

Leisure Services Advisory Committee Minutes
Wednesday, August 15, 2018 – 12:00 p.m.

The Leisure Services Advisory Committee held a meeting on Wednesday, August 15, 2018 at 12:00 p.m. in the City Council Chamber, 10 North Main Street, Cedar City, Utah.

Members Present: Leisure Services Advisory Committee Member Dave Holmes, Dana Miller, Craig Andersen, Bonnie Jones, Ron Adams, Christy Florence, Heather Johnson, Christy Hugh

Staff Present: Leisure Services Director Ken Nielson; Parks & Outdoor Facilities Division Head Wade Orme; Aquatics Manager Chris Hudson, Sports and Recreation Manager Jennifer Weaver; Leisure Services Executive Assistant Ruth Sessions

Visitors: LeShelle Murray, CCFC Board Member

Ken called the meeting to order at 12:00 p.m. Thank you for your willingness to be here today. My name is Ken Nielson for those who may not know me. I'm fairly new. I've been at the job two months now. Ron laughs because he knows all the stuff that's been coming down on our plate. This is our first Leisure Services Committee meeting since I came on board so I'm excited to work with all you fine people. I've heard good things. We need to elect a new chairperson and all since we lost Bruce and Derek from the Committee. I just want you to know I feel this is a great committee and an important committee. It helps us get some community feedback for our divisions and as a department. I think we have a variety of insight on our board and so I'm looking forward to working with you guys.

1. **Approval of Minutes from Wednesday, April 18, 2018:** Christy Florence made a motion to approve the minutes from Wednesday, April 18, 2018. Dave Holmes seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.
2. **Purpose of Advisory Committee:** One thing on the agenda, before we get to the business part. Ruth made these folders up for you and since I'm new, I looked up the creation and purpose of this committee. It's in your folder, the 2nd tab and it's highlighted in yellow. I'd just like to read that mainly 1) for myself and 2) because we have new board members. I think it's a good reminder for all of us.

Section 27a-15. Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee

(A) CREATION AND PURPOSE. There is hereby created the Cedar City Parks, Recreation and Leisure Services Advisory Committee. The purpose of said committee shall be to provide citizen input and advice to the City Council, on matters related to the promotion of health, wellness, quality of life for all residents of the City. The Committee shall also make recommendations to the City Council related to both short range and long-range planning for the City's parks, recreation facilities, leisure services and trail system.

So that helped me, kind of formulate what this committee is all about and that's why I'm excited to get your input on whatever topics we want to discuss and any that come forward. One thing I really like about this, as I read through it, is that it says nothing about finances. That made me excited. So, when we go over the City stuff and we can take the finance part out of that, I think it's always a great thing.

3. **Introduction of Committee Members:** To go along with our agenda, I'd just like to go around and have everyone introduce themselves. Many of you know the people sitting here but some might be unfamiliar a little bit so Councilman Ron, if we can just start with you and go down the line.

Ron Adams – I'm the City Council Member assigned to this Committee.

Christy Florence – I've been on the Committee two years.

Christy Hugh – I've been on the Committee two years.

Dana Miller – Also on the Committee two years.

David Holmes – It's been quite a while - 6 years.

Craig Andersen – New to the Committee.

Heather Johnson – New to the Committee.

Bonnie Jones – I've been on the Committee for a while also.

Ken thanked everyone. I'm kind of excited about these two new additions just because I like the diversity that they bring. They have younger children, all involved. They, themselves are involved in many aspects of the City so I think some of the things they see might be different than mine. All of my kids are grown and gone. What I pertain as something important, they might have a totally different aspect to it. So, I think it's a great thing to have a little diversity on our Committee.

My division heads, not all of them are here, but if they would like to take a second and introduce themselves to the Committee and briefly describe their roles, I'd appreciate it.

Chris Hudson – You can tell by the uniform that I'm wearing that I work at the Aquatic Center. I'm the manager of the Aquatic Center. I focus mainly on our lifeguards and the day-to-day administrative operations.

Jennifer Weaver – I am the Sports and Recreation Manager. Basically, my job is to provide opportunities to enhance the quality of life through leisure activities and sports and fun things for the community. I program things that our community members, both children and adults, can be involved in so that they can have some fun.

