



## PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION

### REGULAR MEETING • MINUTES

City Hall Council Chambers, 33 East Broadway Avenue, Meridian, Idaho  
Wednesday, December 9, 2020 • 5:30 p.m.

*The Meridian Parks & Recreation Commission is a volunteer citizens' group that is created and empowered to advise the City on issues relating to park facilities and recreation programs of the City. Their mission is to gather input from staff and other qualified personnel on issues relating to the creation and design of public parks and open spaces; to listen to public input; and to provide advice and recommendations on parks and recreation related matters to the Mayor and City Council.*

#### Roll-Call Attendance

Commission President Dom Gelsomino called the meeting to order at approximately 5:36 p.m. MPR Administrative Assistant II Rachel Myers took roll-call attendance as follows:

X Dom Gelsomino, President

X Jo Greer, Vice President

X Keith Bevan

X Jennifer Bobo

X Camden Hyde

X Albert Kang

X John Nesmith (arrived at approx. 5:43)

X Autumn Short

X Jessica West

X Councilman Brad Hoaglund, ex officio

Others present were: MPR Department staff—Parks & Recreation Director Steve Siddoway, Parks Superintendent Mike Barton, & Recreation Manager Garrett White; & Deputy City Attorney Emily Kane.

#### Adoption of the Agenda

*Commission President Dom Gelsomino entertained a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Commissioner Jessica West moved to adopt the agenda. Commissioner Keith Bevan seconded. All were in favor of the motion.*

#### Approval of the Minutes

##### 1. November 18, 2020 Special Meeting – Dom Gelsomino

*Commission President Dom Gelsomino entertained a motion to adopt the minutes as presented. Commissioner Jessica West moved to approve the minutes. Commissioner Keith Bevan seconded. All were in favor of the motion.*

#### Announcements

##### 2. Christmas Presentation – Steve Siddoway

MPR Director Steve Siddoway wished the Commission a very Merry Christmas and presented each Commissioner with a small gift and Christmas card to thank them for their

service as citizen volunteers, whom the only pay they get is the thanks they receive. Steve expressed his gratefulness for the service they provide to the MPR Department and to the community as a whole.

### 3. Upcoming Events – Steve Siddoway

MPR Director Steve Siddoway reported the Christmas spirit is alive and well in the MPR Department.

- Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony – This virtual, Facebook-live event was held last Friday, December 4, 2020 to light the Christmas tree at Generations Plaza.
- Santa’s Mailbox – Santa’s mailbox is up and running at Meridian City Hall; it has gotten a lot of publicity on various news cycles. Many letters from children in the community are rolling in, given to Santa, and then he responds back to each child with a letter that has a legible return address. MPR Recreation Manager Garrett White added there were over 700 letters received to date since Thanksgiving as more are coming in.
- Zoom with Santa – This activity started on Saturday, December 5, 2020 and most of the slots have been filled. There were 365 slots for families to take to have a virtual Zoom session with Santa. Garrett White added this activity was great, and he does not think it could have been better. The kids—seeing their faces lights up—in being able to do a one-on-one with Santa was awesome.
- Downtown Business Decorating Contest – Downtown businesses have been decorating their storefronts. There is a map and online voting that people can do to vote for their favorite between now and December 20, 2020.
- Winterland in the Bag – Since the MPR Department cannot conduct the Winterland Children’s Festival as usual this year, there is a Winterland in the Bag activity where bags were stuffed with all kinds of craft projects and supplies which will be handed out at the Meridian Community Center on Saturday, December 12, 2020 from 10 a.m. to noon. MPR staff members are asking families to remain in their vehicles and drive through and pick them up. Craft bags are available to the first 500 people.
- Meridian Ornament Drop – This activity is being held on December 12-13, 2020. People can make handmade ornaments and hide them around town for others to find.
- Christmas Tree Lights – There is an interactive digital map of Christmas tree lights around town where people can mark their favorites and check out their locations.
- Salvation Army Angel Tree – The tree is up at Meridian City Hall for this virtual toy drive. The deadline is end of day on December 10. Donations can be made online. There is also a drop box for presents at City Hall. Many have already made contributions. The gifts will be delivered to the Salvation Army on Friday, December 11.
- Little Free Library – The Little Free Library posted at City Hall is stocked with Christmas and winter-themed books, where people can take a book and leave one.
- Meridian Head Start Program Fundraiser – The MPR Department has been able to provide gifts to 60 preschoolers with the Head Start program through donations received (no tax dollars). Volunteers have been wrapping gifts which will be delivered later in the week.

For more details about the above festivities, visit [www.ChristmasInMeridian.org](http://www.ChristmasInMeridian.org).

### Old Business ~ NONE

### New Business

#### 4. 2021 MPR Commissioner Elections – Dom Gelsomino

Commission President Dom Gelsomino reported each year elections are held in December; one for President and the other for Vice President.

The current Vice President—Jo Greer—received an automatic nomination for President. There were no other nominations for President. Commissioner Jo Greer nominated Keith Bevan for Vice President. There were no other nominations for Vice President.

*Commission President Dom Gelsomino made a motion to elect Jo Greer for President and Keith Bevan for Vice President. Commissioner Jessica West moved to elect Jo Greer for 2021 President and Keith Bevan for 2021 Vice President. Commissioner John Nesmith seconded. All were in favor of the motion.*

Congratulations to **Jo Greer** as the new **President** and **Keith Bevan** as **Vice President**. The new Commission leadership is effective January 1, 2021.

