

Leisure Services Advisory Committee Minutes
Wednesday, July 20, 2022 – 12:00 p.m.

The Leisure Services Advisory Committee held a meeting on Wednesday, July 20, 2022, at 12:02 p.m. in the City Council Chamber, 10 North Main Street, Cedar City, Utah.

Members Present: Leisure Services Advisory Committee Members Heather Johnson, Christy Florence, Brad Anderson, Ron Riddle

Absent: Leisure Services Committee Members Christy Hugh, Craig Andersen

Staff Present: Leisure Services Director Ken Nielson; Leisure Services Executive Assistant Ruth Sessions; Parks and Outdoor Facilities Division Head Anthony Pearson

Visitors: Mayor Garth Green, Kim Schoonmaker, Anne Sutherland, Shelly Schneider, Jillynne Fuller, Natalie Boshnell, Frank Nichols, Vicki Christian, Greg and Sheral Whicker, Natalie Beacham

Ken welcomed the committee, the mayor, and all our visitors.

1. **Approval of Minutes from Wed, March 16, 2022 & Wed, April 20, 2022:** Christy Florence made a motion to approve the minutes from Wednesday, March 16, 2022. Heather Johnson seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous. (Not a quorum to approve on April 20th so we couldn't approve minutes from March 16, 2022.)

Christy Florence made a motion to approve the minutes from Wednesday, April 20, 2022. Heather Johnson seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

2. **Appointment of Chairperson:** Christy Florence – I motion that Craig Andersen be appointed as the Leisure Services Advisory Committee Chairman. Heather Johnson seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.
3. **Fiddlers City Park:** Ken - To give you a little background, the mayor's budget has some funding available set aside for that park (\$500K). To give you another little background, the RAP Tax Committee met a couple of weeks ago and we asked for a sum of money to go towards the park also. We are trying to find some different funding sources in addition to the \$500K to make the Fiddler's Park a reality. It goes to city council tonight. We know that you folks would like some time at the mic, so please feel free if you have any questions or comments.

Ann Sutherland – In my dream world, this land will only be used for a park, where there is open space, a pavilion, a playground with some shade, and just a place for kids to run around and play. We had heard that some of that space was going to be used for commercial purposes.

Ron – No, there won't be any commercial use there. (In audible conversations.) There are two pieces that together. There is still a big process going on here to make it all happen. Maybe we should have Mayor Green speak about this.

Mayor Green – I need to be careful because we are in negotiations. We have seen appraisals and we are in the negotiation phase. The idea on the table is that the city would trade the forty acres that they have north of Fiddler's Canyon and then also the piece that is south of Walmart, and trade those two pieces. I believe that is what was part of the public discussion. Trade those two pieces for the piece down across Main Street. That piece down across Main Street has a minor road running through the middle of it, called Main Street and there is about twenty acres. So, the question is, would we trade eighty acres for twenty acres. We now have the appraisals back and we're in the negotiation process with that. In my mind, I don't see a 20-acre park out there on both sides of the highway. When we have the property and we decide how we're going to use it, that would be a great discussion. You know, "shoot for the star and you might hit the moon." I don't know, but personally, I don't see that but there is twenty acres and I'm not sure you comprehend how big that is. Do you know how big Main Street Park is? It's about five acres. (In audible conversations.)

Ron – I also think in the process, and correct me if I'm wrong Mr. Nielson, as we look at having a park, we have a huge demand for baseball, soccer, etc. and that might be included in that but it's going to be a process.

Mayor Green – It won't happen in this meeting. It won't happen before we get the land or before the City Council determines what they want to do with this property that we're paying for with a lot of land. It will have to be determined by what they're willing to do and that isn't today. I just wanted you all to know that we are in the negotiation stages. Is that fair?

Ron - We all have a huge vision and hopefully, we can meet some of that vision, but I don't know not sure we can do all that right now. Ken – We're all on board with you all but there are a lot of others that need money. There are so many parts that play into what we can and can't have.

