

Leisure Services Advisory Committee Minutes
Wednesday, February 22, 2023 – 12:00 p.m.

The Leisure Services Advisory Committee held a meeting on Wednesday, February 22, 2023, at 12:02 p.m. in the City Council Chamber, 10 North Main Street, Cedar City, Utah.

Members Present: Leisure Services Advisory Committee Chairman Craig Petersen; Leisure Services Advisory Committee Members Heather Johnson, Christy Hugh, Christy Florence, Brad Anderson, Ron Riddle

Absent:

Staff Present: Leisure Services Director Ken Nielson; Leisure Services Executive Assistant Ruth Sessions

Visitors: Mayor Green

Craig Petersen welcomed the committee and all our visitors.

1. **Approval of Minutes from Wednesday, October 19, 2022:** Christy Hugh made a motion to approve the minutes from Wednesday, October 19, 2022. Heather Johnson seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.
2. **Pickleball Construction:** Craig – Ken, do you have some information on the pickleball construction? Ken – Yes, thank you. It's good to see everyone. Thanks for coming. I just wanted to let you all know that we have started the pickleball courts. PRT Builders is the company building the courts. Obviously, the weather is not cooperating, but they have started the groundwork and their timeline is to finish in July. So, the courts are going. Councilman Riddle and I have fielded questions on pickleball for quite some time now, so we're happy to tell people that they are moving forward and that the bids came in a lot better this Spring than previous times, so we're excited to have those moving forward. Engineering is working with the builders and any changes but we're going to have lights and all the other amenities that we planned on. There will be eight courts to begin with and we have it master-planned to go up to sixteen courts. Craig – I know in the last meeting, there was some talk about putting some on the top of the parking structure. Was that just talk? Ron Riddle - I don't think that it's a bad idea for something in the future.
3. **Shade Structures / Parking Lot:** Craig – I know the parking lot was getting an overhaul and new shade structures at Veteran's Park. Ken – The shade structures for Field #9, (Rotary Field) up in the far corner to the east. They didn't have any shade structures, but we are putting them in at the beginning of April. On Field #11, which is closest to Highland Drive up in the corner. They are not getting shade structures as there is so much shade from the trees. We're going to redo the dugouts on that field, but it has quite a few trees for shade. On the rotary field, Straight Stripe will come in and mark the car stalls when the weather warms up. We paved between Field #7 and #10 where there was gravel

that goes up from the bathrooms and Field #8 and it looks nice as it was just an eyesore to me. Then, the gravel behind Field #10, has asphalt now. So Engineering is making us a parking lot design and we'll put some stalls in there and it will look clean and nice. (Ken handed out a diagram of all the fields.) I know if you're a baseball person, you will understand this but if you'll look at this diagram, the fields you're looking at are #7, #8, and #9, with the dirt. Number 7 is on your left-hand side as you come in. That yellow, marker shaded area is what I wanted to discuss. So, Parks and I discussed limiting the parking up there heading towards Field #9, because what happens is, as you can see it is very narrow and our in-field dirt material is in between those fields within a gated area. And then you have people that park right next to the field, and it creates congestion, and they also end up parking on the trail because it's not a big enough parking lot. So, you'll have somebody park next to the fence on that Field #8 and then somebody park across, and they go on the trail to make it so they're not touching bumper to bumper. So, I just want to get you folk's opinion on restricting access right there at the corner. It's not a new thing for baseball parks but for those of you who have gone around, you know that you usually walk to the fields. You don't get to park in the front row, nor would I want to because I like my windshield. It is just so congested right there, and we had so many reports that cars were parking on the trail and so people couldn't use the trail when coming down the canyon riding their bikes. Suddenly, there would be a truck driving over the trail, and it created some major safety issues. So, I want to get everyone's opinion on putting one of those swinging gates right there at the corner so we can still access it for maintenance issues, but we can also close it off to traffic. Does anyone have any thoughts on this? Heather – Absolutely, I've been one of those bike riders coming down the trail. It's like they want to park in the front but if they go all the way down the trail then they'll be safer from a foul ball. Craig – And it gets that way over by Field #7 too – the entryway in. Ken – So that little narrow strip, we're going to put "no parking" signs right there as you drive in and once it fans out, we'll have the stalls available to park but those two narrow drives, we're not going to let people park in there anymore. And with the new asphalt, it's a great time to make our signage and do our gate and things. I just wanted to run that by this committee. Anthony and I have talked about it. We'll put a swinging gate right there at the #7 corner and then we'll put some boulders up to the trail so people can't drive up there. If we don't, people will try to cheat it and drive up the trail. Heather – Will there be any walking access through there? Ken – For sure and the gate will be like the gate at the Lake at the Hills. They close but in between, you can drive strollers, wagons, pedestrians, etc. It makes it so just the vehicles can't get in there. Heather – So, there is more parking now that you've asphalted the gravel areas. That's the only issue, because there isn't enough parking during tournaments, but since there is more parking now then people can walk. Ken – Just for curiosity, I pulled up St. George's three parks and they all walk-in. The Canyons, Gubler, and Little Valley. Everybody parks and walks in. It's like what we do at the Fields at the Hills. We park and then we walk in. You don't get to drive to the fence, and I wouldn't mind if they did that if we had the room. I'm not happy when people park on the trail. That is not what they are there for. I just wanted to bring that up to get your thoughts. Christy Florence – Agreed. Craig – It's the only way you could do it because if you just said, "No Parking" on that south side, they would still park there, plus you need access to get that dirt that is sitting there behind that fence. Ken – Right, the gators need to get into the fields, and they need to get the infield mix. They

