



PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT

STAFF REPORTS

March 10, 2021

Administration Division

Director's Report:

STEVE SIDDOWAY

(Please note, a verbal report will be provided at the March 10, 2021 MPR Commission Meeting.)

Parks Division

Parks Superintendent Report:

MIKE BARTON

(Please note, a verbal report will be provided at the March 10, 2021 MPR Commission Meeting.)

Pathways Project Manager's Report:

KIM WARREN

(Please note, a verbal report will be provided at the March 10, 2021 MPR Commission Meeting.)

City Arborist's Report:

MATTHEW PERKINS

1. **Plant Health Care** – My truck has been upfitted/modified to have the spray rig loaded into the bed so that I won't have to use a separate vehicle for treatments. We

will begin drenching selected trees in our parks and other city properties with systemic insecticides to protect them from damaging insect pests.

2. **Urban Forest Management Plan** – The plan is in the second draft review. There will likely be a few more modifications and changes made to some of the verbiage and content, as well as having some imagery and improved formatting added.
3. **Tree Inventory at Lakeview Golf Course** – I will be working closely with a student from the CWI (College of Western Idaho) Horticulture Program over the next couple of months. He will be hired on as a seasonal. As part of his student project for the Horticulture program, he will be working on the tree inventory at Lakeview Golf Course. This will be a HUGE help as it relieves me of the burdensome task of performing this time-consuming work on my own. This is a great collaborative effort working with the College of Western Idaho.
4. **Tree Planting** – I have had one of the larger caliper trees transplanted into the south dog area at the Storey Bark Park. The contractor who is doing the transplanting has run into some issues with accessing his field where the trees are growing, due to the wet conditions we have experienced. As soon as he is able to get into his field to harvest the trees, we will arrange to have them moved to their new homes in Storey Bark Park.

Recreation Division

Recreation Manager's Report:

GARRETT WHITE

1. **Community Center RFP** – I have attended weekly meetings in regards to the Community Center RFP. We are actively exploring potential partnerships with a new community center. We continue to evaluate our needs and what kind of programming the new community center could have.
2. **Meridian Youth Baseball (MYB) Agreements** – I have sent both the 2020 Amended Fuller Park Agreement and the 2021 Fuller Park Agreement to Jake Hines with MYB to sign. Late last week, Mr. Hines sent back the 2021 Agreement signed but did not submit the 2020 agreement. That said, I am still waiting for the documents to be sent back; and once they do, I will get them on the next available City Council meeting.
3. **Covid-19 Protocols** – This is a continuous item I work on literally every day. Now that the Governor's Office has moved the state into Stage 3 and the CDH has moved their Order to an Advisory, we have opened up additional programs, classes, and leagues that meet the current restrictions. Registration is now open for Spring

Volleyball and Spring Softball Leagues. We have also opened classes up that meet the current gathering size restrictions. All leagues and classes have protocols in place that align with Central District Health.

4. **Kleiner Park & Fuller Park Concessionaires** – I have been working with our Purchasing Department to accurately score the RFPs (Request for Proposals) that were submitted. We hope to have this RFP awarded by the middle of March or sooner.
5. **Fuller Park Snow Cone Concessions RFP** – Similar to the Kleiner Park RFP, we are working with Purchasing to accurately score the RFPs that were submitted. We would like to have this RFP awarded by the middle of March or sooner.
6. **Main Street Market Contract** – The contract has been signed and approved through Council. They will begin the Market in April 17th and run through October 16th. The Market will have the same footprint as last year. Broadway Avenue will not be closed, as the market will stay in the south parking lot and City Hall Plaza areas.
7. **Jabil Fields Agreement** – We are working with Legal to get an updated field use agreement. We hope to have this agreement completed by the end of March. We plan to have a draft to the West Ada School District by March 10th.
8. **Fee Data Collection/Priority Based Budgeting** – We continue to work with Finance to determine our “actual costs” for the services we provide. Our Recreation fees are based on our current cost recovery philosophy approved by Council. Our Park fees are still being explored.
9. **External Events** – I am working with all event organizers that want to host their events in our parks. While working with CDH and the organizer, we are scheduling events, as long as they follow the current Governor’s Orders and CDH restrictions.