Sheral Whicker – Maybe, I can add some clarity on who we have support from for this park. I would highly recommend that we try and get the twenty acres and I'll tell you why. Frank Nichols is here, and we met with Frank has been great. I've talked to him a couple of times, and he's been super gung-ho, and I appreciate that. I got a phone call from Evan Vickers this morning saying that he wanted to be here so but, the legislature blew up last night and I'm not home, but he pledged his support in every way that he could. I don't know if the state would be willing to do anything for us, but he's a great resource to have in our corner and he asked me to call him tonight and let him know what we talk about today. He is very interested in making this amazing, which is amazing. One thing that we brought up that we really want to do (and I don't know how we would move forward on this or what the legality of this is) but we would like to name the park the Pam Garfield Smith Memorial Park after Pam Smith, the schoolteacher that taught school for twenty years at Fiddler's Elementary and she passed away a couple of months ago of cancer. She made a big impression on our community, and I think she would love to think that her name would be tied to something that blesses kids and families. One

thing that we would like to see is a STEM classroom or an outdoor classroom at the park in her honor. Something that the Fiddler Elementary kids and Canyon View Middle could come to at walking distance and have an outdoor classroom there. We've talked to SUU, and they told us to write up a proposal and they would let us know what they would do for us. So, that's a possibility as well that we're working on. We haven't dared jump headfirst into this and get all the volunteers and people going because we don't know what we're doing but when you're ready, we're ready to work hard and we think that in the name of Pam Garfield Smith, we think that we'll have many people in the community pledge support. We hope in-kind donations of construction, of money, of a lot of different things. We know that there are a lot of people that will put time in. We have the DeMille's in our area and we're trying to contact them about helping with things like sod or other things. We have a lot of connections, and we have an excited neighborhood. I've had a couple of coaches call me since they know I've been working closely with this, and they have expressed dismay that we do not have enough room at Canyon View High School for the new rugby program or the lacrosse program. They're having to kick people off the football field every single day because there is no room for all the teams to work there. So, lacrosse is a high school sport but they're using the high school field because there's nowhere else and our high school coaches are stressed because they have the community trying to use their fields for soccer practice and for all these things and they need those fields for Canyon View High School. So, we would love to see on the east side a beautiful park, with a traditional playground. I don't know if a splash pad is even feasible so I don't know where we would be with that, but we are in a flood plain right there and so there are some natural basins. Something that we could talk about. We don't know if the church would help us with a pavilion since it's right by an LDS church, but that is something that we'd also look in to as we got further down the road. Then on the west side of Main Street, we thought it would be fantastic to do some fields. Some soccer and lacrosse style fields that were just open space, so I as a soccer coach that has coached little kid soccer for twenty years would have a place to practice. I can't even find a place to practice anymore, so that would be perfect for someone like me to take the kids. There are six of us that compete for Fiddler's Elementary, and you can't get six teams on Fiddler's Elementary. So, those big fields could be used for everything, and even T-ball, so we'd love to see some big fields out in that area that would take pressure off Canyon View High School and Canyon View Middle School as they share those fields. Cedar High School have fields that are just for them, and Cedar Middle School have all that area up there as well, plus they have four elementary schools that feed into Cedar High and we have one, which is Fiddler's. So, do you see the need for more field space out there? We just do not have elementary's that we can utilize. The high school and middle school are using the same fields and it has just become a real problem. So, we are praying that that could help. Steven Newman is the soccer coach and he contacted me. Burt Miller also contacted me, and he is the football coach. He said that they would write letters in support of this. He said to please let you know that they are desperate. So, if possible, we are ready to jump in when you're ready. Tell us what you want. I think Vickie is going to fill you in on a few more people that we've talked to that are willing to put time and in-kind donations in place and we really think that this is the time to do it because we can get the community involved under the Pam Garfield Smith memorial. We talked to her family, and they are fine with it, and I think we can really pull people together at this point and I don't want to miss out. I think we can do it all because we have a community that is really excited right now. So, any questions for me?

Ken – Thanks Sheral. We really appreciate the input and like I said this process will keep going and we welcome any of those thoughts, comments, and suggestions. Some of those items are city council items and some of those are for this committee but we'll look at all of it.

Sheral – And we have been in contact with the city council many times and with many things so we're hoping to come to a consensus. Thank you.