need truck access, but it would be great when they're done at 3:30 that they can close the gate and lock it. Then baseball starts and things are protected. Craig – When it comes to baseball, I like to park as far away as I can. Ken – Me too! When my kids played, I parked on the street and walked the bridge because I didn't want any problems. Craig – You don't want Lee Holmes smashing a ball through your windshield? I'll bet I saw him do that at least ten times when I was growing up. Ken – Nope. Well, the thing is, it's like Field #8 is a short fence so it's homerun derby. I don't know why anyone would want to park there and foul balls from Field #9 get you, so I don't know why anyone would want to park there. It will still have ADA access, the ability to get in there but you're just not going to be able to park right by the fence anymore. Craig – I'm fine with that and I'll bet everyone else is fine with that too. (There were audible yeses from everyone.)

4. **Field Reservations:** Ken – I just wanted to update the committee. We started taking reservations in October for tournaments this year, between April 22nd and the end of September. August 25th-26th (which is the first week back to school) is the only weekend we have available. We are still staying busy with tournaments, and we have a mix of baseball and softball coming. We blocked off a couple of weekends for maintenance. One of those that we blocked is the weekend before the All-Stars to get them freshened up and ready for that tournament.

5. **Score Booth Removal:** Ken - I also want to get everyone's opinions on the score booths as we're getting the Veteran's fields freshened up. They all still have a score booth, and they look very worn out and nasty, and are becoming a vandalism problem. The Fields at the Hills and the Bicentennial have already gotten rid of the booths, as everything is by phone now on an app called Game Changer. What are all your thoughts about us taking the scoreboards out so it will look better? They have become an eyesore and are not used anymore. They are graffitied, they break the windows, they jimmy the doors, etc. Craig – Field #6 has always got a problem. So, what are your thoughts on making them chain link all the way around? Heather – Are they needed for storage? Ken – We had a meeting with both leagues a couple of weeks ago and they said they don't use them. Ron – Is the concession building over there available to store the umpire gear? Ken – Yea. Craig – The only thing you have to worry about is capping off the electricity and disconnecting the cables. Ken – Yea, and there are some that house our irrigation systems, but we'll just make a secure box for right there. Craig – It does give you the opportunity to put a bleacher there and get more people around there. Ken – Yes, people love to sit behind home plate. I always liked to bring my own camp chair instead of sitting in the bleachers. Heather – I think more and more, people like to bring their own chairs. On Field #7, it used to have a wooden backing behind the backstop, but it was starting to warp so we took that out and they just chain-linked down to the bottom. Even the tower at the Fields at the Hills isn't used anymore. Everyone keeps score on the app. We probably won't do anything until fall but just wanted to run it by you. They've had their day and we don't use the scoreboards and booths anymore. Anthony and I both think it will make everything look cleaner and start that process in the fall.

