

Wasatch County Parks & Recreation SSD #21
Board Meeting
August 12, 2025
Minutes

***Corrected & Approved**

Attendance:

Kendall Crittenden, Chairman (Arrived at 3:05 p.m.)	Tom Bonner, Director
Karl McMillan, Vice-Chairman	Heath Coleman, Asst. Director
Colleen Bonner, Board Member	Jon Provost, Event Center Director
Mark Nelson, Board Member	Amaria Scovil, Rec. Center Director
Spencer Park, Board Member	Taylor Baker, Program Director
Erik Rowland, Board Member (Zoom)	Jennifer Bowman, Marketing Coordinator
Luke Searle, Board Member	Laurie Duke, Admin. Assistant
	Dustin Grabau, County Manager
	Wyatt Finnegan, IT Specialist

Karl McMillan called the meeting to order at 3:02 p.m.

Public Issues for future meetings: None

Governing Board Issues for future meetings: None

Public Comment: None

Minutes: July 8, 2025:

Tom presented the minutes for July 8, 2025. Luke Searle made a motion to approve the minutes for July 8, 2025. Colleen Bonner seconded the motion. Motion passes with the following vote:

AYE	Karl McMillan
AYE:	Colleen Bonner
AYE:	Mark Nelson
AYE:	Spencer Park
AYE:	Erik Rowland
AYE:	Luke Searle
ABSENT:	Kendall Crittenden

Warrants:

Tom presented the warrants from June 26, 2025 through August 6, 2025 in the amount of \$916,363.93. Tom commented on a few of the big items, such as the LED change over at the outdoor arena and Rec. Center, our contract obligation with the Utah High School Rodeo Association, PRCA Prize Money and our Stock Contract Fees with Powder River Rodeo.

Mark Nelson made a motion to approve the warrants from June 26, 2025 through August 6, 2025 in the amount of \$916,363.93. Karl McMillan seconded the motion. Motion passes with the following vote:

AYE:	Kendall Crittenden (Arrived at 3:05 p.m.)
AYE:	Karl McMillan
AYE:	Colleen Bonner
AYE:	Mark Nelson
AYE:	Spencer Park
AYE:	Erik Rowland
AYE:	Luke Searle

Heber City Police Request:

Tom reported that the Heber City Police Chief has asked if their officers could get Rec. Center passes. Tom explained that Heber City Police does not charge us for their services during Fair Days and all our other events throughout the year. Mark asked who we give passes to currently. Tom replied that all county employees and SSD employees get family passes to the Rec. Center.

Karl McMillan made a motion to extend annual family passes to the Recreation Center for all Heber City Police in exchange for their services at the county fair and all other Parks & Recreation events throughout the year. Spencer Park seconded the motion. Motion passes with the following vote:

AYE: Kendall Crittenden
AYE: Karl McMillan
AYE: Colleen Bonner
AYE: Mark Nelson
AYE: Spencer Park
AYE: Erik Rowland
AYE: Luke Searle

Appointment of Heath Coleman as Interim Director:

Tom stated that we need to appoint an Interim Director for Parks & Recreation effective August 17, 2025, as his last day before he retires will be August 16, 2025.

Karl McMillan made a motion to appoint Heath Coleman as Interim Director of Parks & Recreation, SSD #21 effective August 17, 2025. Colleen Bonner seconded the motion. Motion passes with the following vote:

AYE: Kendall Crittenden
AYE: Karl McMillan
AYE: Colleen Bonner
AYE: Mark Nelson
AYE: Spencer Park
AYE: Erik Rowland
AYE: Luke Searle

Tom thanked the Board and turned the time to Heath.

Director's Report:

County Fair: Heath stated that a few months ago they had all met to discuss the fair. It was decided that we wanted to uphold our traditions and also wanted to keep it fresh and enhance the fair. This year, with the relatively new position added of Marketing Coordinator, Jennifer Bowman did a great job of advertising our fair and all the various events.

