

MURFREESBORO PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MINUTES  
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 2023

12:00 NOON

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

MPRC Members Absent: Dr. Gloria Bonner and Mr. Tim Roediger, Vice Chair

MPRD Staff Present: Mr. Nate Williams, Director  
Mr. Thomas Laird and Ms. Rachel Singer, Asst. Directors  
Ms. Brittany Garrett, Ms. Mitzi Hughes, Dr. Gernell Jenkins,  
Ms. Mary Beth Nevills, Mr. Mark Owens, & Ms. Melinda Tate

Other(s) Present: Ms. Angela Jackson, Executive Director of Community  
Services  
Ms. Katie Driver, City Staff Attorney

After Mr. Eddie Miller called the meeting to order, Mr. Bill Shacklett led everyone in a prayer and in the Pledge of Allegiance. Mr. Miller next introduced and welcomed the two new commission members, Mr. Charlie Montgomery and Mr. Kent Syler. The minutes of the December 7, 2022, Murfreesboro Parks and Recreation Commission meeting were then presented for approval. Mr. Cunningham made a motion to approve the minutes as read. Mr. Wright seconded, and motion passed by unanimous vote.

Mr. Miller mentioned that there was a ribbon cutting yesterday and asked Mr. Williams for a summary of the event. Mr. Williams announced that there was a great turnout for the Phase 2 opening of the North Murfreesboro Greenway yesterday, where an extra 2 miles of trail was added to the existing 1.4 miles of trail. Mr. Williams also said that the trail is federally funded and was developed by the Corps of Engineers. Trail maintenance will be through MPRD. Mr. Williams added that the relationship with the Corps started a long time ago through the work of former Congressman Bart Gordon and Mr. Kent Syler. Mr. Williams further mentioned that Ms. Rachel Singer has done very well managing this project and has continued the good relationship between the City and the Corps.

Dr. Gernell Jenkins, Patterson Community Center Superintendent, introduced Patterson Pickleball instructors Ms. Barbara Donnell and Ms. Sandy Gibson, along with Mr. Alan Cutler who assists them with pickleball initiatives. Dr. Jenkins announced that they all do a great job promoting pickleball in the community and have taught over 140 people the sport so far. Dr. Jenkins added that Sports Com and McFadden Community Center also offer pickleball. Mr. Miller said that he was just hearing of pickleball five or six years ago, but now the sport is very popular and offered in many places.

Mr. Nate Williams provided the MPRD six-month finance report to the commission members. He mentioned that operations are still on track; however, staff is being encouraged to tighten spending. A Community Investment Program (CIP) list was

included with the finance report, indicating MPRD projects that have designated funding available now. Mr. Williams requested the commission members to contact him at their convenience if they have any questions regarding the report or CIP list.

Mr. Williams pointed out in addition to the finance report there is \$860,000 listed in the operating budget for skate park design, as well as monies designated for development of Blackman Park (off Veterans Parkway): \$3 million in the general fund, plus monies from Middle Tennessee Electric sale proceeds, \$4.7 million coming in 2023, and \$250,000 in 2024. Further, Mr. Williams announced that a Request for Qualifications was sent out this week for design of the Blackman Park.

Ms. Mary Beth Nevills, Program Coordinator at Cannonsburgh, requested approval for a Homeschool Junior Docent program to be offered at Cannonsburgh March 23-24, 2023, from 10:00 a.m.-12:00 noon. The participants will receive a tour of Cannonsburgh Village and have team building activities, learn about roles and responsibilities at the village and about safety for volunteers, guests, and artifacts, as well as learn important customer service and communication skills.

Ms. Brittany Garrett, Athletics Supervisor, presented ballfield tournament fee increases for approval. She explained that the fees will help offset increasing costs for trash services, janitorial supplies, and field equipment. Mr. Thomas Laird, Assistant Director, added that the cost for renting dumpsters has risen significantly.

Mr. Cunningham asked Mr. Williams if expenses are going up anywhere else in the department. Mr. Williams answered that the most expensive increases recently have been with janitorial supplies and that staff has been given strategies to try to deal with the increases.