6. **West Canyon Update (Rotary):** Ken – I think most of you are aware of the Rotary water park/splash pad. I wanted to give you the latest version of that. They're working on making that a reality. I don't know how familiar Councilman Riddle is with this, but we got this from their engineer. If you look, the parking lot there is right behind the senior center, and that's where the current playground is. We've kind of talked them out of leaving that area alone and going across. So, where you see those diagrams, there is current grass there now and that's where the playground will be, in addition to the water structures, so whatever they design, it will all be in one area. One of their concepts that we like is an all abilities. It's an area where wheelchairs can access and the stuff that we really like is expensive, but if they get it, that's great. It's a foam mat that wheelchairs can go on and if kids fall, they don't get hurt. The reason we don't get that is that it requires a lot of upkeep and it's very expensive. That's why our playgrounds we have wood chips because they're not super expensive to maintain. Anyway, that's what they want to do in one of their structures. The field is further on the grass and then they left some grass open to use as just recreational. They are still working with the irrigation company and the city on their design. They haven't taken it to the City Council for their final approval but they're obviously in design. That bridge that you see going across from West to East Canyon would be great if they ever got that in. I think it would be great! That's not in the current plan but a thought for the future. So, I wanted to present this as the latest design. If any of you have concerns, as I know that it's a hot topic with some people right now. People love West Canyon Park the way it is. They love that it's kind of a nature place and love the concept of it. A lot of people love the East and West Canyon Parks. At the beginning, they were all over the place, on both sides of the sidewalk so we've worked with them to try to condense it to an area that works for them and us. So, do you have any thoughts when you first look at this? Craig - Yea, I think I need some glasses. Christy Hugh – Did it originally start on the other side too? Ken - Yes. Christy Hugh – Ok, that is what I thought. Ken – So one of the conversations that we had early on and fortunately, the engineer is good to pull Anthony, Paul Bittmenn, and I in to discuss the plans. So originally, they had something right next to that pavilion and I said, "Let me give you my park world. When somebody rents that pavilion, you're going to have conflict between users and somebody that paid for that pavilion." Rotary's concept was that they would put the "All Abilities" place next to the pavilion, so people could sit in the pavilion and watch, and I said, "But, what if it's rented?" And that's not their world so they didn't know how to deal with that, but we do. We've had to call the cops with pavilion stuff before, so we got them to go across so that way, the pavilion can still be rented and used like it is currently. We don't know about this road, from parking lot to parking lot, which has that steep hill. Paul Bittmenn said that is not going to work. They weren't married to that idea, and they said that's fine. You know, they can enter from the senior side and park on 200 South. They could enter from 200 South and still use the other parking lot that has only one entrance. The other parking lot is just not big enough sometimes. We have a lot of people that use the trails for 5K's and different things, so we wanted to keep it, so if those people wanted to start at West Canyon, then they are still able to do that. So, we like the idea of them switching over and getting across there and having the design over on that side. **Christy Florence** – How is the RAP Tax group feeling about the update? Do you know? Ken -They haven't seen this one, I don't think. This is like two weeks old. **Christy Florence** – I've had certain groups talking because they know I'm a Rotarian.

Ron Riddle – About if it's going to happen or not? The RAP Tax people are some of the ones who have been the most vocal about not doing it. Christy Florence – Yeah, I know, and then there is another very vocal group of mothers and parents that want water park access. Ron Riddle – You do but, you have a very large group of ladies, who are home schoolers, who do not want that park touched in any aspect. Christy Florence – Really? Ron Riddle – Yes, they have probably been the most vocal on either side and there are some who are concerned about the water quality. Splash Pads are famous for spreading a few things around, but I think the way this is designed, and you know water at all, that it may not be an issue because of where the water supply comes from. But the money that they've already received, they have plans for and I don't think they have asked for anymore yet at least, so we'll see. Ken – I just wanted to present this to you as the latest concept that we've seen. There's nothing to discuss or vote on. It's just for your information and to keep updated as that progresses. Ron – I also think the Rotary is very committed to doing it right and making sure that it's a well-maintained park. Ken – In my experience, they've been good to consider our concerns. You know like with the water and other things that we've brought to their attention. Christy Florence – And you have Paul Monroe who is on the Water Conservancy Board and a Rotarian, right? Ken – I'll keep you updated until they finally take it to Council one day and Council will make recommendations and decide what they want to do. Ken – Well, that's all I have. Hello, Mayor! It's nice to see you.

