickleball players with plans for pickleball courts at the future Veterans Park, and during renovations at Old Fort Park, two outside tennis courts will be converted to six pickleball courts, while leaving six tennis courts where the original eight outdoor courts have been. Mr. Williams also said that there will be a hitting wall dividing the pickleball courts and tennis courts that will allow players of both activities to use it from their respective courts.

Mr. Cunningham inquired about who responds to pickleball player complaints/concerns. He assumed complaints go to Mr. Williams and that Mr. Williams responds to them. Mr. Williams said that he and other staff always respond to each person's concern(s) about any issues they have regarding MPRD facilities/parks and lets them know the status of their concern(s). Mr. Williams also informed the Parks and Recreation Commission that there is an acting Tennis and Pickleball Commission, which was appointed by Mayor McFarland last year. Issues dealing with tennis and pickleball are also addressed by them. Mr. Cunningham said that there seems to be a lot of push and pull by other groups in the City for courts too, such as from leagues, schools, MTSU, and citizens. Mr. Williams assured Mr. Cunningham and the commission that staff does a good job of balancing all the demands for said courts and continues to look for better ways to serve the public as needed. Mr. Wright shared that the Tennis and Pickleball Commission does well serving the needs of both groups. Mr. Williams further said that Mr. Dee Jernigan (an MPRC member for over 30 years) serves as the chair for that commission. Mr. Miller thanked everyone for their comments.

Mr. Williams referred to the 6-month Finance Report (FY 24 July-December) and said that expenditures shown on the report are where staff expected them to be with some revenues up and some down. He added that revenues were about 57% up across the board. Mr. Williams further mentioned that with the report as it is, he thinks the department's performance will be even better this fiscal year than last. Also, the department's biggest revenue-producing season is coming up with leagues and camps. Mr. Williams asked Mr. Laird how many were signed up for Youth Basketball this time. Mr. Laird said there were about 1,400 players. Dr. Bonner said she appreciated staff's work in meeting the athletic demands in Murfreesboro and for providing children with lifelong skills through positive leadership during the children's time with the department's offerings. Mr. Miller said he was grateful for all of the facilities and staff and has been spending a lot of time at MPRD facilities watching his grandkids participate in various programs.

Mr. Shacklett asked about the skate park. Mr. Williams said that ground has been broken for the skate park which is to be constructed at Old Fort Park where Pavilions 1 and 2 used to be. It will be 12,000 square feet. He said that so far about \$80,000 has been saved by allowing City Departments (Public Works and Street) to do all the grading needed for the project. The remaining work, which will include a skate park and pump track, will be turned over to a contractor once the grading is completed. The City is tentatively expecting the work to be done by May 3<sup>rd</sup> this year.

Mr. Williams stated that Veterans Park plans are coming along. An agreement for its construction design has been signed, and a final set of construction plans is in the works. Staff is managing expectations and budgets and is keeping Council updated. Mr. Williams also informed the commission that staff will be seeing the final design plans for renovations at Old Fort Park's eight original tennis courts today and will see the final design plans for the original ball field soon. The bid process for the Old Fort Park projects is not far off. Mr. Cunningham asked if there were an idea of when the Veterans Park would be operational. Mr. Williams said that after the design is completed, a timeline would be developed which will indicate more accurately, but he thought construction would take 1 to 1½ years after work begins.

Mr. Miller asked Mr. Turner if he could give an update on the Old Fort Golf Course renovations. Mr. Turner said that renovations are underway, with the bunkers in the back of the course being done now, and then the front bunkers will be. Work on the back bunkers started on January 8<sup>th</sup> and will be completed in about a week or so. When the bunkers up front are under renovation, players can play the back 9 holes twice, if interested. (Many have been playing twice on the front 9 holes while the back bunkers have been renovated). The whole course will close down in April or May so the greens can be changed to Zoysia grass. Mr. Turner also mentioned that Zoysia grass is already on the chipping green, if anyone wants to see what it looks like before the Zoysia is added to the course. He added that it will be a beautiful addition to the course.

