



To: Mayor Robert Simison and Meridian City Council

From: Renee White, Recreation Coordinator, Special Events MP&R

Date: April 27, 2021

Subject: Teen Activities Night Pilot Program

Background:

In 2018 the Meridian Parks and Recreation Coordinators conducted a GAP analysis of our current programs. It became abundantly clear that teens and pre-teens were underserved. They have few places to hang out in our community. Observations at events such as Sparklight Movie Night support those claims. Teen attendance at movie night has continued to grow and is estimated at 250 plus on a typical Friday evening. The youth use the event as an opportunity to socialize. They hang out in groups, spend a lot of time in line at the concession stand, are often loud and disruptive to the families who are focused on the movie.

Proposal:

The parks staff would like to test a pilot program to address the need for youth to have somewhere to 'hang out' that is safe, offers engaging activities and positive interactions while also trying to deter attendance at movie night.

We propose creating a **Teen Activities Night**.



Location: Meridian Homecourt

Dates: Friday, Aug. 6, 13 & 20 (These are for 2021 only. Future dates would run throughout summer once the threat of Covid being transmitted indoors has receded.)

Times: 7 – 10 pm

Admission fee: Free to youth

Activities / Expenses :

Free in the Homecourt

- Volleyball
- Pickleball
- Basketball
- Spikeball
- Cornhole
- Virtual Reality Video Games \$500 (nightly includes equipment & staff)
- Games / Equipment \$300 (one-time purchase of board games, balls, etc)

The Meridian Parks & Recreation were presented with the proposal in the March Commission meeting. They supported the pilot program and suggested that food and game prizes be included to attract youth to the new event.

Food:	\$480 (pizza nightly)
Prizes:	\$180 (nightly prizes for games)

Other Expenses:

Security: \$300 (nightly if Meridian Police (JET) team is not available)

Marketing: \$200 (one-time cost to promote event)

Staffing: Use existing staff including recreation coordinator, volunteer coordinator, site supervisor, and homecourt staff.

2021 Teen Activities Night Budget Request \$4,280