Kim Schoonmaker – I'm just here as a mom coming to share, that as a mom of seven, that I want shade. I think that one of things that I love most about going down to St. George is that they put in shade structures up over all their playgrounds and not only does it keep the playground cool so the kids can go down the slide, it's also more pleasant for the parents to be there so they bring their kids more. Obviously, St. George has a different climate than ours that requires it more year-round, but it really makes a difference. Trees are always wonderful but obviously, putting a new park in, the trees take a long time to grow up and are big enough to provide shade. I am a math person, and my husband is a math person, so I was just thinking the other day, and this is very rough and I haven't done much with it so I don't know how accurate it is but I wondered, because I've gone down to a lot of the parks in St. George and there are so many amazing parks that I love and I think that a lot of us have looked at those and said these are the parks that my kids ask to go back to all the time. So, when it gets closer, I think we'll share the things that our kids love and that they play on all the time. But I wonder, if we took the population density of St. George, made a ratio, a proportion to their population density to their parks and compared it to our population density to our parks. Population density, as you all know, is the number of people per square mile. So, it's taking the amount of land that the city covers and the people and by doing that, I based it completely off St. George's city website and counted the number of parks that they listed. I didn't go into detail on what kind of park it was, and I did the same thing for Cedar City, even though I know some of the parks that I counted were not really a playground park, like Veteran's Park. But the reason I did that was to make sure I was consistent, and I didn't say well, that's not a playground park so I'm not going to count it because I didn't do that to St. George's because I don't know all their parks. But interestingly, and I guess this addresses part of Mayor Green's comment, but they have 1,312 people per square mile and Cedar City has 784 people per square mile, so we have less per square mile, but they have forty-five parks listed and we have fourteen. So, if we did a ratio and took out Cedar City parks and just put an x there (a variable) and did the ratio, it should be to make them equal, twenty-seven parks for Cedar City to have to equate the number of parks. Again, I didn't compare the size of the parks, so maybe Cedar City has a huge park that is a 40-acre park. I didn't do that but in general you can see that there is a discrepancy if we're just comparing ourselves to a community that is very close to ours that we need more parks and even big parks that will incorporate so maybe Cedar doesn't do more parks, but we do better parks that are going to meet more needs. **Ken** – Thank you.

Shelly Schneider – I'm a mom and I wasn't planning to talk so I'm kind of nervous and I'm going to cry because I always do. I want to talk about the West Canyon Park but we're not there yet so as I'm listening to these ladies who I know in the neighborhood, I love their passion. And first, I want to say thank you for listening to us. When I think about a park, I'm expecting my sixth, which is also why I'm emotional because I'm

pregnant, but it was mentioned by one or two moms about having a path around the park so there is a way to see their kids riding around. I live on Fiddler's, and we used to dirt bike in that area and now we can't dirt bike there anymore. Some of my children home school and some don't but there isn't a park to go to when kids are in school, and I love the trail, but you go up and you're done, and it doesn't go anywhere. So having something where you can go around the park would be great but also, I love Canyon Park and I'll be really sad if it changes because my kids and I spend four hours there, some playing on the playground and some in the stream. My kids vary in age by twelve years and my son will play volleyball with his friends, they throw frisbees, I see lots of fun things happening. It's a gathering spot and it's so beautiful. My son's friend will come down the trail from his house and they'll meet and go to Brad's to get ice cream and we played in the river for three hours last week. And there's a pavilion and there are two sides. There is a variety, that's what I'm trying to get at. The variety keeps moms like us happy if there's shade. If we have shade and we know all our kids are having fun and my son can cross the street and play soccer. It's not just a park but the elements of the park. I don't want a structure, but I want a gathering spot where we can feel community. We've been using the church pavilion whenever we want to do a service project and that scares some people away because they don't want to go to the church pavilion. Having a pavilion that is a place to gather, that's what a village is, right? It takes a village to raise your family and I love the idea of the memorial being a place of service. You see all these characteristics of service, of gathering, of community and a water element would be amazing because I love the river and the stream. Whenever I wake up and think, I want to take my kids to the park, I think where is water? I'm from Alaska and I grew up in nature and to take away an atmosphere and put a splash pad over there, I'm worried about the atmosphere. It changes from this beautiful nature experience I can't get up the canyon because I have to corral my five kids and my husbands at work. But the Canyon area I can do that, whether it's in Fiddler's, I just ask that you represent my voice because I can think of fifty people right now who feel the same as I do.

