

Leisure Services Advisory Committee Minutes
Wednesday, April 21, 2021 – 12:00 p.m.

The Leisure Services Advisory Committee held a meeting on Wednesday, April 21, 2021 at 12:05 p.m. in the City Council Chamber, 10 North Main Street, Cedar City, Utah.

Members Present: Leisure Services Advisory Committee Chair Pro Tempore Bonnie Jones; Committee Members Heather Johnson, Christy Florence, Christy Hugh, Craig Andersen, Ron Adams

Absent: Leisure Services Advisory Committee Chair Dana Miller; Committee Members Dave Holmes

Staff Present: Leisure Services Director Ken Nielson; Leisure Services Executive Assistant Ruth Sessions (Absent but listened to recording to take the minutes.)

Visitors: None

Bonnie Jones welcomed everyone.

1. **Approval of Minutes from Wednesday, March 17, 2021:** Ron Adams made a motion to approve the minutes from Wednesday, March 17, 2020. Heather Johnson seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.
2. **Committee Input on Fee Changes and Capital Projects – Discussion on Arena Fees and Portable Hook-Ups:** Ken – If you remember at our last meeting, we brought up the fee changes at the arena. Dana just wanted to bring up what this committee would like as we come forth with other fees in the future. Maybe, it will be a park fee, aquatics fee, arena fee, or golf fees. Any of those things in Leisure Services where we do have fees. What do you folks really want us to bring to you? Do you want the revenue estimates, etc.? How detailed do you want those things? That's up to you guys to discuss and tell us. For instance, we discussed the new fee for the power pedestals. There's a fee of \$20 for those. It's hard to know the revenue because we don't know how many are going to use them. In the past, we haven't had enough power pedestals at the events, so that's why we're putting in more. So, Dana mentioned discussing what you as a committee want us to bring as far as fee changes that we have in the future. Christy Florence – If there are fee changes, just make us aware since we sit on this board. If anyone from the public comes to us with questions, then we'll have that information. Most people don't ask about revenue but just reasonable information that we should know. Ken – And, like I've told Dana before, it's kind of nice as a committee member you don't have to get involved in the budget. It's kind of nice that I get to present things to you and then you give me your input and we go from there. So, in the future, that's how I'll approach it. In the next couple of years, Jared will probably want to change some of his fees. They kind of do that as a state golf group but he didn't want to change anything right after Covid. Last weekend, he had the busiest Friday, Saturday, and Sunday that he's ever had. So, I'll present fees to you the same way and we'll move it forward through the process after this committee discusses and approves them. Bonnie – Another thing on the golf course, where they have that area by those fabulous apartments, that's not really great time to raise your fees either. Ken – He got the irrigation done and he wants the golf course to heal from that. In another year, it will look great. In the next couple of years, he's going to want to raise fees, but we'll come up with a starting point and bring it to this committee before we go to council. So, we'll just handle it that way.

3. **Larry Olds, Cross Hollow Arenas Manager – Retiring June 5, 2021:** Ken – So, Larry will have 20 years in at the end of May and he is 72. He’s been doing this for a long time so he’s going to retire. His last working day will be June 5th. We have seven applicants which is really tickling me because that’s a hard job to fill. It’s a lot of hours, it’s skills in a lot of areas. You need to know how to make the dirt right for many events and it has a lot of aspects to it. We’ll start that interview process, and our thought process is to have someone in place by mid-May so they can kind of get a feel for the arena while Larry is still there. The first big rodeo is the first weekend in June, so hopefully, Larry is going out the door that weekend and our new person transitions in. Christy Florence – Are any of the applicants someone within the City that have worked with Larry or under Larry? Ken – No, so we advertised in and out of the City but the thing that I’m excited about is that a couple of them are coming from other arenas and have experience already. The arena managers in Panguitch and at the Blackhawk in Salina both applied and that makes me feel a little calmer. It’s nice to have some applicants with experience and it’s something to look forward to. Larry’s been out there a long time and a lot of his experience is who you know. It’s a nice facility but it’s challenging. Bonnie – So, if we see Larry around, we need to make sure we let him know how much we have appreciated him. He has done a super job!
4. **RAP Tax Item Suggestions:** Ken – So, RAP Tax is coming down the line in a couple of weeks and I’ll lean on you folks for any suggestions on topics or items that we can introduce. The Mayor, City Manager and I will be meeting in the next couple of weeks to formulate some ideas, but if you guys have any suggestions, that would be great. In previous year’s RAP Tax, they approved money for the new playground at Bicentennial Park and all the work that has been done at the Bicentennial ballpark, including fields, sod, dug outs and new fences. In addition, the shade structures, and bleachers, were done with a combination of RAP Tax and a grant from Iron County. For you folks that are out in the community, try to think of some things that might be good for RAP Tax.

