



PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT

STAFF REPORTS

October 14, 2020

Administration Division

Director's Report:

STEVE SIDDOWNAY

(Please note, a verbal report will be provided at the October 14, 2020 MPR Commission Meeting.)

Parks Division

Parks Superintendent Report:

MIKE BARTON

(Please note, a verbal report will be provided at the October 14, 2020 MPR Commission Meeting.)

Pathways Project Manager's Report:

KIM WARREN

(Please note, a verbal report will be provided at the October 14, 2020 MPR Commission Meeting.)

City Arborist's Report:

MATTHEW PERKINS

(Please note, a verbal report will be provided at the October 14, 2020 MPR Commission Meeting.)

Recreation Division

Recreation Manager's Report:

GARRETT WHITE

1. **Field/Event Scheduling** – This is ongoing and weekly. Like last month, I have been in contact with different youth sports organizations that use our parks for games or practices. I have required them to work with CDH to gain approval for each specific league. Once they get approval, I approve the field reservation.
2. **AR Reports** – With the help of Vicki and Jeannette, I have reached out to all organizations that have not paid their reservation fees and/or those that have cancelled this year to reschedule for next. If they have not paid, reservations will be cancelled.
3. **Community Center RFP** – I have attended weekly and by-weekly meetings in regards to the Community Center RFP. Progress is slow but seems to be gaining momentum. We hope to begin the design phase soon.
4. **Agreements** – I have been working with Meridian Youth Baseball and updating their Fuller Park Agreement. I sent them the final adjustments that I have and am waiting for response. I have also reached out to them in regards to the agreement we have at Settlers Park and possibly updating that agreement as well.
5. **Covid-19 Protocols** – I am still working with park users and their protocols for smaller events and/or reservations. We will continue to monitor all Covid-19 regulations and restrictions as they come.
6. **Park Concessionaires** - I have been working with the Storey Park Concessionaire in regards to updating their RFP proposal. Due to some hardships around Covid-19, they had to close early. I am also working with CDH to get all our parks concessions buildings inspected.
7. **Priority Based Budgeting (PBB)** – I have been reviewing the Department's program budgets. Each coordinator has budgets for each program. As we get deeper into PBB, each budget will be analyzed.

Homecourt Facility Manager's Report:

JAKE GARRO

1. **Community Athletic Group Practices** – Local AAU community athletic groups started basketball and volleyball practices on Monday, October 5. Due to Covid, we are scheduling two teams during the following times for practice: 4:30 p.m., 5:45 p.m., 6:00 p.m.–7:15 p.m., and 7:30 p.m.–8:45 p.m. Each team is allowed to bring 17 individuals into the facility during their practice time. This is in place, due to the current health order.
2. **Meridian Homecourt Open Pickleball Play** – Monday, October 5 was the first day of our open pickleball play program. For open pickleball play, we are requesting that patrons reserve a spot in play period timeslots. Play period timeslots are as follows: 7:00 a.m.–9:30a.m., 10:00 a.m.–12:30 p.m., and 1:00 p.m.–3:30 p.m. We have this in place to ensure social distancing measures are in place for pickleball and we comply with the gathering order.
3. **Homecourt Staff** – We are currently in the process of hiring our 6th part-time Homecourt Facility Specialist. Our new employee is scheduled to begin work Monday, October 12.
4. **Facility Schedule** – I have received a number of requests from local community athletic groups inquiring about running tournaments at our facility. My message to these local groups is we will entertain the thought of tournaments when the current health order is modified and it is safe to gather individuals inside for tournaments.
5. **American Cleaning Services** – I walked the facility with Max Jensen, Bill Young, and representatives from American Cleaning Services. American Cleaning Services is taking over cleaning responsibilities for Meridian Homecourt on November 1.

Recreation Coordinators' Report:

RENEE WHITE

This year we will offer a colorful variety of activities that are no, or extremely low, person-to-person contact to replace our typical fall/winter events.

1. **Fall for Meridian – Door Decorating Contest** - We are sponsoring a decorating contest to encourage residents to 'zhoosh' up their neighborhood with festive fall decorations. We are offering one first place prize in three different categories: Most Elegant, Most Playful, and Best Halloween Theme. Photos will be sent in via email through Friday, October 23 with the winners announced on Friday, October 30. Thanks to Jo Greer and Dom Gelsomino for agreeing to help judge the contest.



2. **Scavenger Hunt** - We created a fun little scavenger hunt to get young kids outside and make observations about their neighborhood. We are asking them to find fall items, spot Halloween decorations, and do a few fun activities. Those who participate will be entered into a drawing for a \$50 pizza party package in the form of an Idaho Pizza Company gift card.



