

Wasatch County Parks & Recreation SSD #21
Board Meeting
July 8, 2025
Minutes

Attendance:

Kendall Crittenden, Chairman
Karl McMillan, Vice-Chairman
Colleen Bonner, Board Member
Mark Nelson, Board Member
Spencer Park, Board Member
Erik Rowland, Board Member (Zoom)
Luke Searle, Board Member

Tom Bonner, Director
Heath Coleman, Asst. Director
Jon Provost, Event Center Director
Taylor Baker, Programs Director
Erik Lappe, Facility Manager
Jennifer Bowman, Marketing Coordinator
Laurie Duke, Admin. Assistant
Randy Bates, Finance Director
Wyatt Finnegan, IT Specialist
Dave Rowley, Personnel Director

Kendall Crittenden called the meeting to order at 3:15 p.m.

Public Issues for future meetings:

JW Davies addressed the Board and stated that there is a group of citizens that have been advocating for a new tennis complex. They have prepared a detailed proposal that they would like to discuss at a future Parks & Recreation Board Meeting.

Tom reminded the Board that they discussed this at the last meeting. This group would like to emulate what the pickleball group did with getting funding from Heber City, Midway City, Wasatch County and their Tennis Group. Mark asked if these would be outdoor courts and Tom answered that they were looking at all options, outdoor, bubbles, and brick and mortar. Colleen asked if their proposal would include all the costs and Tom said that yes, it would include all costs. This will be put on the agenda in the next month or two.

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: June 10, 2025:

Tom presented the minutes for June 10, 2025. Spencer Park made a motion to approve the minutes for June 10, 2025. 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

Warrants:

Tom presented the warrants from June 5, 2025 through June 25, 2025 in the amount of \$562,695.60. Tom noted the final payment for the Skate Park project of \$111,000. Most of that will be paid from the TAP Tax. Tom also pointed out the Demolition Derby prize money of \$200,000. Kendall asked if there were any other questions. There were none.

Mark Nelson made a motion to approve the warrants from June 5, 2025 through June 25, 2025 in the amount of \$562,695.60. 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:	Erik Rowland
AYE:	Luke Searle

Veterans Park Concept Plan:

Tom stated that there has been a lot of discussion to develop the area by Vets Park and the train, which he feels is a great idea. The Parks & Recreation staff have come up with a concept plan, spear-headed by Heath, so Tom turned the time over to Heath.

Heath reported that a copy of the concept plan went out with the agenda packet and is now on the monitor for the public. (A copy is also included in these minutes.)

Heath stated that a couple of months ago when Lane Lythgoe came to them with a concept plan to develop this area, they were expecting it as our community continues to grow and as the Olympics approach. He stressed that we fully believe in Heber Valley Railroad, but there were a few concerns with that design, which led to the Parks & Recreation staff brainstorming and coming up with this plan.

Main Points:

1st Slide - 600 West: We feel 600 West is vital. If we take out 600 West, the only points of access to the schools and that area is Southfield Road and 300 West. During the school year, and in general that road is used a lot to get to our complexes and a short cut to the Event Complex.

2nd Slide – New 600 West: We would like to build a new 600 West that would take about 75 feet from our parking lot. The red shaded area on the west side of the new 600 West will be Heber Valley Railroad property and east side would stay Wasatch County property.

Rail Trail: In talks with Don Taylor, we know the Rail Trail is coming so the Rail Trail would go all along the new 600 West to 300 South. We have been told that Heber City wants to bring a trail from their park to that area and then that trail will continue to Legacy Trail on Midway Lane. We see this area as a major trail hub and there would be a trail system around the whole park.

Pedestrian Safety, Parking, & Sky Bridge: We want pedestrian safety on both sides. There is a high volume of pedestrians. Kendall noted that in Lane's plan this was a concern. This plan will allow HVRR 101 parking stalls in the main area and another 74 stalls in their current parking lot, but obviously HVRR can determine what they do with their property, this is just an idea. On the east side there is 421 parking

stalls. In that area, if Event Center parking is included, there will be over 2,000 parking stalls which would be a huge benefit for both Parks & Recreation's major tournaments and events and Heber Valley Railroad's major events and also for the Olympics. A sky bridge is proposed for pedestrian safety.

