



PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT

STAFF REPORTS

December 14, 2022

STEVE SIDDOWAY, DIRECTOR

(Please note, a verbal report will be provided at the December 14, 2022 MPR Commission Meeting.)

MIKE BARTON, PARKS SUPERINTENDENT

(Please note, a verbal report will be provided at the December 14, 2022 MPR Commission Meeting.)

GARRETT WHITE, RECREATION MANAGER

(Please note, a verbal report will be provided at the December 14, 2022 MPR Commission Meeting.)

RENEE WHITE, RECREATION COORDINATOR (SPECIAL EVENTS)

- 1. Christmas in Meridian is Back in Full Force** – Winter Lights Parade and Christmas Tree Lighting was Friday, Dec. 2. The parade entries increased to 40 from last year's 25. The entries looked festive. The Treasure Valley Children's Theater walked the parade route before it started to entertain and delight eager parade viewers, while others watched the Christmas classic, "The Grinch Who Stole Christmas," on the side of the Heritage Building. Sponsored by the Downtown Chamber of Commerce Committee, the Trolley offered free shuttle from the Alberton's Parking lot to the parade route. Dance Arts Academy provided entertainment while Santa finished the parade route before reappearing on the stage to help us light the Christmas tree and visit with youth. The tree was lit with a bang. It was another huge success.
- 2. Winterland** – Collaborating with local businesses, we are returning to the in-person format on Saturday, Dec. 10. Hosted in the gym at the Boys and Girls Club, the event offers cookie decorating, crafts, games, and photos with Santa.
- 3. Letters from Santa** - The mailbox that delivers letters straight to Santa is once again 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. Willow Spurlock is also stepping in to help with this project.

4. **Community Light Display** – 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. This event is now offered on Saturday to pair with the Winterland Festival.
6. **Downtown Decorating** – The Meridian Downtown Business 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. In its second year, this event promises to grow into an annual tradition.

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

JENNA FLETCHER, RECREATION COORDINATOR (CLASSES & CAMPS)

1. **2022 Fall Classes** – Fall classes will be wrapping up within the next two to three weeks at the Community Center and at Homecourt. Numbers have looked great this fall.
2. **2023 Winter/Spring Guide** – The Winter/Spring Activity Guide has been released, and registrations are open. The majority of 2023 classes will start right after the new year. We will start to advertise those classes in the next couple weeks. Classes will run through May of 2023.
3. **Community Center/Meridian Pool** – As of right now, we will still be able to hold classes at our current Community Center through December 2023. Our youth art classes have moved over to the Meridian Pool location, and everyone else will keep their classes at the Community Center. We will still continue to look for new spaces as we know that the Community Center will eventually go away.

MAGGIE COMBS, RECREATION COORDINATOR (SPORTS)

1. **2022 Fall Volleyball League** – We are wrapping up the Fall Volleyball season. We are currently playing games at Homecourt, Boys and Girls Club, and local schools.

2. **2023 Winter Volleyball League** – League registration will be closing Wednesday, December 7, 2022 for the Women’s and Coed teams. Registrations are on a first-come, first-serve basis and not guaranteed until payment is received in full.
3. **2022-2023 Winter Basketball League** – League play started this week for the Basketball season. We play games at Homecourt and the local schools. We have a total of 46 teams.
4. **2022 Holiday Classic Volleyball Tournament** –The tournament took place on November 5th at the Homecourt. We hosted 36 teams, that made donations to help raise money to make Christmas morning a little brighter for kids.

SKYLER COOK, RECREATION COORDINATOR 1 (SPORTS & EXTERNAL EVENTS)

1. **Field Reservations**
 - I am creating park permits for the 2023 season for all organizations that submitted an application.
 - I am collecting payments and liability insurance.
 - I am finalizing the MYB use agreement for Fuller Park and Mo Brooks.
2. **External Events**
 - I am reviewing the Temporary Use Permit process for the upcoming season and scheduling out events for 2023.
 - I am reviewing and improving the MPR short-term concessions permit process.
3. **Sports Leagues & Tournaments**
 - I am working on logistics for the Winter Cornhole League/Tournament.

JAIME DEL BARRIO, VOLUNTEER PROGRAM COORDINATOR

1. **Trunk or Treat** - 24 volunteers put in about 82 hours for my first successful event since beginning this role in October. Road closures began earlier in the day, ensuring downtown Meridian remains clear of cars for this event.
2. **Christmas Parade** – For the Winterlights Parade, we had over 150 volunteers with over 450 hours to help keep the parade safe and fun for everyone. This entailed volunteers to check in, set up, road closures, crowd managers, and clean up both before, during, and after the parade.

