



PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION

REGULAR MEETING • MINUTES

City Hall Council Chambers, 33 East Broadway Avenue, Meridian, Idaho
Wednesday, December 13, 2023 • 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 Keith Bevan called the meeting to order at approximately 5:33 p.m.
MPR Administrative Assistant II Rachel Myers took roll-call attendance as follows:

<u>X</u> Keith Bevan, President	<u>X</u> Elle Hood
<u>X</u> Mandi Roberts, Vice President	<u>O</u> John Nesmith
<u>X</u> Jennifer Bobo	<u>X</u> Terry Dennington
<u>X</u> Dom Gelsomino	<u>X</u> Alan Helms
<u>X</u> Jo Greer	

Others present were: MPR Department staff—Parks and Recreation Director Steve Siddoway, Parks Superintendent Mike Barton, Recreation Manager Garrett White, Pathways Project Manager Kim Warren, Marketing Coordinator Shelly Houston; and Deputy City Attorney Emily Kane.

Adoption of the Agenda

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

Approval of the Minutes

1. November 8, 2023 Regular Meeting – Keith Bevan

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

Announcements

2. Upcoming Events – Shelly Houston, MPR Marketing Coordinator

- Christmas in Meridian is wrapping up – The parade and Children’s Winterland Festival were both a huge success.
- January and February don’t have many events but there may be a few published in the near future.
- Starting to work on Unplug & Be Outside for the Spring.
- City of Meridian Instagram hit 10,000 followers. We have been approved to start a Parks and Rec Instagram page and are working on a name for that.
- A copy of the Annual report was given to all board members.

Old Business ~ NONE

New Business

3. Christmas Presentation – Steve Siddoway, MPR Director

- Merry Christmas! Expressed how grateful he is for the Commissioners’ service and the guidance. MPR has a small budget to provide the Commission with a Christmas gift each year. The Commissioners each received a gift card to Subway.

4. 2024 MPR Commission Elections – Keith Bevan

Commission President Keith Bevan reported Meridian City code directs elections to be held at the December meeting; one for President and one for Vice President. The commission by-laws state the current Vice President receives an automatic nomination for President. The current Vice President Mandi Roberts received an automatic nomination for President. There were no other nominations for President. Commission Vice President Mandi Roberts nominated Commissioner Dom Gelsomino for Vice President. There were no other nominations for Vice President.

Commission President Keith Bevan entertained a motion to elect Commission Vice President Mandi Roberts for President and Commissioner Dom Gelsomino for Vice President for the year 2024. Jennifer Bobo moved to elect Commission Vice President Mandi Roberts for President and Commissioner Dom Gelsomino for Vice President for the year 2024. Commissioner Alan Helms seconded. All were in favor of the motion.

Congratulations to newly elected President Mandi Roberts and Vice President Dom Gelsomino. The new commission leadership is effective January 1, 2024.

5. Brainstorm and Identify 2024 All-Commission Goals – Steve Siddoway, MPR Director

The Commission reviewed the current 2023 MPR All-Commission Goals. In an effort to streamline the process and as a starting point for discussion, draft goals for 2024 were brought forward for consideration and review. MPR Director Steve Siddoway facilitated the discussion. There were some changes to the proposed draft goals, and the Commission settled on the following 10 goals:

1. Participate in the development of the Pathways Master Plan Update.
2. Support development of a connected pathway system across the City of Meridian, with a focus on user experience amenities and improved connectivity.
3. Support future improvements at Lakeview Golf Course, including clubhouse/patio improvements and new on-course restrooms.
4. Participate in the partnership with the Meridian Arts Commission to add theming and identity reinforcing art in Meridian parks and along pathways. Focus this year on Discovery Park, Fuller Park, and Chateau Park.
5. Participate in the design and programming of a new Community Center.
6. Support replacement of the Settlers Park Splash Pad.
7. Continue to provide feedback for ongoing park improvements and enhancements.
8. Engage other task forces, commissions, entities, and agencies through workshops and other outreach for partnership opportunities.
9. Support ongoing operations of the Meridian Pool.
10. Pursue improved communication tools and opportunities to engage the community and diverse interests.

