

CEDAR CITY PARKS AND RECREATION
RAP TAX ADVISORY BOARD ACTION MEETING
JUNE 23, 2021

The Cedar City Parks and Recreation RAP Tax Advisory Committee held its action meeting on Wednesday, June 23, 2021, at 1:00 p.m. in the City Council Chambers, 10 North Main Street, Cedar City, Utah.

PRESENT: Board Members: Mauri Bleazard, Vicki Christian, Chad Westwood, Len Badertscher, Councilmember Ron Adams

EXCUSED: Randy Phillips, Mark Johnson

STAFF: City Attorney, Tyler Romeril; Executive Assistant, Onjulee Pittser; City Manager, Paul Bittmenn; Leisure Services, Ken Nielson; Aquatic Center, Chris Hudson

OTHERS: Bruce Hughes, Sue Longson

CALL TO ORDER: Tyler called the meeting to order at 1:13 p.m. **Tyler**: We're looking at going through both our boards for RAP tax next year. If one of you doesn't want to do it next year let us know. We know that this was Randy's last year and maybe one or two others. If you feel you've done your time and want to be replaced, let us know. If you do, any suggestions of people that you have would help City staff. We talked about the Trap Club's application and if they qualify under the ordinance. I pulled the lease and with that there came a building/facility. In order for RAP tax funds to be used under parks and rec, they can only be used on a publicly owned/operated park/playground or a facility like this for recreation. It does qualify because the building and facility would stay with the City if the lease ends. When we get the invoice on any costs or expenses it would need to show that they were used for the facility itself, so we know that tax payer funds went to a building that's owned by the public.

Mauri: Can we ask what they're planning on using it for again? **Chad**: I wasn't sure what it was when I was reading it.

DISCUSSION AND VOTE ON RAP TAX RECOMMENDATIONS: **Bruce Hughes**: We support a lot of youth shooting activities. The high schools and rodeo club have Trap teams, and a lot goes on there. The organized clubs that are competing statewide, we let them shoot there without cost and provide ammo to them. To get ammo in today's world is expensive. At the Summer Games you need 10 boxes of ammo to shoot, and it was \$50 for the birds. You're looking at \$100+ to shoot at the Summer Games. The high school competitions run through the school year. Students can letter in trap shooting depending on how they do at state. We teach gun safety and how to handle them. It amazes me how many kids in Iron County have never shot guns. We have turkey shoots with the scouts and for the older young ladies we have a great program. We have range officers who are certified NRA. It's one of the best gun clubs in Utah. If we asked for you to help provide us with financial support for the kids with shells or the cost of shooting range, that doesn't fit within the ordinance. We deal with a big pot. With the Trap Club we're having to upgrade and repair to function, and we don't keep it up because we're helping the kids with the cost of shooting. It's a different part of the pot and we'll use the money you give us for maintenance and improvements. There's a lot of concrete