We have several trails that we’re moving forward with this year, one is the Industrial Trail, from 300 West to Airport Road. If you’ve gone down there, you’ve seen all the cleaning that has been going on. They’re making through streets, widening the road and we’re putting a trail on the south side, along with landscaping along the trail.

Another trail that we’re working on is in Bonnie’s neck of the woods, so we’re going from Southview where it currently ends down to Maverick. It isn’t a far distance, but it has been hard to get with some people not wanting to sell their land. We have finally gotten all the easements and will be able to complete it to Maverick.

Christy Florence – So, I know that they’ve been trying to connect it from Fiddler’s down to Canyon View, so where are we with that? Ken – UDOT has given us permission to go under Main Street, so we’re going to go Fiddler’s, down past the church, down to that box covert there by Nichols Canyon Road so we can go under Main Street and then we’ll take a stretch that goes over to the high school and then a stretch that will go around the old interchange to the west side of the freeway and then we’ll go down to Coal Creek. So, those are tied into a UDOT project next summer. Engineering has got all the designs, so, we’re just waiting for all the UDOT items to line up and then we’re moving on that one. So, that’s all figured out. The hard part was Main Street, but the box covert is 8’ tall, so with little adjustments in there, we can kind of go under like we do at Little League under the bridge and Main Street by Brad’s. It’s just a lot better than trying to go over Main Street. Bridges are expensive, coverts are expensive but not as much.

The other trail is the Old Sorrel Trail that runs from the arena and connect to the Cross Hollow Trail that currently just kind of ends down there by the Silver Silo restaurant. So, we'll make that connection.

Part of that agreement with the folks that own the property over there is the retention basis, across from the Silo. I've never seen water in it but maybe Ron has. It's used for motorcycle jumping and is there for that 100-year flood, that we're still waiting for. So, that needs to be designated as recreation as part of that agreement so what Ron and I and some of the Trails people have talked about is putting a pump track in there. We don't want to put anything in there that a flood would destroy, like a soccer field or something that mud could cover. The RAP Tax would be great for our pump track. Have any of you have seen the one in St. George by the Aquatics ball field out there? Multiple People – Yes. Ken – They put it in the ravine because nothing else can go in there. Christy Florence – Remember that group that came and presented the pump track (it was when Bryan was still here) and they had a grant fund and they were looking for the city to do matching funds and they were from SUU, I think. I don't even remember but they came in and showed pictures and talked to us about it. I don't know what happened after that. Bonnie – I like to ride on the pump tracks and have gone to St. George with our friends and riders would love it. Heather – My kids go to other communities that have them just to do that. Ken – We don't currently have any and it fits the area. The City got a donation for ten acres out west in one of the Burgess developments and it's nice because it's already flat.

Christy Florence – What about pickleball? I believe that was part of the plan for the Canyon Ranch Complex. Pickleball courts are something that would qualify for, RAP Tax. I know when you go to SUU to play, you can never get on. Ken – I kind of have an idea that we need to discuss. I think pickleball courts across from the library would be ideal. We have the lights at the Aquatic Center from the rink and I think, with no wind on the east side and with the mountains and park right there, it would be aesthetically pleasing and be a great place for pickleball. That idea just came to me because we own it and it's such a nice, quiet place with no wind. The SUU courts are just not enough to offer all those that want to play. Pickleball is another project that would qualify for RAP Tax. Anyway, just be thinking in the next couple of weeks about some other options for RAP Tax and we'll send something out asking if you have any other ideas. RAP Tax is due the beginning of June.

