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

Attendance:

Kendall Crittenden, Chairman	Heath Coleman, Director
Karl McMillan, Vice-Chairman	Amaria Scovil, Rec. Center Director
Colleen Bonner, Board Member	Jon Provost, Event Center Director
Mark Nelson, Board Member	Erik Lappe, Facilities Director
Spencer Park, Board Member	Jennifer Bowman, Marketing Coordinator
Erik Rowland, Board Member	Laurie Duke, Admin. Assistant
Luke Searle, Board Member	Dustin Grabau, County Manager
	Heber Lefgren, Asst. County Manager
	Randy Bates, Finance Director

Kendall Crittenden called the meeting to order at 3:32 p.m.

Public Issues for future meetings:
Kendall asked if there were any Public Issues for future meetings. Pam Patrick asked if this was the correct Board to address a veteran's proposal with Parks and Recreation. Kendall answered that this is the correct Board. Heath explained that he and Pam had discussed a proposal that would allow veterans to get a free annual pass to the Rec. Center. Heath will put this on the agenda for the next Parks & Recreation Board Meeting on December 9, 2025.

Pam also thanked Councilman Crittenden and Councilman Searle for their attendance at the Veteran's Day Event yesterday. Kendall commented that it was a great event sponsored by the GOP.

Governing Board issues for future meetings:
Kendall asked if there were any Governing Board issues for future meetings. There were none.

Public Comment:
Kendall asked if there were any public comments. There were none.

Minutes – October 14, 2025:
Heath presented the minutes for October 14, 2025. Kendall asked if there were any corrections or additions. There were none. Mark Nelson made a motion to approve the minutes for October 14, 2025. Karl McMillan seconded the motion. Motion passes with the following vote:

AYE:	Karl McMillan
AYE:	Colleen Bonner
AYE:	Mark Nelson
AYE:	Spencer Park
AYE:	Luke Searle
ABSTAIN:	Kendall Crittenden (Not in attendance at the October 14th meeting.)
ABSENT:	Erik Rowland (Erik arrived at 3:45 p.m. after this motion was approved.)

Warrants:
Heath presented the warrants from October 9, 2025 through November 5, 2025 in the amount of $129,763.74. Heath pointed out the only major expense was our contract fee for the Wilderness Circuit Finals Rodeo that we have held for the past 14 years. Spencer Park made a motion to approve the warrants from October 9, 2025 through November 5, 2025 in the amount of $129,763.74. Karl McMillan 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:	Luke Searle
ABSENT:	Erik Rowland (Erik arrived at 3:45 p.m. after this motion was approved.)

Deer Creek Racquet Center:
J.W. Davies, Deer Creek Racquet Center, presented a very detailed and comprehensive proposal to the Board to build a new tennis facility. The following is an overview of the main points of his presentation:

Problem: Tennis court supply does not meet the growing tennis court demand.

Solution: Build a Wasatch County Tennis Center with 6 indoor courts and 6 outdoor courts.

Location: 400 East 500 North (Behind the old Smith's and between the two churches.)

Additional Community Benefits: Enough space for a large splash pad, a 30X30 outdoor timber pavilion, and grass space for soccer or baseball fields.

Local demand for tennis is growing: Approximately 200 youth are in Bill Damron's Tennis Program at the Rec. Center, approximately 150 youth in the Red Ledges Tennis Program, and 10 adult USTA leagues in our valley with about 230 adults who play competitively.

Current public tennis courts in Heber Valley: 3 indoor at Recreation Center, 2 outside in Midway, 6 outside at High School with limited access.

Economic Impact: Estimated annual tournament revenue if we held 4 tournaments - $150,000. Estimated annual tax revenue from visitor spending - $51,200.

Reasons to support building a tennis facility: To promote good physical health and social well-being. Tennis is a life-long sport, great for retirees. Increase sales tax revenue. Safety, in that we won't have to travel outside of the valley to use other courts. Re-purpose the three tennis courts in the Rec. Center for other use.

Estimated Construction Costs - Breakdown:

Building/Land Improvement	$5,975,000.
Splash Pad	1,000,000.
Outdoor Tennis Courts (6)	925,000.
Pavilion	100,000.
Total	$8,000,000.

<u>Financing Proposal: (No need for a tax increase)</u>

Deer Creek Racquet Club – 20% Partner	$1,600,000.
Parks & Rec. ½ from Impact Fees	500,000.
½ Matching Grant	500,000.
Lease Revenue Bond – 30 Yr @ 4.5% Interest	<u>5,400,000</u>.
(Proposing 27% of Tap Tax of all municipalities & possibly $50.000. from P&R revenue from Impact Fees - ?)	
Total	$8,000,000.

J.W. thanked the Board for their time and asked if there were any questions.

Kendall commented that Heber City currently owns the property on 400 E 500 N and asked how they feel about selling. J.W. responded that the seller of this property would be happy to see this land used for this facility.

Luke asked about participation of adults. Mandy Berg, Boys High School Tennis Coach, answered that we currently have 10 adult teams of all levels. They are currently playing at the high school courts working around the high school schedule. In the winter they play at the Rec. Center, and the demand is so high for the three indoor courts. Mandy also stressed that Bill's youth Tennis Program at the Rec. Center fills up so fast and Red Ledges is closed to the public, so many of the youth in our valley do not get the opportunity to play tennis. Heath pointed out that the Rec. Center program does not exclude anyone, but it is on a first-come, first-serve basis.

Everyone seemed to agree that this facility would be great for our community. Colleen asked what our next step should be. After some discussion, Dustin said that the next step is to start the dialog with Heber City on the land. He also explained that Parks & Recreation is doing a master plan where they are going to be doing surveys and focus groups to prioritize all the different requests for the future. The council will have to be able to answer why this and not something else. Ultimately, he believes it is not a question of if, but when, and so he said that we need to do some high-level analysis and prioritize. Heath and Luke brought up a couple of concerns about managing the partnership and making sure that the public can utilize the space in a way that will be consistent with the goals we are trying to achieve for our community. The council thanked J.W. for the very detailed and organized proposal and thanked the many supporters who were in attendance and asked them to continue with the next step.

<u>Master Plan Update</u>:
Heath reported that the Interlocal Committee for the Master Plan met last week and have asked that the Parks & Recreation Department "tell their story", meaning each individual area of Parks & Rec such as: the Rec. Center, all the Programs offered, the Event Complex, all the Events and Tournaments we host, Stalls, RV Camping, Parks, and Concessions. They feel this will be helpful in educating the public and developing the surveys and open houses. The public needs to be aware of all that is currently offered and what the goals are for the future so that we can get their input. The Parks & Recreation staff have been doing in-depth site visits to gather all the information to present at the next meeting on December 17th at noon.

<u>Director's Report</u>:
Heath introduced Chris Burton and announced that he has accepted the Assistant Director position for Parks & Recreation. He has 20 years of experience and was selected from a large pool of very qualified candidates, so

we are very fortunate to have him join our staff. He will start the first of January. The Board welcomed Chris to Parks & Recreation.

Kendall asked if there were any other questions or comments. There were none.

Karl McMillan made a motion to adjourn. Mark Nelson 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

Meeting was adjourned at 4:22 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Laurie Duke