Wade Orme – I'm the Parks Division Head. So, the Parks Division is pretty broad. It also entails the cemetery, trail system, the lake, events held at the Main Street Park and other miscellaneous park events. My division also helps Economic Development put up all the banners that you see up and down Main Street. We're in charge of all the flowers, including the hanging flower baskets. We kind of do a little bit of everything. I have a staff of 7 full-time employees. I'd like to have around 20 seasonal employees but with school just starting, I've dropped down to 4. I'm putting the word out there again but am not getting too many hits. We still have a good two months to work with some big projects coming up, so you'll probably see me dirty often. I usually try and stay in the office and keep the ball rolling but right now I have to be out in the ditch. Christy Hugh – Are the jobs being advertised? Wade – Yes, they are posted on Facebook, on the City Website and I believe HR sends them to Workforce Services as well. Dana – Ken, are these guys going to get to come back and visit with us again or are they going to hit the road when they're finished? Ken – They are going to hit the road when they're finished. Dana – Can I ask a question real quick? Ken – You bet. Dana – Wade, where did you ever land on park closures for time? That was being hotly debated at some of our last meetings? Wade – We never felt like it was a good idea to take it all the way to the City Council, so we kind of just left that one alone for a little bit. With other things that were

coming down the road that we thought were a bit more pressing, we decided not to kick that can just yet. Dana – Thank you.

Ken – We're missing a couple of other individuals in the department. We have Jared Barnes, who is our golf course professional. I'm sure he's either out of town, golfing or busy. This time of year, he's hard to get into a meeting because he's always busy.

We also have Larry Olds. He runs our Cross Hollow Arenas. This is his busy time of year also. He's coming off 16-hour days and so he's been very busy. Summertime and Fall are busy out there.

While these few are here, I want to tell them that they do a really nice job with the things that they're in charge of and they are extremely busy this time of year. I really appreciate all my staff and their willingness to work and put the time in it takes to do justice to their positions and also to improve the City. Thanks again and you're welcome to leave now.

Christy Hugh – I have something to add Ken. The flowers look amazing and we were just chatting that we'd like the recipe on how to keep those baskets so amazing. Mine look nothing like that. They look great, the signs look great and I've been watching the lights go up at the fields and I appreciate all the hard work. Christy Florence - The signs look great. I've been walking the trails and I appreciate all the hard work as well.

4. **Election of Chairperson and Chair Pro Tempore** – Christy Hugh nominated Dana Miller to be Chairperson and Bonnie Jones seconded the motion. No one else was nominated. The vote was unanimous.

(Out of Order- Done at the end of the meeting.) Dana – I guess we need to vote for a Chair Pro Tempore. Does anyone have any nominations? Dave – I'll nominate Bonnie Jones for Chair Pro Tempore. Christy Hugh seconded the nomination. Bonnie Jones – I nominate David Holmes. Christy Florence seconded the nomination. Dana – How do we want to do this? (They decided to do a hand count and six voted for Bonnie Jones to be the Chair Pro Tempore) Dana – So, Dave, it looks like you're off the hook and Bonnie, congratulations.

Ken – At this juncture, I'd usually turn it over to Dana to run the meeting. I just need to share a couple of information items and then you guys can discuss anything that you'd like to.

5. **RAP Tax** – The RAP Tax just got approved. We're going forward with our phase to help the irrigation at the Golf Course. We'll be putting the ponds in which will help with the irrigation on the Front 9. Ron, if I'm not mistaken, I think they said that was put in in the 1960's. This will be a great thing for water conservation going forward and will make it really nice for them to upgrade the irrigation on the Front 9.
6. **Trail Signs** – As has been mentioned, trail signs are going up on all the trails. Rainbow Sign is a little behind. They broke their excavator on our lovely lava rocks. I talked to him yesterday and the excavator has been repaired so they plan on finishing up with everything this week. Again, Wade and our guys have gone through and we move the signs that don't apply anymore so it's not sign crazy. Some of those signs that we can make as far as the dog laws and those things, we'll just add to an existing sign, so it's not sign after sign after sign. I think they really turned out well. I like the posts and think they go well with our system. I like the information it gives on how far away you are from

this point and how fast it will take walking or riding to another location. I went down to the Cross Hollows Trail and the signs are installed up there and so I think we're almost done. I think the Mayor is going to announce it in her newsletter.