**5. Brainstorm 2021 MPRC All-Commission Goals – Steve Siddoway**

The Commission reviewed the current 2020 MPR All-Commission Goals. In an effort to streamline the process and as a starting point for discussion, draft goals for 2021 were brought forward for consideration and reviewed. MPR Director Steve Siddoway facilitated discussion. There were no other changes or additions to the proposed draft goals. Each Commissioner was asked to list the order of importance of these 10 goals. Rachel Myers tallied their priority levels. Please see the following results:

**MERIDIAN PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION  
2021 ALL-COMMISSION GOALS**

1 = highest priority / 10 = lowest priority

Commission Priority	Score: lower = higher priority	John Nesmith	Dom Gelsomino	Jessica West	Jennifer Bobo	Jo Greer	Keith Bevan	Camden Hyde	Albert Kang	Autumn Short	2021 Goals
1	11	1	1	3	1	1	1	1	1	1	Support development of a connected pathway system across the City of Meridian, with a focus on developing projects for future construction.
2	24	2	3	2	2	4	2	3	3	3	Support design and construction of Discovery Park Phase 2.
3	29	5	4	1	3	2	4	6	2	2	Participate in the design and programming of a new Community Center on the Civic Block.
4	44	3	9	6	6	3	3	4	6	4	Participate in the development of the Lakeview Golf Course Master Plan.
5	55	10	2	4	5	10	8	5	4	7	Pursue improved tools and opportunities to engage citizens and stakeholders.
6	60	6	8	7	7	8	6	7	5	6	Engage other task forces, commissions, entities, and agencies through workshops and other outreach for partnership opportunities.
7	61	7	6	9	10	6	9	2	7	5	Participate in the partnership with the Meridian Arts Commission to add theming and identify reinforcing art in Meridian parks and along pathways.
8	69	8	5	10	4	7	5	10	10	10	Continue to foster greater Commission involvement/presence in community events whenever appropriate.
9	71	4	10	8	8	5	10	9	8	9	Discuss progress on Goals and Objectives in the MPR Master Plan.
10	71	9	7	5	9	9	7	8	9	8	Hold workshops during Commission meetings to address current issues.

*Commission President Dom Gelsomino entertained a motion to adopt these 10 goals in this particular order as the Commission’s top priorities for 2021. Commissioner Keith Bevan moved to adopt the 10 goals. Commission Vice President Jo Greer seconded. All were in favor of the motion.*

**Workshop ~ NONE**

**Staff Reports**

**6. MPR Staff**

Director Steve Siddoway reported on the following:

- Covid-19 – He is really proud of his staff for the way they are moving forward under the current protocols and guidelines to do what they can in reference to Covid-19.
- Commission Liaison – He thanked Councilman Brad Hoaglund for being the Department and Commission’s Council Liaison for the year and representing them so well on the City Council.

Parks Superintendent Mike Barton reported on the following:

- Discovery Park – Phase 2 for Discovery Park is a big priority.
- Heroes Park Parking Expansion – The Parking Lot Expansion project at Heroes Park is currently out to bid. The bid opening has been moved from December 28, 2020 to January 7, 2021 to obtain good pricing from the contractor on supplies.
- Pickleball Courts – He is working with the Brighton Corporation that wants to possibly donate some pickleball courts in Kleiner Park. He will bring some court layouts to the Commission at a future meeting for review/feedback.
- Lakeview Golf Course – He has many tasks related to the recent take-over of the Lakeview Golf Course.
- South Slough Pathway – On behalf of Pathways Project Manager Kim Warren, he reported bids have been opened and received an approved low bid that they are awarding. Tiling and pathway work will be done, once the weather has warmed.

Recreation Manager Garrett White reported on the following:

- Christmas Activities – As Steve Siddoway reported earlier that evening in terms of all of the Christmas festivities happening, Garrett thanked the entire Recreation Division team for all of their work and expressed he is proud of them for all they have accomplished based on the current orders, being creative, and staying active/busy. He has also been working on tasks regarding Zoom with Santa.
- Concessions – The Kleiner Park Concessions RFP is currently out; proposals will be due to him in January 2021. The Fuller Park Snowcone Concessions RFP will go out very soon; proposals will be due back in February.
- Meridian Youth Baseball Fuller Park Agreement – He had a good meeting with MYB staff to discuss uses at Fuller Park with their programs.
- Meridian Main Street Market – He has been working with the event organizer and Legal to create a new contract regarding this continuing event for next year.
- Field Applications – He has been working on tasks related to organizations wanting to reserve field space. Skyler Cook will be taking over this task for Garrett.

## **Adjourn**

*Commission President Dom Gelsomino entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commission Vice President Jo Greer moved to adjourn. Commissioner Albert Kang seconded. The vote was unanimous and in favor of the motion.*

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at approximately 6:37 p.m.

(AUDIO & VIDEO ON FILE OF THESE PROCEEDINGS)

APPROVED:

\_\_\_\_\_  
JO GREER, PRESIDENT

\_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_  
DATE

\_\_\_\_\_  
KEITH BEVAN, VICE PRESIDENT

/rem