Commission President Keith Bevan entertained a motion. Commission Vice President Mandi Roberts moved to adopt the 2024 Meridian Parks and Recreation Commission priority goals. Commissioner Dom Gelsomino seconded. All were in favor of the motion.

Workshop ~ NONE

Staff Reports

6. **Steve Siddoway** – Expressed his appreciation to his staff and everyone else involved in Christmas in Meridian. There are many events that MPR staff are responsible for including, the parade, tree lighting, Winterland festival, lights and decorations downtown and at City Hall, tree inside City Hall, angel tree at City hall, Headstart Christmas gift program and Santa letters.

Commission Feedback:

- **Jennifer Bobo** – Christmas in Meridian is amazing and impressive. It’s fun to have a City that is so festive and comes together with so many community events. It’s memorable and really kicks off the Christmas season for a lot of families.
 - **Jo Greer** – The stage was more difficult this year because of the weather but with Parks and Rec there it was so much less stressful. I just really appreciate everybody.
7. **Mike Barton** –
 - Working on items at Discovery Park.
 - We have already made some changes to the bike park to enhance what we already have.
 - Adding lights to pickleball and tennis courts.
 - Potentially have someone to run the community garden.
 - Tully Park playground is almost finished
 - Lakeview clubhouse renovation is underway. The outside of the building was done first and now we are working on the inside.

8. **Garrett White** –

- Christmas in Meridian is a huge undertaking for the department and I am very appreciative of the staff on both the rec side and the park side.
- Rec side we still have volleyball and basketball leagues going.
- Santa letters coming in and going out daily
- Arts commission ornament drop
- Working on pool projects
 - Front railing is being replaced in February/March
 - Replacing the sand in the sand filters. Normal replacement is every 7-8 years.
 - Working on the staffing contract with Personnel Plus for hiring guards for next year.

Commission Feedback:

- **Terry Dennington** – You were working on the diving board, what's going on with that? *We are still working on some of the numbers and depths of the pool and as soon as I have a verified answer on that I'll share it, but we are still doing research.*

9. **Kim Warren** –

- Fivemile pathway bridge – Still waiting for the supplier to give us a delivery date. This will be between Ten Mile and Black Cat near the wastewater treatment plant.
- Locust Grove Pathways – We have completed several segments but have put things on hold for the winter.
- Mary McPherson Pathway – Safe route to school for the kids living in Reflection Ridge subdivision going to Mary McPherson school. The pathway is less than ½ mile long and is currently under construction.
- Pathways Masterplan update – Excited to be working on that and look forward to the Commissions support.
- Fivemile Creek trail hub – Working on a sign for trail hub. The bike racks have been installed.
- Plan review has been busy.

Commission Feedback:

Jennifer Bobo – Are there any plans for a pathway going to Owyhee High School? *Fivemile does go very near to Owyhee High School. There will be a pedestrian underpass going under State Highway 16. There is a gap that we will need to work on but there are several pathways in that area since it is new construction and we can require them. But we can take a look at that.*

I have had several people ask about this in the last week. Several parents drive their kids to school because there is not a good way to get there on their own. *That's good to know and I will make a note of that and take a look.*

Alan Helms – This is my 3rd meeting and I have been impressed by everything the Parks and Rec board and the Parks Department does in this City. You should be very proud and I just want to say thank you.

Commission President Keith Bevan – This being my last meeting as President I wanted to thank the Commission and the Parks Department for all the hard work this last year. It was fun, you made it easy and I appreciate it. I look forward to seeing what we can accomplish next year.

Next meeting is January 10, 2024 at 5:30 p.m.

Adjourn

Commission President Keith Bevan entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Dom Gelsomino moved to adjourn. Commission Vice President Mandi Roberts seconded. The vote was unanimous and in favor of the motion.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at approximately 6:52 p.m.

APPROVED:

MANDI ROBERTS, PRESIDENT

_____/_____/_____
DATE

DOM GELSOMINO, VICE PRESIDENT

/tmk

Attachments:
None