Homecourt Facility Manager’s Report:

JAKE GARRO

1. **Facility Operations** – Meridian Homecourt re-opened Saturday, February 20 for business. Hours of operation are Monday – Friday 7:00 a.m. – 9:00 p.m.; weekend hours 10:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m.

2. **Facility Schedule** - Due to the Covid-19 shutdowns, it is our goal to keep court space open on a first-come, first-serve basis to the general public. Currently, we are not scheduling special events, such as tournaments and/or taking facility reservations during weekend hours. We want to ensure a fair and equitable re-opening process.
3. **Community Athletic Group Practices** – Youth community athletic group practices have resumed on Monday – Friday evenings from 4:30p.m. – 9:00 p.m. Court space is periodically available around scheduled practice times. *Please note: One court is available each evening for general public use.*
4. **Pickleball** - Pickleball is being played Monday – Friday mornings, 7:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. on all 4 courts. During the weekend, 3 Pickleball nets are available on Court 4. Court 5 is used for overflow Pickleball play during weekend hours. *Please note: Pickleball play is allowed to play after 12:00 p.m. during the week, if needed.*
5. **Noon Basketball** - Noon Basketball resumed play on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from 12:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.
6. **Open Court Evening Activities** – With our facility now open, we are excited to offer Tuesday night Volleyball, Wednesday night Pickleball, and Thursday night Basketball. These activities will take place from 6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.
7. **Weekend Court Designations** - During weekend hours, the following activities take place as follows:
 - a. Court 1: Volleyball
 - b. Court 2: Basketball
 - c. Court 3: Basketball
 - d. Court 4: PickleballWe are remaining flexible with our court designations during weekend hours. If needed, Court 1 may be used for basketball activities, and Court 5 may be used for overflow Pickleball play.
8. **Public Safety** - Homecourt staff members are disinfecting the facility when appropriate. We as a staff are encouraging patrons to wear masks upon entering and exiting the facility. We are also informing patrons masks do not need to be worn during physical activity.

Recreation Coordinators' Report:

RENEE WHITE

Looking back, I've started most of our February and March Parks & Recreation Commission reports by mentioning how busy I am with planning, contracting, and

confirming a year's worth of activities. This year is similar, except it has the twist of reviewing Central District Health guidelines and Governor's Orders regarding Covid-19. I've enjoyed offering unique activities in 2020 but am missing the sense of community that comes with large gatherings. Planning for 2021 is a little different since it entails keeping people socially distant and limiting attendance, which is the opposite of my usual mantra of 'MORE ZHOOSH.' My hopes are that things will continue to improve as the year continues.

What is coming up?

1. **Unplug & Be Outside** – I am excited to say that we will be moving forward offering classes for small groups in arts, sports, and recreation. This event, one of my favorites, is designed to connect our community to resources to get them active. We offer all kinds of activities for all ages, including self-directed activities, organized sports, and arts. The underlining premise is to unplug from television, online games, and social media and get plugged into something engaging. (This year we can add unplugging from ZOOM!)

Classes will be offered on Thursday, May 5 – Saturday, May 8, 2021. Many of the instructors from the previous years are returning. We will forgo the kick-off, field day, and Care Enough to Share Food Truck Rally this year since they draw large groups together. My hopes are to bring these popular events back in 2022.

2. **Sparklight Movie Night in Meridian** – I am looking forward to discussing a few thoughts during the Parks & Recreation Commission meeting about how we might be able to proceed with Movie Night. This includes several changes to mitigate health concerns and meeting all the very necessary precautions outlined by CDH.
3. **Gene Kleiner Day** – As you may have expected, the Meridian Symphony Orchestra has not been rehearsing. This is due in part to their rehearsal facilities being closed, but also most of their members are in the older, high risk category for Covid-19. They have hopes of receiving vaccines this spring but have not begun to plan for their next performance. We have expressed interest in a late summer performance to support the Meridian Art Commission's ART WEEK. We will continue to work towards that goal.