Ken – Thank you. Any other comments from the public?

Frank Nichols – I applaud the neighborhood interest in this project. My approach to land development is, you take the land, and you study what you've got and so not any particular land is going to be good for everything. It's not going to be a flat soccer field if you start out with a big, giant slope. That's what the forty acres was all about. It was too much steep and it wasn't going to be a soccer field no matter whatever they tried to do with that. So, site study is everything, but the size of the park is not necessarily everything. You want to have as much land as you need but you want to be able to take care of what you put into it. So, a site study, done by input from the neighborhood but also professionals. You got to have a professional landscape architect and you don't let him dictate what you're going to do. The neighborhood input is everything also so the two have to go together. And, as far as getting going, I'm excited about the fact that we're going to wind up with some land in that good location. I also applaud the naming of the building to a beloved person and that does more than one thing. It honors that person, and it also brings the neighborhood together. I happen to believe that we should start immediately on the cash donations, with the goal of \$100K and I think it's a great idea to have other people provide the in-kind stuff too. I don't know how this is going to work, regarding the city, the naming, and this kind of thing but I don't see a lot of opposition to the naming. I'd like to see the neighborhood start the fundraising and get it going and

start with pledges. You don't have to have a bank account right now but get it going. There's more input that I'd like to do but central location land studied. Study the sites that you've got and make it for what it is, not just sticking something there. If there's an element that you absolutely think you must have but it's wrong for the site, that won't be good. Thank you. **Ken** – Thank you.

Vickie Christian – I'm here on behalf of Phil Schmidt because he couldn't be here, but he wanted me to let you know that he doesn't have materials, but he has equipment and time that he will pledge towards this. And as far as starting to raise money, this whole thing is in a process, and we get that. We haven't even gotten the land yet, but I don't know what we can do right now. Can you give us some ideas? Can we start raising money? Is that wise or are we putting the cart before the horse? **Ron** – I'm pretty sure there's going to be a park there somewhere. We're hoping that it's in these locations because we feel like that's the best location and the most monetarily prudent location between the lands that Cedar City has versus the SITLA lands. Hopefully, they're willing to swap but it has to be economically feasible for the city to do that. Whether it's right there in those spots or somewhere else, the five members of the city council, the mayor, and the staff of the city are focused on getting a park of some kind in the Fiddler's area.

Vickie – So, that's a green light I'm going to say. **Ron** – I don't know if there's any reason not to. **Vickie** – We're just anxious and willing. **Ron** – The thing about it is, I think that you're right. But we need to remember that it's a process. We'd like to turn it loose but that's not how it works. Mayor Green has been working on this since day one. We sat down and talked about this before we were elected. What can we do and so it's not that it's not going to happen but it's going to take time. **Mayor** – There are boards for everything, but I can't imagine it not happening eventually. **Vickie** – Okay, I'm not trying to be pushy or anything, but we want you to know that we are so anxious and happy to get going. **Ron** – Mr. Nichols made a great point. You can get pledges. There's nothing wrong with that but that doesn't mean you open a bank account right now and start collecting that money unless someone just wants to give it to you then, but to have pledges would be fantastic. Everybody understands that it's going to take time. If we plant grass this year, it will be very surprising. **Vickie** – And we know that, and we want it done right. **Mayor** – It would influence to the city council if you've raised money. (In audible talking.) **Sheral** – So, the city wouldn't take the donations. It would be us using a 501C, is that right? **Ron** - We need to check on that. **Ken** – We would need to check with Jason Norris, our Finance Director for the details.