We added a Drone Show, which was well received. We had a 2-day in person advance ticket sale to ensure local people could get tickets for the Derby and Rodeo. With the help of this Board, we were able to improve our south parking lot, which resolved our parking issues. Amaria created a buzz for the parade by announcing prizes and our theme. We were able to pull a few vendors over from Heber City's Farmer Market to our Fair Country Market this year and we will keep working to improve our Country Market.

Heath explained that when they decided to add the third night to the Derby, they budgeted conservatively and were hoping to sell a little over half of the arena for the Thursday night show. We were only about

400 tickets short of selling out on Thursday night! We were completely sold out for Friday and Saturday Derby. Our Derby is one of the top three in the country.

For the Thursday night Rodeo, we sold 900 more tickets this year than we did last year, which put us at about 700 tickets short of selling out. Friday and Saturday were sold out. Heath explained that two years ago when we added \$20,000. to the purse, that got our rodeo into the “Tour Rodeo” and we are in the top 20 rodeos in the country. We are currently #16 in the country, which is what brings the big-name cowboys to our rodeo.

Heath reported that our Livestock Sale went extremely well and sold way over a million dollars. This year we had the most animals we’ve ever shown and sold. Our community support is incredible.

Final numbers are not in yet, as we still have money that will be coming in from our ticketing system and other sources and we haven’t received all of our bills yet. Heath asked if there were any questions.

Colleen asked if we had thought about going back to doing wristbands for all days of the carnival for locals. Heath answered that the carnival is an independent contractor, so they dictate how the wristband and ticket sales go. He said that we have not done wristbands for all days for a very long time. They allow us 2,000 pre-sale vouchers that we sell for \$25.00 each, that gives an option of a wristband on Wednesday or Thursday, or 40 tickets for any day. We print those options on each voucher that we sell. At the carnival you can purchase a wristband for Wednesday or Thursday for \$35.00. We do not pay for the carnival to come.

Erik reported that on the Drone Show the feedback he received was not complimentary but concerning. There was concern that the Drone Show was on a path to replacing the fireworks and that the show felt like a money grab because of the sponsorships built into the show. Erik asked Heath about plans with the Drone Show moving forward. Heath responded that they had discussed this in length. Drone shows are very expensive. There were eight logos that sponsored the Drone Show. We limited it to eight sponsors that paid \$8,000. each. This was a pass-through. We did not make any money from this, but it is how we paid for it. Out of the approximate 45 presentations there were 8 sponsors shown. Heath explained that the feedback he received was overwhelmingly positive, with minimal concerns. He said that as of right now, there are no plans to get rid of the fireworks and moving forward we would like to continue doing both.

Colleen asked that if more sponsors wanted to be involved in the future, if we would do a lottery system or something to limit the sponsors and Heath replied that yes, they would limit the sponsors. Erik commented that he understands that the sponsors pay for the show, but that he agrees with the concerns people brought to him, he doesn’t want to watch an ad show. He said that if we want sponsors to pay for the show there are a lot of other ideas of how to promote the sponsors. Heath agreed and said that there are lots of options we can look at, however he did mention that the sponsors wanted their name/logo in the sky. This is something that will have to be figured out if we do future drone shows. Erik thanked Heath for listening and for his work.

Mark brought up Pioneer Day, July 24th and wondered since next year the Derby will also be on July 24th if there was a way to incorporate the state holiday into the Derby. Heath explained that we have the issue of the 24th of July holiday and Fair Days every 5 years with the way the calendar falls. Due to the numerous contracts that need to be decided years in advance, we need to keep our Fair Day dates as they are. Heath agrees that we should celebrate our state heritage at our Derby, and they will look into ways that can be done for next year.

Spencer commented that he really likes the Derby, but feels we need to move the cars out of the arena faster. Heath responded that this is an on-going challenge. This year we had three more skid-steers and continue to work on stream-lining this event. Van and Jason Kelly do a great job keeping the crowd entertained during the transition times. Mark commented that this year it seemed more family friendly.

Kendall asked if there were any other questions.

*Luke made a motion to go into a closed session for personnel. Colleen Bonner seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

All Parks & Recreation employees, and any others, were dismissed at 3:46 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Laurie Duke

*Correction: Last paragraph, added “for personnel” to “Luke made a motion to go into a closed session.”