Our ball parks are in great shape. Bicentennial just got new sod laid around the playground and that is nice out there. Little League is headed in a good direction, the Hills is in good shape. So, if you think of anything else, like where we need a playground, let me know. We know Fiddler's needs a playground and park. The RAP Tax is not something that runs out that year so we can start the process and if it's a year away, that's fine. Ron – Ken, do you have everything done over here at Veteran's? Like shade structures. Ken – So, we will wait for the rest of the chain link dugouts until this fall after the season. They'll go in all the fields that don't have chain link. The bleachers are here and need to be put together. The shade structures for Fields #9 and #11, which are the minor league fields, we'll just wait until the dugouts are in and then we'll put them in. Ron – So, bleachers are over there by the park, right? Ken – Right. Part of the agreement is that the company we bought them from must install them and that is just a matter of them coming down from Salt Lake and putting them together. These bleachers are nice because they fit our insurance so they have a chain link backing on them so people can't fall off the back like the others that you could climb up and fall off. They will be a great addition. The only field that won't change their dugouts is Field #10 because they have true dugouts in the ground. They are huge and they aren't a worry for

us. When everything is done at that complex, it will look great! We're tickled with the way they have turned out.

Ron – What about at the Field at the Hills? Are you still contemplating a storage shed? Ken – We need to have a place to put our groomers and mowers and stuff like that down at the bottom. That way we can get rid of the Connex box and put it where it was designed to go down beyond the playgrounds. That way they can bring their machines right out to the fields and get rid of all the mess that they deal with coming down the road. So, I am really tickled with the way our fields are looking at all three complexes. The tournaments that are coming just rave about how great the fields look. Starting this weekend, we have eighteen weekends of tournaments. I think the complexes are ideal! We have a couple of parks guys in place that take ownership of the fields and they care about the fields look so I'm happy with them.

Christy Florence – Maybe you don't know this, but do you know what the Summer Games registration is looking like this year since it was cancelled last year? I'm just wondering if it's looking like they'll have a full slate of soccer games and everything. Maybe that's not something that you even look at. Craig – I know with baseball they're full. Ken – They took four weekends from us for their events. Numbers-wise, I really don't know. They've scheduled everything like it's a normal year.

Craig – The fields do look really good, and I only say that because I'm a fields guy. Some belting around the fields up here at Veterans, are they looking to replace some of that or repair it? Ken – So, Shad Leeder, is the connection to get that belting. They're getting that conveyor belting and he said that he'd get us some extra to replace more rows. Are the ones that are currently there folding? Craig – There are just some gaps. Some of those have either board and then aluminum and then the belting adhered to them. In the corners, they gap and are starting to separate from them.

Heather – So, the RAP Tax can pay for a skate park then, right? Ken - Last year we received money from RAP Tax to do the Ninja playground and the pickleball courts at the Aquatic Center so it can go for various things, such as the skate park but we just need to decide what we want to request money for. Ron – I think the skate park is something that we need to look at. We've had some conversation about the material we use for it. Ken – Yeah, like I said to this committee, we can either keep putting money into it to fix it or change it out with some other material. The hard concept of that is that it is hard to get the material. I don't know if we go to concrete like St. George. I understand why they did it and it makes sense to them because there is no snow. Do we look at that and then worry about replacing concrete when it cracks, because you know it will? Do we look at a different material and replace it all? You're right Ron. Those are conversations that we need to have because it is heavily used.

The nice thing about a pump track is it's made mostly with dirt. The O&M for that is nice. So, again talk to people you know at ball fields or wherever you are and get ideas. We wonder if we should put lights on Field #11 at the Little League ballpark. Craig – I think it does. I think if we were to put lights at the soccer field, they would be used all the time and it's only going to benefit and bring people in. Ken – You're right and if we're going to be a tournament town every summer, is it just going to keep growing and getting busier every year? Ron – Do we have a need for more of the large fields? Ken – Yes, because we have limited fields that have portable mounds that can accommodate older kids' tournaments. We could always use more fields and lights.

5. **Other:**

6. **Next Advisory Committee Meeting – TBD:**

Bonnie – Our next meeting will be scheduled for Wednesday, June 16, 2021 at noon.
Christy Florence made a motion that we adjourn. Craig Andersen seconded it. The vote was unanimous.

The meeting adjourned at 12:52 p.m.

Ruth Sessions, Executive Assistant
Cedar City Leisure Services
(Not in attendance but listened to the recording.)