Natalie Beacham – I love that you all were talking about programs in the park and Shelly, your story was beautiful, and I understand you fully. I spend a lot of time in the parks. I offer a free service. I have a non-profit called Repairing the Neglect and Abuse Foundation. I spend every day from about 9-2 serving the people of this community. In the morning diverse types of clubs come and we play football yoga and I teach kids yoga and meditation. We play football and we connect, because a lot of these families need a lot of healing. By 10:00, a lot of the homeless people start showing up along with various others. I do it at Main Street because you get so many different types of people that come through there. Yesterday, I got to work with foster students from Las Vegas. There is a group that comes there every day that gather all the school kids and they asked to co-create with me today. They saw what I could do for the kids and how happy they were to be there. I'm very much aware of what the community needs and what's going on. The reason I created football yoga is because everybody needs to take care of their bodies, not

just those that have money. A lot of facilities only provide for adults, so I've been creating this in the park to make sure we can educate not just the children but the adults too and that they are capable of being saved and loved and can take care of their physical bodies, as well as their own mental abilities. Parks are for people to connect and have that physical and mental health. People matter and if people have somewhere to go, they will.

Ken – We love the passion and the ideas and concepts and we're more than happy to discuss ideas as we move forward. Thanks for coming and sharing your thoughts and your passion and we'll keep this moving forward. It's not going to stay idle. We have more than just one park on our plate but we're going to move those things forward and try our best to make those things happen.

4. **Cross Hollow Detention Basin Amenities:** Ken – This is another project that we are working on, and that area needs to be programmed for recreation. We have a concept in mind with a pump track bicycle amenity in there. It is currently in Engineering for a design and when that is ready, we will present that to the committee and let anyone voice their ideas to make that a place that we want it to be.
5. **RAP Tax:** Ken – The RAP Tax met a few weeks ago and Councilman Ron and Vickie also sit on that committee. The Leisure Services Department asked for a slide for out at the lake. We have the fishing dock, and the kids can't resist it. So, the fishing dock will turn in to a jump-off. That's not great for fishing and our concern is that it's close to the rocks, so we have two concerns there. The same company that put in the dock has a slide amenity and we'd like to put that slide on the north end of the lake. The slide floats and tires will hold it down, like our dock. Also, with that funding, we asked for pedal boats at the lake and feel that it would be a fun amenity for the community. If you've ever seen the lake on a hot summer day, it's crazy.
6. **New Trails Update – Old Sorrel/Cross Hollow, Southview, Fiddlers:** Ken – I just wanted to give you an update on the trails. The Old Sorrel/Cross Hollow Trail, which I mentioned that runs from the arena down to the basin and eventually will tie into the Cross Hollow Trail. It is out for bid, and it will be a nice, scenic view. We're going to use the arena parking lot as a trailhead until it advances further in the Master Plan. The Southview Trail is the trail that will connect from Southview, where it ends currently at the east and connects down to the East Bench Trail, which is down by the new Maverick, right there at that corner. We just had a meeting about the Fiddler's trail with the school district on Monday to make sure that there's no problem with where it's connecting, so they're taking it to their school board to make sure we're all in line with that before we advance the trail. So, the Fiddler's Trail will go under the street in the box covert will come out on the west side of Main Street. Our thoughts were to turn it and go towards the schools. Once you go under Main Street, you will go left to the school and the other will go right to where the old freeway entrance is to the west side of the freeway and go down and hook up to Bicentennial. If we make that connection, you'll be able to ride from Fiddler's Trail to the East Bench Trail. Christy Florence – What's the plan if the school board doesn't go for it? We don't just want to say walk on the sidewalk to school because there are areas that don't have any sidewalk. We want to keep them safe away from Main Street and stay on the trail so we're waiting for the school board. Ten years ago, this wouldn't have been an issue, but we'll let them decide and take it to the City Council. That might come back to us for further discussion if they don't approve.

7. **National Day of Service:** Ken – On September 10th , religious affiliations in town are going to do a National Day of Service. They're looking for major projects of service for them to do. They can do small groups or big groups. Some of them would be nice to be for children. They're just in the early phase but I'd love to take them some projects so if you have anything, let me know. They'll have small and large groups. They'll have projects for children and for adults. SUU and the County are involved too. Ron – I have one that I receive e-mails on weekly. Ken - Perfect. Christy Florence – We ride our bikes a lot and over by the softball fields there are a lot of trees that overhang in that area, so you have to duck your head. If you have any, send them to me before September 10th . Ken – Send anything you can think of and if there is something that needs to be done before September 10th , then we'll take care of it.