3. **Winterland – In a Bag** - Collaborating with local businesses, we are creating a grab bag of holiday crafts and activities to offer a little 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.

4. **Zoom with Santa** - We are creating an opportunity for kids to meet face-to-face with Santa – virtually in our Zoom with Santa program. We will decorate the video lab in City Hall for a backdrop and offer kids 3 minutes to share their wish list with Santa at no cost for the families.
5. **Letters from Santa** - The mailbox that delivers letters straight to Santa will once again be set up in front of City Hall. We've made some adjustments to the backside operations to replace the typical volunteer staff who help us send the replies. We typically get around 1,000 letters, with nearly 400 coming from the Winterland event. So, we are only expecting 600 or so this year. The recreation staff are all pitching in to make sure this program runs smoothly.

JENNA FLETCHER

1. **2021 Winter Activity Guide** – I am currently working on the new winter/spring guide. We have decided to publish it digitally again and will not be printing it. The Guide will be released on December 8, and registration will open on December 10.
2. **Fall Classes** – Fall classes are up and running. Numbers are looking great. Instructors have been advised to follow Covid-19 protocols, such as cleaning and disinfecting, practice physical distancing when able to with the class, and wearing a mask when not engaged in physical activity.

MAGGIE COMBS

1. **2020 Spring Leagues** –The Spring/Summer Softball League is wrapping up the end-of-season tournaments the beginning of October, weather permitting.
2. **2020 Fall Leagues** –Fall Volleyball League play is starting the week of September 14th and playing games in the local schools.
3. **2020 Winter Leagues** – Registrations will open soon for Winter Volleyball, which closes in December.
4. **2020 Holiday Classic** - The Holiday Classic Volleyball Tournament that is hosted in November to raise funds to buy Christmas gifts for the children at the Meridian

Head Start Program is looking at being modified this year to continue to practice social distancing protocols in place, but still be able to host the tournament. This tournament is scheduled to take place on the first Saturday in November. We are also adding a Sunday Corn hole Tournament to take place at the Homecourt this year.

Volunteer Program Coordinator's Report:

CHELSEA CANTRELL

1. **Volunteers** – In September we had 181 volunteer hours. These hours were all contributed to community service projects, including laying mulch in tree beds at Kleiner Park, cleaning artwork, sweeping the gutters in downtown Meridian, and cleaning playground equipment in the parks.

The majority of our volunteer service is still suspended, due to most of our volunteers being in the high risk category.

Recreation Coordinator 1 (Sports) Report:

SKYLER COOK

1. **Flag Football League** – Fall Flag Football is underway with 14 teams playing games at Storey and Discovery Park. The season will run until Thanksgiving.
2. **Halloween Disc Golf Tournament** – A Disc Golf Tournament will be held on October 31st at Kleiner Memorial Park. We are partnering with the local association to set up portable baskets on the back 9. Adult division is scheduled at 10:00 a.m. followed by the youth division at 11:00 a.m. Costumes are encouraged!
3. **Holiday Classic Cornhole Tournament** – This will be the first annual tournament in conjunction with the Holiday Classic Volleyball Tournament with all proceeds going to Meridian Head Start Program. Cornhole will be played on November 8th at the Meridian Homecourt.
4. **Winter Basketball League** – The registration deadline for Winter Basketball is Wednesday, November 18th by 5:00 p.m. for an 8-week regular season plus playoffs. Regular season play will begin the week of December 7th.

Arts & Culture Coordinator's Report:

AUDREY BELNAP

1. **Arts Commission**
 - Ten (10) traffic boxes will be finished up and installed by the end of the week.

- Our 6 month consulting process with Via Partnerships wrapped, up and we now have a comprehensive report on our Public Art Program. This report will be the ground on which the Public Art Subcommittee will build our Public Art Plan.
- Final locations for the Meridian Mural Series will be announced on Friday, October 9, and the RFQ for muralists will be released on October 16.
- The Initial Point Gallery is currently exhibiting the Idaho Watercolor Society with artwork from 40 local watercolorists.
- We saw a lot of success at Art Week in the beginning of September. Many residents participated in the Art Drop, and the free art classes went smoothly. The Chalk Art Competition was also a hit with more than 30 entries.

2. **Historic Preservation Commission**

- The Commission hired Hull Film to do a virtual tour of City Hall and the Meridian Speedway. The tours are being finalized and should be publishable by the end of the month.
- The Commission formed a Subcommittee to formulate social media strategies and content for their new Facebook Group.