there. We're one of the few gun clubs in the state that is handicap accessible. I don't have a specific item on what we would use it on, but this would allow us to use funds we use for the facility to support our youth. **Chad**: Is the money you're requesting specifically for bullets? **Bruce**: It's not now. We'll get the bullets one way or another. I'm involved with multiple groups and when the reporting has to go in, we will do it properly. **Tyler**: The funds that are approved can only be used for that facility. **Len**: I didn't realize all the youth groups they provide access to. My recommendation is to approve \$7,000 for the gun club. **Mauri**: Can we go through and give an explanation on what we recommend? **Tyler**: That's fine, but that motion is still there. **Chad**: Leisure Services has a lot of projects in the works and that's great. I see that Cedar's growing and we're bringing in great things to attract people. The Rotary Club, I'm partial to this because I have little kids and the water park appeals to me. We all go down to St. George and spend our money down there. My vision for that is you'll pull in a lot of surrounding towns. I fell that's a good project. The Trap Club I was concerned it was all going to bullets. I'm glad you clarified that for us. They deserve some money to maintain that. There should be funds to go to the Trap Club, but most of the parks should go to Leisure Services. **Mauri**: My recommendation came from trying to fund each of the things that are needed for Leisure Services for Parks and Rec. I think the amount would change depending on what you needed. I didn't recommend to Cedar Rotary. I think it's an amazing project, but it needs help and needs to be safer. I haven't seen a concrete answer on what exactly we're funding. **Chad**: I agree. How many years have they been coming here? **Sue Longson**: I'm here for the Rotary. I've been working with Paul Monroe on the water park project since we started. We got some bids on the entire scope of the project, and at the time it was \$1.3 million. We got the graphics and layout. Our big push in 2020 was to raise funds so we could go to phase 1. We split the park into 2 phases, so we could do the front end where the kids play and the back end with the pivot and bridge. We wanted to get the front end done, so the kids would get the benefit immediately. Mike Kegler donated a Jeep, and we were going to raffle it off, then 2019-20 happened and we couldn't have any functions to attend to sell raffle tickets. We had offered refunds to people who bought tickets, but everyone told us to keep the money. We got about \$4,000 from that. Mike has offered to donate a Jeep again, but not this year because they have no vehicles. We're looking at doing that probably in 2022. We applied for grants last year to get funds. Other people also applied for grants as well. We were denied everywhere. We did get about \$2,700 from Walmart. Funds from large corporations are hard to come by. What we wanted to do was talk with a contractor to see what's going on in town and find out where we would be at. We got together with Phil Schmidt to do dirt work. He looked at what we had in our projection from 2018 and what pricing is now, and he recommended to get an engineering firm; have it shovel ready. If we had folks in town who would be available and maybe, out of the kindness of their hearts, do some of the work. Paul and I had plans to go to SLC and talk with Sunroc to get a deal on concrete. **Chad**: Of the \$50,000 that we gave them, have they used that money? **Tyler**: They've used it for engineering services. **Chad**: Has the rest of it has been sitting tagged? **Tyler**: It has. **Chad**: They have a 3-year timeline on that correct? **Tyler**: Yes. **Chad**: It's already been 2 years on the \$50,000. **Sue**: We have \$150,000 sitting with the City and \$50,000 from the Rotary. **Mauri**: I have 2 reasons for not feeling like it's ready. You haven't been able to do any fundraising and that's not your fault. I support Rotary, and this is a great project, but don't feel it's ready for \$250,000 and I'd like to see a big chunk of money on your part that won't look like we're going to fund it for 6 years. I'm concerned about O&M's. I don't want to create more work for anyone, but does someone from Parks and Rec know what they need for the upkeep and care? I've seen one splash pad go bad. Maybe it needs to be downsized or share ideas with Parks and Rec to know what they're

getting into because it's a bigger project than what it looks like. **Sue**: When we started the project and discussed it with the City they estimated it would take an additional part-time person than what they have already. I don't know where that is as far as budgeting. **Chad**: Is Rotary seeking \$250,000 for an engineer? **Sue**: No. We can start the engineering now. The first phase of the park from the initial estimate was \$500,000. We want to get the engineering firm to get updated bids. The \$250,000 would get us to the front end of the park. **Vicki**: The challenge is always allocating the money fairly. There's not a real way to do that. I decided that I like the Parks and Rec project, so I put most of my money there. I would like to contribute to Rotary with their project, because it would give them a jump start to get this started. Otherwise, they'll be spinning their wheels for years to come or keep asking for money. The Trap Club, for me, will be for bullets regardless. **Ron**: There's a contract in here that was drafted in 2019 with an engineering firm and it showed \$49,000. Have you spent any of that yet? **Sue**: Yes, we have. That engineering firm drafted the costs for phase 1 and we asked them to break it down into 2 phases. They did cost projections and did renders of the park, the video and still renders. **Ron**: So, out of the \$200,000, you've spent \$50,000 of that so \$150,000 is left. I'm in the same boat. It's taken a while to get going. A lot was because of last year. It was hard to fundraise during those times. I gave money there to get going on it. I hope we can get something moving on it if we're going to do it. As far as the Trap Club, I didn't feel it was justified, but I put \$2,000 in the chart in case you could come up with something like a maintenance item that could be used. A comment was made that "we'll make it say what we need to have it say" was negative to me. We need to be transparent with the public and follow the rules. Arts and Parks tax the way it's set up, and if we can't put our items underneath what's required, I don't think they should be considered. With Leisure Services the pickle ball courts need to happen. Ken's done a lot of work behind the scenes. They're ready to go, it needs funding and it's a great project. It can be done quickly, and the public would like to see that. Chris has asked for money on his sound barriers, and the \$20,000 for the golf course roof will come out of the preservation fund. There's an amount of money that was approved with the RAP tax committee last year to ward part of the MAC center project and put in a day care center at the aquatic center. Since the MAC center is on hold and the daycare's not being built at the moment, we could transfer that money to this year so Ken will have plenty to get the pickle ball courts. What was that amount? **Tyler**: It was \$208,260. **Mauri**: Are you asking for a certain amount to be changed for the pool? **Chad**: I think they're asking for the funds from the daycare center to be transferred to that. **Chris**: The funds were already approved for the daycare, but with construction costs, it wouldn't make sense to do the daycare and we don't have a gym. We are taking that amount that was already awarded and needed consent if we can use a portion of that. The rest we wanted to use towards finishing the pickle ball courts and the amounts already include the reallocation of that. **Ron**: The sound barriers were about \$30,000? **Chris**: It was about \$30,000 for one pool originally, but we planned for \$60,000. **Mauri**: And that's included in the \$505,000? **Chris**: From what I understand. **Mauri**: And that is the number you need to do the pickleball courts? **Chris**: Yes. If you're ok to reallocate that towards these projects then you would just need to approve the balance. **Len**: We have \$208,000 sitting on the side that we could funnel over into the \$515,000. **Tyler**: That leaves us about \$308,000 shy. **Bruce**: I don't want it to be misinterpreted with what I said. Our annual budget is around \$25,000 a year to operate the Trap Club. Last year we added a 5-stand and the club put in \$22,000 in new infrastructure. What I meant was we have operating expenses which are higher but allowing us to spend that money on maintenance and improvements will allow us to have money in our youth programs. **Vicki**: My confusion came when I thought you said that there are things that need to be done in maintenance that you can't take care of