8. **West Canyon Splash Pad:** Ken – I just want to make the committee aware that the West Canyon Splash Pad feature is moving forward with a phase They've talked with the city council about an MOU working out what that concept is. We're not privy to the exact concept design. It's in the process, but city council has talked about it and agreed the committee needs to see those plans and thoughts before moving forward. Anthony is here because he's the one that's going to have to take care of it, so we're involving him in the upkeep (the O&M) of it. I appreciate the comments from the people that enjoy that park. That park is unique with a lot of different features. So, we'll wait for their concept to be approved through this committee and city council. We all want to be involved. I just wanted to present that, and they have some funding in place to move that forward. The splash pad is not part of this phase. They talked about that concept in future years but this phase deals with rerouting the current ditch. Ron – I don't know if you've seen any of their design, but it will make it more accessible to more young people. At first, I wasn't really for this happening. I grew up over there and that's where we road our bikes as kids up through there a lot but as I've looked at it, I don't think this is a bad thing, especially what they're proposing now. The water that comes down through the southwest ditch will not decline because that water still has to go down and be used. It's owned by 15,000 different people, so they have to have their water rights. But, at first, I really wasn't approving that we tear up that park to make it something different, but I think as you look at it, I really think that it's not a bad design or feature. Right now, I don't know if the splash pad will happen, but if does, it will be way down the road. The splash pad will not use water that comes down the creek. That water will be culinary water. From everything I've seen, it's still a wading park. You go in there and wade around and they'll be some things to climb on, but it makes more accessibility with the water. If you look at water features throughout the state of Utah, when they start, they start with a big bang. If you go to St. George, as an example, I've heard complaints from people down there because they're hardly used anymore. At first, everyone wants to try it but as most things, it will die down and not be as busy. As it starts up, everybody wants to go try it and there will probably be a lot of people there at first. It will really catch on to where you still have a lot of people, but what I see most of the time, it slows down. Someone in the audience asked a question about trees but Ken said that they've already said that the trees will stay. They're still in the design process and all these things we're talking about still have to go to the city council and there are some very concerned people on the city council about this particular feature and whether or not it will destroy the West Canyon Park. The east side is not changing. They would like to start on it in early October, but it still has to go through the approval process. Ken – This still has to go through all through this

committee, the administration, and the city council, so if you have concerns or questions along the way, you can still address them.

9. **Reservation System Changes:** Ken – I wanted to update the committee on the changes to our reservation system. We have a committee meeting to change the reservation systems with the Leisure Services and we're moving that towards the fall so we're going to do the October reservations instead of waiting for the first of the year. The city attorney is working on that, and he'll have all the dates and documents and I'll be bringing that to the committee, so you know what's changing. We're going to change the timeline and procedures on reserving parks, complexes, pools, and anything else that we reserve.

10. **Fee Changes:** Ken – We've had some fees changed since we met last and that went into effect starting July 1st. There are not many. The major ones are some fees at the cemetery, so you can look on-line if you have questions. They're tied to the cost of maintenance in Anthony's world. The other fee that I want to make you are aware of, we upped the ball field usage fees. We also changed some of the aquatic fees because we've now instituted our own swim lessons, so we had to put those in. Our swim lessons have been very full for each session and are in the last session of the summer. The interest has been great.

11. **Other:** Ken – The last thing I have is the parking lot at Little League is going to be totally replaced. That park has a lot of asphalt, and it will be closed to do that and we'll restripe it in the spring. It will be great to have that completed. Does anyone have anything else? Christy Florence – What's the update on the pickle ball courts? Ken -So, pickleball courts went out for bid and the two bids that came in were for a million dollars, so we're going to rebid. A lot of it had to do with the timetable so we might have to change it. The money is still there and not going anywhere so we just have to look at a different option

12. **Next Advisory Committee Meeting:** Our next meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 21, 2022

Adjourned: 1:13 pm

Ruth L. Sessions, Executive Assistant
Cedar City Leisure Services