Mr. Miller asked about the status of the Miracle Field. Mr. Laird said that 120 have signed up to participate and that uniform pickup and a health fair will be held in March.

Ms. Caldwell provided the department's quarterly brochure to the commission members and encouraged them to look at the upcoming activities and programs. She also distributed the department's Summer Camp information and said that camp registration will begin March 1<sup>st</sup> online and in person at Sports Com, Patterson Community Center, and the main MPRD Office. Other information shared by Ms. Caldwell was as follows:

- New Year's Day 5K went well and had 500 participants.
- Youth Basketball is in full swing with 160 teams.
- Staff worked hard during the recent snow storm to keep social media sites updated on the closings and openings of MPRD facilities.
- Earth Day activities are set for April 20<sup>th</sup>.
- Pioneer Day will be on April 27<sup>th</sup>.
- MPRD will be hosting the TN Recreation and Parks Association Conference in the fall.

Mr. Shacklett asked about the dates for Spring Fling. Mr. Laird said it is always the week before Memorial Day, which will be May 21-24 this year.

Mr. Montgomery asked if Mr. Wright could give a report on the Tennis and Pickleball Commission meetings. Mr. Williams said staff could provide a report to the MPRC. He further invited the MPRC and public to attend any of the Tennis and Pickleball Commission meetings they would like to. He added that the next meeting will be on February 15<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m. at the Adams Tennis Complex.

Being no more business, the meeting was adjourned.

Meeting adjourned: 12:45 p.m.

Minutes Approved:

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Eddie Miller  
MPRC Chair

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Nate Williams  
Executive Director of Recreation Services



March 1, 2024

For Murfreesboro Parks and Recreation Commission:

**RE: Day and Hourly changes to Bradley Academy Operation hours**

As an item for the agenda of March 6, 2024, Cultural Arts requests approval for the change in operation hours for Bradley Academy Museum and Cultural Center.

**Background**

Bradley Academy is now open from 10am-4pm Tuesday through Saturday. Staff is requesting these times be changed to Wednesday through Friday 10am-6pm and Saturday 10am-4pm for the spring and summer months and in the fall and winter hours be changed to Wednesday through Saturday 10am-4pm. This would allow for patrons to have access to the Museum after work hours while keeping hours of operation close to what they are currently. It would also allow for more programming to be conducted in the evening hours.

**Recommendation**

It is recommended that the Murfreesboro Parks and Recreation Commission approve the new Hours of Operation for Bradley Academy Museum and Cultural Center.

Susan Hicks  
Cultural Arts Supervisor





March 1, 2024

For Murfreesboro Parks and Recreation Commission:

**RE:** Advantage Arts

As an item for the agenda of March 6, 2024, it is recommended that the Commission approve the Bradley Academy Museum Advantage Arts after-school classes.

### **Background**

Bradley Academy Museum and Cultural Center seeks to provide Advantage Arts. This is a new program which will be partnering with our Advantage Sports Program. Advantage Arts is a program for special needs persons in our community and is meant to offer them arts activities and programming. These programs will be held each Wednesday in April and the 1<sup>st</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> Wednesdays of May to allow parents with children ages from 7-99 to come and learn more about the Bradley historical school and art in a creative way. After touring the museum, the children and adults will participate in a themed art activity with the focus on Artists. Music helps to develop many skills in children and adults, including social skills, confidence, and creativity. It also provides everyone with an outlet for expression. During this event we will learn about musical instruments, play musical instruments, and socialize with others. These classes are designed in mind for individuals with sensory processing difficulties.

### **Fiscal Impact**

Four class series - \$25 + \$15 supply fee for a total of \$40.

### **Recommendation**

It is recommended that the commission approve Advantage Arts.