JAKE GARRO, HOMECOURT FACILITY MANAGER

1. **Facility Operations** – Hours are Monday – Friday 7:00 a.m. – 10:00 p.m.; Saturday – 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; and Sunday – 12:30 p.m. to 8 p.m.
 - MPR Winter Coed Volleyball is taking place at the Homecourt on Monday & Thursday. This league will conclude mid-March.

- MPR adult Basketball will be held Monday through Thursday beginning in December. This league will conclude in mid-March.

2. Upcoming Facility Reservations -

- I AM ELITE BB TOURNAMENT – December 30, 31
- Idaho Strike Volleyball – January 21, 22
- USA Wrestling Tournament – February 10, 11
- Idaho Select Basketball Camp – March 11
- Idaho Select Basketball camp – May 13, 14

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. Community Athletic Groups – Working to finalize practice schedule for January 2023 through May 2023. Practices typically take place each evening Monday – Friday, 4:30pm – 10:00pm.

5. Weekend Facility Schedule – We are looking to improve our weekend operations, how the facility is scheduled, and/or what activities are offered during the weekend. Currently, during weekend hours, the facility is set up as follows:

Court 1	two volleyball nets
Court 2 & 3	basketball
Court 4	three pickleball nets
Court 5	pickleball when it becomes available

6. Lakeview Golf Course – I am working to finalize and switch all vendor accounts from Lakeview Golf Club to the City of Meridian. Vendor accounts included golf registration software, golf equipment, merchandise companies, and any vendor used for the maintenance side of golf operations as well.

CASSANDRA SCHIFFLER, ARTS & CULTURE COORDINATOR

1. Meridian Ornament Drop – Saturday, December 10



- **Event will also coincide with the Children's Winterland Festival.**
- Festive twist on the popular annual Meridian Art Drop.
- Make handmade ornaments to “drop” in downtown for other to find and keep as a gift.
- Can be hung from trees, propped on window sills, or placed in creative locations.
- Please only keep one per person!

2. Request for Performing Arts Proposals -

- I am working to finalize a call for Performing Arts Projects with funding awards for youth theater projects that occur in Meridian and benefit Meridian youth, residents, and visitors.
- With MAC approval, the deadline to apply will be February 24, with projects occurring in FY23.

3. Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) -

- The National Park Service (NPS) recently returned the Meridian Speedway nomination to the Idaho State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) and requires some additional work before the property can be listed. In the next several months, SHPO staff will work closely with their National Register reviewer at NPS to complete the required edits and resubmit the nomination for listing. SHPO is hopeful that the property will be listed once the revisions to the nomination are complete.
- HPC is considering preservation options for a historic farmstead with the last remaining double silo structure in the valley. A developer recently purchased the property and will likely tear down the historic structures for residential development.

4. Public Art Projects -

- We had an unveiling ceremony November 12 at the **unBound Library** for the new mural on their building.

(Right Image: Ribbon Cutting at unBound)

- A ribbon-cutting ceremony for the new mural at Tully Park was postponed, due to weather, and is now planned to coincide with Unplug and Be Outside week. It will include a skate competition sponsored by Prestige Skate.

- A **mural project at the Meridian Pool** is designed and ready to be approved by City Council. It is planned for installation in the spring, before the Pool opens to the public.

- A pair of 8-foot **mosaic sculptures** by Nevada artist Eileen Gaye is ready to be approved by City Council. This public art project is planned for installation at the Five Mile Creek Pathway Trailhub next summer.

(Right Image: Eileen Gaye's "Water Metrics" public art project design mockup)

- **10 traffic box wraps** have been installed and one new special project is being considered for an art piece by a high school student that was recently killed in a traffic incident near Ten Mile and Pine.

(Right Image: High School student Terry Binder's artwork for consideration at Ten Mile and Pine)



5. Initial Point Gallery -

- The current exhibit at Initial Point Gallery features artwork by 24 artists in BOSCO (Boise Open Studios Collective Organization).
- The reception for this show is **Friday, December 16** from 4:30 – 7:00 p.m.
- Opening receptions at the gallery will be held on the first Tuesdays of the month in 2023.