because we cover the cost of bullets for the kids. The maintenance is not getting taken care of as it should. **Bruce**: I invite you to go out and take a look. The Trap Club is open on certain days. We are not dealing with deferred maintenance, but improvements and the 5-stand was one of them. **Vicki**: I don't doubt that. I thought if he's saying we don't have enough money to do the maintenance and we need bullets. **Bruce**: The money we're asking for will be used for maintenance on the facility. That allows us to have \$7,000 for anything we want. It's a different part of the budget. I know how to play by the rules, and we'll play by the rules. We'll take the \$7,000 to do maintenance and improvements on the property which will give us \$7,000 for the youth programs. We're doing this for the youth of the community. **Ron**: I understand that. It's a great event and I'm not putting down the event. Just use it for what it is. **Bruce**: We'll use the money properly. **Chad**: I want to change mine to Leisure Services to \$310,770 and change the difference in the Rotary to what Ron had, and the Trap Club stays at \$2,000. **Ron**: Wasn't there a motion on the Trap Club already? **Tyler**: We need to see if there's a second on Len's. If there's not, it will fail, and a new motion can be made. **Mauri**: Len's was \$7,000 for the Trap Club. **There was no second to Len's motion.** **Len**: It's a small amount when you think of the whole picture and all the youth in the area. There's plenty to give the Leisure Service project, because I'll be switching mine to \$310,000 and taking away from the Rotary to get the project completed and give a good amount to the Rotary. **Tyler**: The motion fails. We're open for new motion. **Chad proposes a new motion for \$2,000 for the Trap Club, \$ 203,000 for Rotary, and \$ 310,770 for Leisure Services . Second by Len. Vote is as follows:**

Len: FOR
Chad: FOR
Vicki: AGAINST
Mauri: AGAINST
Ron: AYE

Motion passes 3-2 . Recommendations are as follows:

- Cedar City Trap Club: \$ 2,000
- Cedar City Rotary: \$ 203,000
- Cedar City Leisure Services: \$ 310,770

OTHER BUSINESS: (Discussion prior to officially opening the meeting) **Len**: I understand that the pickle ball courts and ninja stuff are still in the works. Can you give us an update on that? **Chris Hudson** : We've been going through the process for getting the items. We were hoping to have them by summer, but that didn't happen because of lead times and shipping is crazy. The place where we were looking to purchase the ninja is out of the country. The pickleball courts are getting ready to be resurfaced in the next few months. **Len**: The pickleball courts are across from the library? **Ken**: The 8 pickleball courts were introduced last week will be across from Main Street park, just north of the Elks Lodge. We like that site for many reasons. There's no wind and just being downtown. It's also going to be lighted which is huge for the community. The 6 that are currently in town are not lighted. We're excited about that area and the venue will enhance something we don't have.

Ken: Can we make a motion to move the money \$208,260 over? **Tyler**: Yes. We need a recommendation on that. Chad proposes to move \$208,260 from the daycare to the Leisure

Services. Second by Vicki all in favor for unanimous decision. **Tyler**: We will bring this before the City council on July 7th and 14th. We'll get them first on the agenda.

ADJOURN: The meeting adjourned at 1:30 p.m.

Onjulee Pittser
Executive Assistant