

MURFREESBORO PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 2, 2021

12:00 NOON

MPRC Members Present: Mr. Eddie Miller, MPRC Chair
Dr. Charlie Apigian, Dr. Gloria Bonner,
Mr. Leroy Cunningham, Mr. Trey Duke, Mr. Rick LaLance,
Mr. Ronnie Martin, Mr. Tim Roediger (Vice-Chair), and
Mr. Don Turner (ex-officio)

MPRC Members Absent: Mr. Ricky Turner

MPRD Staff Present: Mr. Thomas Laird and Ms. Rachel Singer (Asst. Directors)
Mr. Gary Arbit, Ms. Brittany Garrett, Ms. Mitzi Hughes,
Mr. Mark Owens, and Ms. Melinda Tate

After Mr. Eddie Miller called the meeting to order, Dr. Bonner congratulated Mr. Trey Duke on his doctorate. He thanked her. Dr. Bonner then led everyone in a prayer and in the Pledge of Allegiance. The minutes of the April 7, 2021, Murfreesboro Parks and Recreation Commission (MPRC) meeting were next presented for approval. Dr. Bonner made a motion to approve the minutes as read. Mr. LaLance seconded. Motion passed by unanimous vote.

Ms. Brittany Garrett presented for approval a new department Lost and Found Policy. Currently, the various Murfreesboro Parks and Recreation Department (MPRD) facilities have their own policies. The policy presented today will be uniform throughout the department. Mr. LaLance made a motion to approve the Lost and Found Policy as proposed. Dr. Bonner seconded, and motion passed by unanimous vote.

Mr. Gary Arbit requested to adjust summer and winter weekend hours for the Adams Tennis Complex to better accommodate patrons. The new winter schedule would be: Saturdays 8:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m. and Sundays 11:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m. The new summer schedule would be Saturdays 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. and Sundays 11:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. The new hours are proposed to start on June 6, 2021, if approved by the MPRC. Mr. Martin made a motion to approve the new ATC weekend hours. Mr. LaLance seconded. Motion passed by unanimous vote.

Mr. Arbit also requested to streamline outstanding ATC membership balances to allow staff to collect membership funds faster and to avoid "large, outstanding membership balances every month." Staff would like to streamline payments over four consecutive months. This change would begin on July 1, 2021, with the commission's approval. Mr. Cunningham asked if the staff had any idea how the members will react to the change. Mr. Arbit said some patrons have heard of the idea. Staff will give them notice if the payment process is approved today. Dr. Apigian asked how the payments are done now as compared with the proposed payment plan. Mr. Arbit said the members have been paying \$100 to join and then \$50 per month over the next 10 months until the membership

fee is paid. The new plan would involve just four payments of \$150 each. Mr. LaLance pointed out that the membership fee will not change, only the time span for payments. Mr. Arbit agreed. Mr. Roediger made a motion to approve the streamlined payment plan for the ATC memberships. Mr. Cunningham seconded. Motion passed by unanimous vote.

Mr. Laird announced that MPRD would like permission to host the 2022 Miracle League All-Star Games, which will consist of athletes with disabilities from all over the country. Murfreesboro was scheduled to host the games in 2021, but the pandemic put plans on hold until 2022. Mr. Laird explained that hosting the event will give Murfreesboro Miracle League a chance to show how its league is run. He said that all Miracle Leagues across the country are not run the same as in Murfreesboro, where there is a video board showing photos of each player and a walk-up song for each player. Music is played before and after the games each week, along with music between innings, to keep the atmosphere exciting for the players. Mr. Laird added that four cities who would like to build their own Miracle Fields have consulted with MPRD since the Murfreesboro Miracle League Complex was built.