Ms. Garrett continued with her information and said that staff researched comparable ballfield rental fees before determining the proposed fees, which are in line with other area field rental fees. Rates presented were as follows:

	<u>Current</u>	<u>New</u>
Practice Rental Rate	\$20/hr	\$30/hr
Game Rate	\$50 single game/ \$75 doubleheader	\$75 single game/ \$90 doubleheader
Tournament Rate	\$150/field	\$250/field
Nonrefundable Deposit	\$150/event	\$250/facility
Midday Reline	\$20/field	\$50/field

Mr. Shacklett clarified that no local league play would be affected by the fee changes. Ms. Garrett said that was correct. Mr. Shacklett then made a motion to approve the ballfield tournament fee changes as presented. Mr. Wright seconded. Motion passed by unanimous vote.

Mr. Miller said that Mr. Don Turner, Golf Commission Chair, wanted to give an update on City golf matters. Mr. Turner announced that the City of Murfreesboro and the VA had ended their contract pertaining to the VA Golf Course. Mr. Turner explained that the City had been losing money on the property. He also mentioned that Old Fort Golf Course, on the other hand, has been very busy, and in his opinion, they are the best public golf course around. He further said that Old Fort Golf Course has been open since 1985, and the greens were redone in 2003. Marty Mayo, Golf Superintendent, said that 18 years is about normal for greens to be good before they start deteriorating. The current greens are in their 20<sup>th</sup> year, and patching has been done up to now. Mr. Turner said that the greens, bunkers, and car paths all need to be redone as soon as possible. He is encouraging City Council to help find funding by 2024.

Mr. Cunningham asked what the expected costs for the golf course work might be. Mr. Turner said \$1.2-\$1.3 million. Mr. Cunningham also asked how long the course would have to be shut down and during what part of the year. Mr. Turner said the work would take around 6-8 weeks and must be done sometime between June and August due to the greens having to be added in the warm months, the most popular time of year for golf. Mr. Miller thanked Mr. Turner for all he and the rest of the Golf Commission do.

Ms. Melinda Tate, Marketing Coordinator, announced MPRD events and programs:

- Daddy-Daughter Dance, February 11<sup>th</sup>, 5:00-8:00 p.m. at Patterson (already sold out)
- Animal Courtships, February 14<sup>th</sup>, 6:00-7:00 p.m. - Wilderness Station (learn of partnerships/relationships of some popular critters)
- Love Birds, February 14<sup>th</sup>, 2:00-3:00 p.m. - Wilderness Station
- Adult Softball Signups during February
- Youth Track and Field and Youth Volleyball Signups during March
- Pickleball – Check with Patterson, Sports Com, McFadden for times
- Indoor Triathlon – February 23<sup>rd</sup> at Patterson - Signups now
- Coffee Marathon – Signups now – Allowed 3 months to go 26.2 miles. Get your card stamped as you run/walk by designated coffee shops listed on marathon map.
- Summer Camp Registrations begin March 1<sup>st</sup> at Patterson, Sports Com, main MPRD Office, or online (For easier online registration, call the MPRD main office for household account number before camp registration day)
- Park Smart Program – Always encouraged - Hide Valuables/Lock Vehicle/Take Key with You – Leave nothing of value in view inside your vehicle.
- Battle of the Bands is scheduled on February 4<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. at Patterson's Washington Theatre – 6 bands, 3 songs each, just \$10/ticket

Additional information on the mentioned programs may be found on the City's website under the Parks and Recreation link or on MPRD's Facebook pages. Mr. Miller said that he appreciated the hard work of all the MPRD staff and reminded everyone that summer camps fill up fast. Also, Mr. Miller mentioned that he and his wife recently attended their 4-year-old granddaughter's birthday party at the Wilderness Station where they had a

great time and even got to see a screech owl. Mr. Miller further added that the Battle of the Bands sounds like a good event for local bands, who will get to perform at a very nice venue.

Being no more business, the meeting was adjourned.

Meeting Adjourned: 12:32 p.m.

Minutes Approved:

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Eddie Miller, MPRC Chair

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Nate Williams, MPRD Director