There are a number of events that we produce annually that do draw very large crowds, beginning with the Independence Day Festival in July and then Trunk or Treat and Christmas in Meridian Winterlights Parade & Tree Lighting in the fall and winter respectively. In 2020, we shifted to offer alternative activities; the Fall for Meridian Decorating Contest, Scavenger Hunt, Zoom with Santa, and Winterland in the Bag. We will continue to review the evolving health situation and announce decisions as we get

closer to those event dates. And, of course, we will continue to rely on the direction from Central District Health.

As always, I welcome your thoughts, suggestions and feedback regarding our events.

JENNA FLETCHER

(Please note, a verbal report will be provided at the March 10, 2021 MPR Commission Meeting.)

MAGGIE COMBS

1. **2021 Spring/Summer Leagues** – We currently have registration open for both Spring Volleyball and Spring/Summer Softball. They are both scheduled to start their leagues the week of March 29th.
2. **2021 Summer Fun Kickoff Tournament** – This tournament takes place on Memorial Day Weekend. Currently, we are planning on hosting 44 teams. This tournament does bring teams from other areas. Currently, we have teams from Idaho, Oregon, and Washington planning on attending.

Volunteer Program Coordinator’s Report:

CHELSEA CANTRELL

The volunteer program is still suspended with the hopes that Covid-19 case numbers keep declining. We are anticipating being able to start bringing volunteers back after Spring Break. The majority of our “regular” volunteers have received at least one dose of the vaccine. We are having an increase of groups seeking volunteer work. I have met with the parks crew, and we are getting projects set up that would allow us to safely allow groups to volunteer in the parks.

Recreation Coordinator 1 (Sports) Report:

SKYLER COOK

1. **Winter Cornhole League** – Winter Cornhole will finish the playoff tournament on Tuesday, March 9th. There were 40 teams that competed in competitive and social divisions.
2. **Field Reservations** – I am working with tournament, camp, and league directors on their Attestation Form submissions for Central District Health Covid-19 protocols. I am sending out unpaid invoices and collecting insurance.
3. **Staff Hires** – We hired on 3 new scorekeepers for Spring Softball League. Brianna, Linda, and Chris will begin March 22nd. We are looking to hire on 2-3 additional staff.

4. **Sports Leagues** – Spring Softball and Volleyball have a registration deadline of March 10th and are slated to start the week of March 29th.

Arts & Culture Coordinator's Report:

AUDREY BELNAP

1. **Meridian Arts Commission** –

- The Initial Point Gallery is back open with the first installation and opening reception of the year to take place on Friday, March 5. The new show will include 37 artists from the Treasure Valley Artist Alliance.
- A Request for Proposals will be released to the Park Identity's Artist Roster later this month for a new public art installation at the Ten Mile Trailhead. Project installation is to be determined.
- The Call to Artists for the traffic box artwork repository and the Call to Artists for the Initial Point Gallery 2022 Calendar will also be released to the public later this month.
- Two artists in the Meridian Mural Series have begun the design process with the respective property owners. The third mural is in legal negotiations. The murals are still expected to finish by September 2021.
- The new Subcommittee—the Arts Inclusivity Meridian Subcommittee (AIM)—is preparing to make a mission statement for the Arts Commission to adopt centered on how the Arts Commission can be equitable to all communities.

2. **Meridian Historic Preservation Commission** –

- Commissioners are reviving a Student History Competition this spring. Students will be able to submit essays or creative projects on their personal experience in Meridian and win prizes.
- The Commission's social media efforts are ongoing as the Commission acquires the History of Meridian, Idaho and determines best practices for the group.
- The State Historic Preservation Office awarded the Commission a \$5,000 grant to be used for the Commission's preservation projects.