



PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT

STAFF REPORTS

December 8, 2021

Administration Division

Director's Report:

STEVE SIDDOWNAY

(Please note, a verbal report will be provided at the December 8, 2021 MPR Commission Meeting.)

Parks Division

Parks Superintendent Report:

MIKE BARTON

(Please note, a verbal report will be provided at the December 8, 2021 MPR Commission Meeting.)

Pathways Project Manager's Report:

KIM WARREN

(Please note, a verbal report will be provided at the December 8, 2021 MPR Commission Meeting.)

City Arborist's Report:

MATTHEW PERKINS

(Please note, a verbal report will be provided at the December 8, 2021 MPR Commission Meeting.)

Recreation Division

Recreation Manager's Report:

GARRETT WHITE

(Please note, a verbal report will be provided at the December 8, 2021 MPR Commission Meeting.)

Homecourt Facility Manager's Report:

JAKE GARRO

1. **Facility Operations** – Hours are Monday – Friday 7:00 a.m. – 10:00 p.m.; weekend hours, 10:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m. Facility re-opened for the weekends on Saturday, October 30.
 - ✓ Holiday Hours
 - December 24 – 7:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
 - December 25 – CLOSED
 - December 31 – 7:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
 - January 1 – 10:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m.
 - Community athletic group practices and MPR adult basketball will not take place during Christmas Break – December 18 – January 2.
 - ✓ MPR adult Basketball will begin Monday December 6. Basketball games will be played at Homecourt Monday through Thursday. The season will conclude mid-March.
 - ✓ MPR Fall Coed Volleyball concluded play at Homecourt on Thursday, December 2. Winter Coed Volleyball will begin in January.

2. **Facility Rentals** –
 - Holiday Classic Volleyball Tournament was held at Meridian Homecourt on Saturday, November 6.
 - Future Special Events:
 - ✓ Flash Basketball Tournament – January 21 & 22
 - ✓ Flash Basketball Tournament – February 11 & 12
 - ✓ ICONIC Volleyball Tournament – March 5 **NOT CONFIRMED**
 - ✓ Legacy Martial Arts Tournament – March 11 & 12
 - ✓ USA Wrestling Tournament – March 25 & 26
 - ✓ College Coaches Skills Camp – April 9

3. **Community Education/Court 5** – Court 5 is consistently scheduled throughout the week each day for community education classes. Classes include gymnastics, tumbling, cheerleading, pickleball, and martial arts. Classes do take place during

the weekend hours in Court 5 as well, typically during the afternoon hours on Sunday.

4. **Private & Small Group Instruction** – I am moving forward with implementing our individualized and small group instruction policy and procedure. Please read the statement of purpose below for this policy.
 - *This policy and procedure is established to allow individual and small group instruction at Meridian Homecourt while ensuring the facility will continue to serve as a Community Center to the citizens of the City of Meridian and the Treasure Valley community as a whole. It is the goal of Meridian Parks and Recreation to provide a fair and equal opportunity for all user groups to maximize opportunity for facility usage.*
5. **Community Athletic Groups** – I am scheduling practice times for local AAU groups for the months of January, February, and March. Practices typically take place each evening Monday – Friday, from 4:30 p.m. – 10:00 p.m. It is our goal to keep all practices on 3 courts.

Recreation Coordinators' Report:

RENEE WHITE

1. **Winterland – In a Bag** – I am collaborating with local businesses. We are creating a grab bag of holiday crafts and activities to offer some holiday festiveness for families to do at home. This activity replaces our popular Children's Winterland Festival. We will make 500 bags to hand out at the Meridian Community Center – for free. Sparklight has stepped up to offer drawstring bags, and All-American Insurance has stepped up to sponsor the activity. We are accepting individually packaged crafts from local organizations.
2. **Zoom with Santa** – By request of the City Council, we are once again offering scheduling for Zoom with Santa. We are offering 3-4 minute private conversations for free. The private meetings offered a personal touch, and they were well received in 2020.
3. **Letters from Santa** – The mailbox that delivers letters straight to Santa will once again be set up in front of City Hall. We typically get around 1,200 letters and are happy to have the volunteers back to help with this project.
4. **Community Light Display** – I am working with IT. We have created a map for the community to self-select their address as a location to come see Christmas lights. The community can view the map as a location finder!

5. **Ornament Drop** – The Meridian Arts Commission has stepped up to offer one more no-contact activity for Christmas in Meridian. This is modeled after the successful art drop – with a holiday twist.
6. **Downtown Decorating** – The Downtown Meridian Association is once again producing their decorating contest. Voting for the People’s Choice is offered as a downloadable app.
7. **Shop Meridian Downtown Night** – The Meridian Chamber Downtown Committee is hosting a shopping evening with pop-up vendors. The event was created to help fill the hole left by the cancellation of the annual Christmas Bazaar in City Hall.
8. **Winter Lights Parade and Christmas Tree Lighting** – These events have returned after the year off, due to the global pandemic. The parade entries are about half the number as the previous years (25). But, the entry descriptions look festive. The Encore Carolers and Treasure Valley Children’s Theater will be walking the parade route before its start to entertain and delight. The Ugly Sweater Fun Run is back. Shelly Houston will join Mayor Simison and radio personality Ken Bass as our parade emcee.

For these, and other Christmas in Meridian activities visit: christmasinmeridian.org.

JENNA FLETCHER

1. **2021 Fall Classes** – Fall classes will wrap up the end of December. Numbers have looked great and have been picking up.
2. **2022 Winter/Spring Guide** – Final edits are happening currently. The guide will be released on December 8th, with registration opening on December 10th. Winter/Spring classes will start January 2nd and run until the end of May.
3. **Summer 2022** – We are already looking ahead into summer 2022. I am mapping out schedules, facility space, camper numbers, and staff numbers.

MAGGIE COMBS

1. **2021 Fall Volleyball League** – Play is wrapping up this week for the season.
2. **2022 Winter Volleyball League** – League registration is open and will close on December 8, 2021. Play will begin after the beginning of January 2022.
3. **2021 11th Annual Holiday Classic Volleyball Tournament** – The Holiday Classic Volleyball Tournament took place on Saturday, November 6th where we were able to

raise funds to buy Christmas gifts for the children at the Meridian Head Start Program. We will be shopping on December 7th for 51 kids this season.

Recreation Coordinator 1 (Sports) Report:

SKYLER COOK

1. **Field Reservations** – 2022 field reservation applications have been submitted. I am working through allocating equitable space to all groups and organizations for the upcoming year.
2. **Leagues, Tournaments, & Camps** – Off-season; no reservations.
3. **Sports Leagues & Tournaments** –
 - Flag Football League finished their season on 11/24.
 - 5v5 Winter Basketball League had 46 teams register (+15). First week of play is 12/6 at Homecourt and Meridian Middle School.

Volunteer Program Coordinator's Report:

CHELSEA CANTRELL

1. **Christmas in Meridian** - December is our busiest time of the year. We have volunteers that help with the Letters to Santa, responding to over 1,000 letters each year. They also help shop for the kids at the Head Start Program. Volunteers shop for 54 kids for Christmas buying close to 500 presents. We then have a wrapping party to wrap each present! We also use volunteers to help with the Winterland in the Bag, stuffing 500 bags. This season volunteers have helped with tree fluffing and hanging Christmas lights around town. Lastly, our largest event of the year, the Meridian Winter Lights Parade is happening and it draws out over 100 volunteers for that event. For it is the happiest time of the year! Merry Christmas.