7. **Other:** Craig – Ok, with that, are there other items of business to discuss? The West Park update or anything like that? Ron – Still a lot of discussion going on right there. We've been making decisions on getting some sprinkler work done, planting some grass, and getting the design work done. I think we're leaning towards the design that we've looked at and are favoring soccer fields to begin with. Mayor Green – The Council voted to have it all soccer fields for the first phase. 4500 West goes right through the property and so those east of that will be soccer fields, six of them. Four big ones and two small ones. On the west side of that is a bog that they sunk a large CAT in there and it took a long time to get it out of there, so we have a little drainage that we'll have to deal with there. I may be exaggerating a little bit, but rather than tackle any challenges with that, I said, "Let's just go to the east of that road and do one piece and cut our teeth on it; get it done and get it going. And then we have 21-24 acres or so of the 33 acres that we were given. There's a total of 93 acres that's going to come to us, and we have 93 shares of water, that if we're careful with sprinklers and just watering grass that we play ball on, we can probably do that with the 93 acres that we have. We've got all the water and so that's in there. We've now had the grading done. We figured out how we're going to drain it and we've figured out the grades on the soccer fields. We put it at a .1% slope, so we'll get the water. We'll become a bog and that's desirable. We designed a sprinkler system and it's very, very simple. The main line goes down through the field and there are six heads on each one, four full circles and a half circle on each end, and that will take two valves to run it. They have an inch and a quarter inlet in them, and they put out 50, 60, 70 gallons of water a minute. So, that's a lot of water and there will be big area sprays going out 70-80 feet. With our wind, I think that's as high as we could go. To go further, you have to get a higher trajectory and the higher the trajectory, the more of it can blow away. So, it will be very simple for whoever installs it. There will be a big trench across the top with a whole

bunch of valves and a whole bunch of pipes, but when it comes to going down through the field, there will be two pipes to pick up the half circles and full circles on down. There are no valves in the playing fields. There are just these heads, and they have what they call a sod cup on the top of them. It's a cup about the size of my hand and you grow sod in it and when the sprinkler comes up, the sod cup comes up too. The sprinkler does its job and drops back down so you never see the top of the head, it's sod that's there. They'll be great for playing ball and be completely out of the way. There are about 40 valves on just those few fields right there. We want to build that soil up so if you have any suggestions, let us know. Once we get the grading, we're going to take some dirt out of the south and the east side to make drainage, but once we get that dirt, we'll probably put it on top of the dirt that is there to raise it up a little bit and then we want to put something in there. I think we have approval now to use the fertilizer that all the stuff comes out of the wastewater treatment plant. It's high in nitrogen and I hear it's an excellent product to go on there. We have to fence around it for about a year so we're not going to be playing ball on it, but that's okay. We can't play on it until it takes root and does its thing. I want to find somebody to go to the cemetery with me. I keep looking at those piles out there and wonder if there's good stuff in those things. They've obviously come off somewhere. And then another thing that helps break up clay is gypsum. We seem to have a lot of that in this town, so a few loads of gypsum out there mixed in with that soil will aerate it and help break it up. We know how good it works under a foundation. And then there is a mine out by Panaca, that mines a product that is excellent to mix with this, so we hope to put four or five products on the top and then till it in. We only need a planting bed of maybe three inches of grass. We're trying to figure out exactly what to do in the right steps. The first step will be to go out and trench it, put in the sprinkler system, put each head with a big pipe coming up so we know exactly where it's at and then to spread all this product on the top, till it all in, put the heads on and plant it. So, that's my goal for this Spring. Craig – Sounds great, thank you. Ron Riddle – Every time we mention the park on the west, someone asks if every other park that's being built or looked at will happen. The answer is yes because they're all separate, and the funding is separate. It's that way for every project. Mayor Green - We've only budgeted grass for West Park. It needs to grow for a year before we do anymore. Fiddlers Park is still our priority. West Park is probably third.

Next Advisory Committee Meeting – TBD: Ron Riddle made a motion to adjourn. Christy Florence seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous. Adjourned: 1:10 p.m.

Ruth L. Sessions, Executive Assistant
Leisure Services Department