Splash Pad, Pavilions, All Abilities Playground, & Memorial Monument: The Splash Pad area was chosen due to a lot of green space and water and power already there. Three more pavilions will be added. We will put in a 5,000 sq. ft. All Abilities Playground, which is very much needed in our community. The Memorial Monument will be relocated to the corner of 300 South, and we have some other ideas to make the park more veteran oriented, such as a memorial brick wall.

3rd Slide – East Parking Lot, Pavilions, & Community Gardens: The east parking lot at 300 West would provide 376 stalls. Two more pavilions will be added for more gathering spaces. For years we have had a group advocating heavily for Community Gardens. This would clean up that area and provide a buffer for the neighbors. Water is there and we would start out small and grow the area as needed.

4th Slide – Proposed Property Transfers: Wasatch County will concede to Heber Valley Railroad 2.15 acres. Wasatch County will concede to Heber City 1.89 acres. Heber City will concede to Heber Valley Railroad 1.81 acres.

5th Slide – Utilities: We realize there are a significant number of utilities that will have to be relocated on the new 600 West. This slide shows an overview of the utilities.

Heath summarized that we feel this is a good concept plan. He explained that they worked hard to accommodate everything in Lane Lythgoe's plan in regards to HVRR, keeping people safe, and managing our parks and green space without losing ball fields. He emphasized that they are willing to communicate and compromise to figure out the best use of this area.

Heath stated that we recognize the importance and heritage of the Heber Valley Railroad and want to be good neighbors. We feel this plan could work for both Parks & Recreation & Heber Valley Railroad and would put us in a good position for the future Olympics.

Colleen suggested that we work with Heber City to see if they would allow us to make 600 West narrower, with large speed bumps on each end, so that drivers realize they are coming into a destination area for either the train or ball parks.

Heath mentioned that this plan keeps our Parade Route on 600 West intact, which the public have now accepted and attendance is higher than ever. This road also serves as our Memorial Day Drive-By Tribute that has been well received.

Spencer suggested that it would probably be cheaper to go underneath 600 West instead of over with a sky bridge. Heath agreed and said that underground access would work just as well for pedestrian safety. Tom commented that it would make it ADA compliant also.

Colleen requested that when we do our budget for 2026 that we look into getting the parking lot at 300 West done. Heath believes the cost of that will be about a million dollars.

Heath asked if there were any more questions or comments on this plan. There were none.

Fair Days Board Schedule:

Tom requested that the Board be at the following events for Fair Days, July 24th through August 2nd.

July 28 th	Party in Park	SFP	5:45 p.m.
July 30 th	BBQ	SFP	5:45 p.m.
Aug 2 nd	Parade	300 S 600 W	3:45 p.m.

They will be serving at the Party in the Park & BBQ.

They will be riding on the old fire engine for the Parade.

Legacy Trail:

Tom commented that now that Public Works will be taking over Trails, he would like to start the discussion on the Legacy Trail. Parks & Recreation are still taking care of the Legacy Trail and are happy to continue to do so, but there needs to be a discussion regarding trail maintenance.

Kendall asked if there were any other questions or comments.

Mark brought up a concern about July 24th Pioneer Day. He is wondering how important it is that we honor our state holiday. He reported that Charleston moved their Pioneer Day Celebration to the Saturday before this year and was wondering if it was because the Demolition Derby was on July 24th this year. He said that he reached out to Charleston officials and they did not mention the Derby and explained that they thought they would get more attendance on a Saturday. Jennifer Bowman said that she spoke with them, on behalf of Parks & Recreation, before the Derby was scheduled because we wanted to make it work for both Charleston and the Derby and they seemed fine with it.

Heath explained that we will have this issue with the 24th of July holiday and Fair Days every 7 years with the way the calendar falls. The western half of the country is in rodeo season and so we have to keep our rodeo on the first weekend in August due to all the contracts that have to be in place. Our contracts have to be signed 5 to 10 years in advance for PRCA approval. When the dates this year conflicted with July 24th, there was a lot of discussion as to whether we should change and it was decided that we would keep our Fair Day dates as they are. Tom said that they will discuss this issue with Charleston again next year.

Kendall stated that Dave Rowley was in attendance and that the Board needed to go into a Closed Session to discuss personnel.

Luke Searle made a motion that the Board go into a Closed Session. Mark Nelson seconded the motion. Motion passes unanimously.

All Parks & Recreation employees, and any others, were dismissed at 3:58 p.m.