Vonchelle Stenbridge, Recreation Facility Coordinator  
Bradley Academy Museum & Cultural Center

Susan M Hicks  
Cultural Arts Supervisor



March 1, 2024

For Murfreesboro Parks and Recreation Commission:

**RE: Approval of new fees for Outdoor Adventure Program Package**

As an item for the MPRC agenda of March 6, 2024, Outdoor Murfreesboro requests approval for new fees associated with outdoor adventure programming for organized groups to select and create an outdoor experience.

**Background**

We currently offer selective programs to organized groups that wish to reserve the time of our outdoor recreation employees who lead various activities. This package offering and associated fees will allow groups to choose from various outdoor programs to create the experience that is tailored to their group. This will give Outdoor Murfreesboro the opportunity to market a multitude of our most popular programs that offer recreation and skill-based learning. The public would be able to choose one or multiple programs off the menu and be charged accordingly for the customized adventure.

Please see attached for description, duration, and fee associated with each activity.

**Recommendation**

It is recommended that the Murfreesboro Parks and Recreation Commission approve the new Program Package for Outdoor Murfreesboro.

Ethan Kreuziger  
Outdoor Recreation Program Coordinator

Attachment

Outdoor Adventure Programs

## Outdoor Adventure Program Packages

Choose 1 adventure or a combination for a full day of fun in the great outdoors. Prices are per person per program with a minimum of 10.

### **Kayaking /\$15 a person**

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We have many local streams and rivers that provide excellent routes for recreational paddling. It is one of our more popular warm weather programs that most anyone can be able to enjoy. Paddling located on the Stones River or nearby areas.

### **Paddle boarding/ \$15 a person**

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Paddle board on the still waters around town. A great activity for all levels and fun to learn!

### **Hiking/ \$3 per person- 45 minutes**

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A casual program for all to experience our local natural areas. Numerous locations are used in the Murfreesboro area where interpretation of the surrounding landscapes gives people room for thought about our Tennessee flora and fauna.

### **Hiking with transportation / \$15 per person – duration varies depending on location**

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Book an out-of-town hiking experience with Outdoor Murfreesboro. Tennessee is full of beautiful and wild places. This program offering includes an interpretive guide and transportation to explore some unique and fabulous locations outside of Murfreesboro.

### **Survival Skills Workshop/ \$10 per person- 2 hours**

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Hands on classroom setting that teaches basic outdoor living skills. These skills provide a wide range of knowledge for what could happen, but also might be useful for basic outdoor activities. We cover a multitude of skills such as knot tying, shelter building, primitive fire building, animal track identification and map reading.

### **Archery/ \$10 a person**

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Archery is an easy program for all levels, whether you've held a bow before or not. Learn the basics of shooting, tips for improvement, and an opportunity to enjoy a great recreational activity.

### **Campfire program/ \$10 per person – 2 hours**

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Enjoy s'mores and nighttime sounds as you sit around the campfire and enjoy each other's company.

### **Camping at Barfield/ \$5 per person**

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Enjoy Barfield's fantastic campground that offers an easy getaway from the hustle and bustle of the city. Equipment available to rent.

### **Wilderness Escape/ \$100 flat fee (max of 30 participants)**

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Bring your group to the campground for a great escape into the wilderness. Price includes usage of the campground - 4 hours, campfire built by staff, s'mores, and choice of 1 program: team-building games, knot tying, shelter building, or animal track ID.

### **Navigation Skills/ \$10 per person – 2 hours**

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A program centered around basic navigation when there aren't any roads to lead you. Learn how to read maps by topography and distances as well as basic compass usage. Then try your hand at an orienteering course to see if you can make it out of the woods.

### **Wildlife Watching Programs/ \$3 per person- 45 minutes**

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Tennessee has a wide range of diversity when it comes to our local wildlife, whether it is identifying many of the 100s of species of trees or using the bird blind at the campground for viewing some of our elusive, rare birds. There is a plethora of opportunities to watch our wildlife in their natural habitat.

### **Team-building activities / \$3 per person- 45 minutes**

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A wide range of activities that are centered around team work to achieve goals. They can be performed outside, inside, with small or large groups. We can incorporate them into any of the previous listed activities as well.