Mr. Laird informed the commission that there will be costs to host the 2022 Miracle League All-Star Games. He said that City staff, including Ms. Kelley Baker, Assistant City Attorney, has been working on an agreement with representatives of the National Miracle League to designate costs for the City and costs for them for the 2022 event. Mr. Laird said that the City would be responsible for housing, transportation, event activities, a banquet, and gift bags. The National Miracle League will be responsible for uniforms and awards. Mr. LaLance asked when the event would be in 2022. Mr. Laird said it is scheduled for the second weekend in September 2022. Mr. Roediger asked the approximate costs involved for the City to host. Mr. Laird said it would be around \$50,000 but added that there are funds already earmarked to cover that amount through David Price's Project One Four, which has done a great job setting the league up to sustain itself for many years down the road. Mr. Laird also mentioned that a local committee is being set up to raise funds toward the City's total amount due so that the already earmarked funds can be saved and used for other league expenses. Mr. Roediger asked if hosting the Miracle League All-Star games would be a one-time event. Mr. Laird said that the All-Star games are being held in Houston this year and that out of about 100 Miracle Leagues across the country, currently only 67 are big enough to host the event. He further said that the National Miracle League likes to move the event around, and that Murfreesboro might not have the opportunity for another 10-20 years.

Mr. Cunningham asked if the local fund-raising committee were currently operational. Mr. Laird stated that a group had met once to start selecting committee members, which should be figured out by their next scheduled meeting on July 27th. The group is also planning to create sponsorship packages and a donor wall for the event. Mr. Cunningham asked if the MPRC could be updated on the progress after the committee meets. Mr. Laird said that as soon as the committee has anything to report, he'll be sure to inform the MPRC. Mr. LaLance clarified that the MPRC is being asked to approve the agreement between the City and the National Miracle League with the understanding that there will be costs for the City, not all known at this time. Mr. Laird said that was correct and

reminded him that there is already funding available through existing donations, and additional donations are expected through Project One Four.

Mr. Miller asked if there were a motion to approve allowing MPRD to host the Miracle League All-Star Games in 2022. Mr. Roediger made a motion to approve hosting the All-Star Games as explained. Dr. Bonner seconded. Motion passed by unanimous vote.

Mr. Mark Owens, St. Clair Senior Center Superintendent, informed the commission of the proposed Open House for the Senior Center on June 24, 2021, from 11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. For the event, there will be door prizes, facility tours, current and future activities and programs announced, and lunch, plus instructors and center staff available to answer questions regarding the facility and what it has to offer. Mr. Owens invited the commission members to stop by to see what is offered at the center on the Open House day. He also mentioned that St. Clair regularly offers numerous free programs and events for individuals 60 and over. Mr. Roediger made a motion to approve the Open House as described. Dr. Bonner seconded, and motion passed by unanimous vote.

Mr. Bart Fite, McKnight Park Superintendent, said that Sports Com had been open since 1987, with construction costs of 2.7 million. He said that the facility was 30,000 square feet at that time, with another 800-1,000 square feet added in recent renovations. Mr. Fite mentioned that the outdoor pool is 50 meters or 25 yards (depending on the setup at the time of use), and the indoor pool is 25 yards X 20 yards. He said that with all the 2020 Covid restrictions, the Sports Com staff took advantage of the closing and made sure the facility was thoroughly cleaned and disinfected. Also, staff used the available time for various trainings, such as lifeguard certification, customer service training, and Verbal Judo Training (conducted by the Murfreesboro Police Department) in which staff was taught ways to try to deal with irate and difficult customers.

Mr. Fite announced that staff has been happy to see so many patrons coming back into the facility. He said summer camps will be offered at Sports Com this summer, including five Sports Camps, three babysitters' camps, two guard start camps, a cheer camp, and a volleyball camp. He further said Spring Fling was a big success with people everywhere out there. He complimented TSSAA for getting all the games in this year, and he mentioned that the media headquarters was stationed inside Sports Com.

Mr. Fite next explained the Boro Beach (Sports Com's outdoor pool) situation. He said that due to slower and slower draining in the wet locker rooms, it was found that the old cast iron pipes, which had been installed during Sports Com's construction, were in bad shape, being all brittle and breaking. The City decided to replace all the old piping with PVC, but the work is taking longer than first expected. The construction superintendent says his crew is doing all that he can, working 10 to 12-hour days, and even on some Saturdays. Staff hopes to open as soon as possible for the patrons. The Sports Com staff does, however, plan to accommodate four groups at the outdoor pool before the pool is open to the public. The Sports Camp kids, swim team, lap swimmers, and aquatic exercise class patrons will be able to use Boro Beach, with a special route to the outdoor pool being set up in order to keep people out of the wet locker rooms. Mr. Fite added that

when Boro Beach is ready to open to the public, the news will be advertised in the local newspaper and on social media. The department hopes the outdoor pool will open soon.