7. **Little League Fields Renovation** – The other thing I wanted you to know is, I've been working for about three days removing sod at the Little League fields, so we can get them ready to be renovated. I've arranged with the Little League, both Cedar American and Cedar National to do some renovations on the fields and so we are removing the sod and replacing it and getting new dirt. We're working with Blake DeMille Construction and Rocky Ridge Rock to redo those fields and make them look nice. We're putting in some trees and that will be nice because shade is always nice at the baseball fields. We have some people coming in to show us how to keep the dirt on the fields soft and other maintenance tips so I'm excited for that. We're putting in eight trees at the Field at the Hills. Our Department's only commitment is the labor and all the materials (about \$15,000) are being provided which is a huge commitment on their part. Ron – Are there any clubs or things involved anymore? Ken – It's more League driven now, so they may have a day where they have all the parents show up to help with the labor. I'm hoping with these upgrades our complex will look fabulous.
8. **New Software at Aquatics Center – Reservation Procedures** – We just started a new software system yesterday which will make us able to make all our field reservations as well as park reservations. We'll be able to do a lot of things that the current system doesn't do. It will really streamline what we've had. It's very user friendly. It's web-based so you can use it from anywhere. Our current system is Sportsman and our new system is SportSites. There are always some bugs to work out but so far, it's been minimal. It will really help Jennifer's youth programs especially. It's like a one-stop shop and it really be nice. Chris – This system is really going to be slick and we're excited to have it.

Ken – Turned the time over to Dana.

9. Dana – I didn't know that Bruce was leaving. I ran into him at the July Jamboree and he didn't say anything. Ken – I think he'd been on the Committee for eight years. Christy Hugh – The meetings will be shorter.

Dana - Ken, I don't know you or your background and why they hired you. I wonder if Heather and Craig, could you also tell us a little bit more about yourselves? We can start with Ken. I'm an out-of-towner, so I'd like to get to know you all more.

I'm a life-long Cedar City guy. I was raised part of the time on Highland Drive, so I have a passion for those ball parks because they were in my backyard. Then, when all the house settling and sinking stuff happened, we moved across town and then I was a west-sider. I was in grade school and watched my house go down the street on a truck, so it was kind of different. I'm a graduate of Cedar High obviously and then after high school I went on a mission to Louisiana. I attended Southern Utah University and played basketball there. I have a bachelor's degree in Physical Education. I worked for 23 years as the SUU Campus Recreation Director and so I just kind of moved up the street. That's how I know Heather and Craig. They were both former employees of mine and they are really good people and I'm excited to have them. My wife, Jeanine, owns a dance studio in town. I have five children. Kyler is going to school at Sam Houston State and just had a little granddaughter, our first. I have a son that's going to SUU and they just had a baby a couple of weeks ago, so I got to be a grandpa twice this summer. I have a son that is

currently serving a mission in Berlin and I have a girl that's a junior and a girl that's in 5th grade. I have a passion for facilities. I'm a big facilities guy and when I first came on I felt like I was all for tackling this. So, the baseball things obviously, were things I felt like there were some renovations that could happen with some partnerships and stuff and I didn't like the way they looked during All-Stars and honestly during the season. I'm just a pride guy in the City. I think there's a lot of programming we can do. I'm a trails guy too. I worked with Ben Davidson, who is the Trails Commission Chairman. He and I ran the trails for years being that we worked together in the same department. So, I have a real passion for the City and the programs. I've known Bonnie for a long time. I worked for Cedar Rec as a 15-year old, so that was my first job until I left on my mission. So, I worked for the City, then had a pause at SUU and now I'm back at the City. I've always been involved with it. I have some things that I'd like to see accomplished and I'm hoping that we, as a group, can tackle some of those things. I have a lot of things on my agenda; I want to fix the all the parks, so they look nice. Hillcrest Park has gotten away from us. I want to fix it and maintain those things. Neighborhood Parks, Main Street Parks, etc. I was explaining to my guys that you don't have to be associated with parks to realize that they're important to somebody. There's always an emotion tied to whatever park you're involved in, so I think all the parks should look nice and we should all do whatever we can to help them look nice. .