Ms. Melinda Tate announced some of the many upcoming MPRD programs and events. She said that the Murfreesboro Football League was taking registration now, online and in person, for youth ages 5-13. Sports Com's free online fitness classes are still being offered on Sports Com's Facebook page. Ms. Tate said that the Movies Under the Stars program will begin next week with a new movie being shown each week this summer. Movies will begin at 8:30 and are scheduled as follows: Mondays at Barfield Crescent Park; Thursdays at Richard Siegel Park; Fridays at Cason Trailhead; and Saturdays at the Fountains at Gateway. The full list of movies may be found on the City's website and on Facebook. Also announced was the upcoming Juneteenth celebration to be held on three days this year, June 17 (5:30-7:30 p.m.) with Author's Night; June 18 (4:00-7:30 p.m.) Art Exhibition; and then on June 19 (10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.) at Bradley Academy Museum and Cultural Center where there will be food, music, and activities. Guardians of the Greenway (a greenway cleanup program) is still active, and staff would appreciate help from anyone interested.

Further, Ms. Tate mentioned that there were some MPRD summer camps with openings. Online and in-person registration (at Sports Com, Patterson, and the main MPRD office) are available. The Half Marathon's registration opened yesterday, June 2nd, at 6:00 a.m. The actual event will be on October 9th, starting at 7:00 a.m., with a 1,500-participant limit. Three splash-outs for kids 12 and under are scheduled for June 24th (Richard Siegel Park); July 8th (Barfield Crescent Park); and July 22nd (Old Fort Park) from 1:30-3:00 each date. The Murfreesboro Fire and Rescue Department will spray the kids and help them have a great time. Water shoes and swimsuits are recommended, and a parent or guardian will be required with each child. The annual Boat Day is set for June 26th at the Manson Pike Trailhead from 9:00 a.m.-noon where there will be instructors available to show people how to use different types of watercraft. Ms. Tate explained that the Barfield Hiking Marathon is an activity where participants can hike a total of 26.2 miles throughout the month of July at the Barfield Crescent Park (on the honor system) and earn a t-shirt for doing so, if they register for the marathon online or in person. The cost is \$15 per person.

The City Fireworks show will be held July 4th beginning at 9:00 p.m. on Medical Center Parkway. Spectators can park along that road and in the area to see the show. St. Clair Senior Center's patrons have an art exhibit in the City Hall Rotunda going on now through June 24th. A virtual tour will be available on June 11th as well. Ms. Tate also announced the Murfreesboro City Job Fair that will be held at McFadden Community Center June 7th from 1:00-4:00 p.m. for anyone interested in Murfreesboro government jobs. Ms. Tate reminded everyone that all MPRD's current and upcoming programs and events are listed on the City's website under the Parks and Recreation link and said that there is an interactive calendar of MPRD happenings on the website for their convenience. People can just click on a date and see everything there is for that day. Fifteen MPRD Facebook pages are available as well with various department divisions and their activities listed. Mr. Miller thanked Ms. Tate for her update and said that MPRD has a great staff which offers all these exciting programs and activities.

Mr. Don Turner, who also serves on the City's Golf Commission, announced that Old Fort Golf Course is wide open now. He said a lot of new people started playing golf during 2020's COVID-19 epidemic and that it is actually hard to get tee times sometimes these days. He additionally said that kids up through age 17 can play golf for free on a 6-hole course at the Bloomfield Links. He said that PGA Pro Scott Stallings, the Tennessee Golf Association, private donors, and other sponsors help pay for the kids to play. He hopes to get the word spread of the free program.

Being no more business, the meeting was adjourned.

Meeting Adjourned: 12:43 p.m.

Minutes Approved:

Eddie Miller, MPRC Chair

Nate Williams, MPRD Director