Heather – So, I graduated from SUU. We moved away for a couple of years and we've been back in Cedar for almost ten years. I've got five kids – my oldest is 12 and my youngest is 2. We're very involved in sports. My kids do baseball, football, softball, volleyball, soccer and golf. So, we're a little bit involved right now.

Craig – I'm originally from Gunnison, Utah and like Ken said, I have a passion for athletics or just being out in the community in general. My dad has been an educator his whole life. Growing up, we had the opportunity as a family, he worked not only for Sanpete School District but also for the City, so as a little guy until I left on an LDS mission we worked taking care of all the grounds for the Gunnison Valley High School, the Gunnison Valley Elementary and the ball parks. We did everything from sprinklers, to lawn care to field maintenance, etc. So, I've been around that my entire life and enjoyed it. I played baseball at Snow College. When I returned home from an LDS mission, coincidentally, the same LDS mission that Ken served in, and after my playing days at Snow College, I contemplated on whether I was going to stay in Ephraim, Utah and work on a farm but made the decision to come down here to SUU, graduated from SUU with a Physical Education degree and coincidentally during my school years here, I started working for a security company out of Provo. I'm currently employed by Vivent Smart Home Automation Company and have been with Vivent since 2004. I have three kids – a set of twins that turn nine on Monday and they're very involved in dance and baseball and athletics and a little five-year old that's kind of the same. My wife is from here, graduated from Cedar High and this is our home.

10. Public Comments: Do we have any Public Comments? LaShelle? She didn't have any but was just there to listen. Dana - That's a weighty responsibility. (Laughter)

Dana – Thank you. Just a couple of other things. It looks like we don't have any other agenda items today.

Going forward, how important is it for everyone to be out of here by 1:00? (Everyone raised their hand.) Dana – Alright, so that will be our goal. Just so you know, each time we'll just try to monitor how quickly things are going and how much time we're

spending on things with the target of getting out of here at 1:00, because there are times that we're still here discussing important things that we hate to leave. It's part of our responsibility. There might be a few retired but most of you have places that you need to be, so we'll shoot for 1:00.

The only thing that I can think of that I'd like to see fairly soon is, it might be fun for us to revisit our Master Plan. There's been a lot of progress made and I'd be interested to look at some of those goals that we had for the first couple of years and maybe get Ken's reaction to that when we feel we want to look at our priorities again. The Master Plan is available on our Leisure Services website and maybe come up with a couple of things to celebrate and then one thing that you are kind of scratching your head about and just come prepared to kind of talk about that next time.

Other than that, I think all of us appreciate the City's Leisure Services Department and we're always pleased when things go well. The Cemetery was beautiful for Memorial Day, July Jamboree was a hit, the Tour of Utah went well. And talk about Larry at the Cross Hollow Arenas, last week there were just so many vehicles down there and I thought, my goodness, that place is just swamped. There are just a lot of good things going on and I would encourage all of us to notice those things more often and if we see a City employee, stop and compliment them.

I had a really neat experience about a week and a half ago. My nephew was here from North Dakota to present a paper at the Shakespeare Festival and he wanted to go for a little trail run so we went up to run the Southview Trail, which is a beautiful trail, and when we got finished doing Southview and got back down, here comes a City truck driving up the road and he said, "Oh good, I'm glad that you got here because we're going to top coat and we didn't want to get you stuck in here". So, here was this crew waiting for this silver car to get off the road and I felt that was a real courtesy. The City does a great job and take a minute to compliment the City employees. Bonnie – I've been at the Golf Course a lot this year and it looks great up there. Christy Hugh agreed.

Can we get a motion to adjourn? Christy Florence made a motion to adjourn. Adjourned at 12:40 p.m.

11. Next Advisory Committee Meeting: Wednesday, September 19, 2018 – 12:00 p.m.

Ruth Sessions, Executive Assistant
Cedar City Leisure Services