Wasatch County Parks & Recreation SSD #21
Board Meeting
June 10, 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
Luke Searle, Board Member

Tom Bonner, Director
Heath Coleman, Asst. Director
Amaria Scovil, Rec . Center Director
Jon Provost, Event Center Director
Taylor Baker, Programs Director
Jennifer Bowman, Marketing Coordinator
Laurie Duke, Admin. Assistant
Dustin Grabau, County Manager
Randy Bates, Finance Director
Wyatt Finnegan, IT Specialist
Joe Leveridge, Skijoring
Brian Gardner, Skijoring

Kendall Crittenden called the meeting to order at 3:10 p.m.

Kendall asked if there were any Public Issues for future meetings. There were none.
Kendall asked if there were any Governing Board Issues for future meetings. There were none.
Kendall asked if there were any Public Comments. There were none.

Minutes: May 13, 2025:

Tom presented the minutes for April 8, 2025. Karl McMillan made a motion to approve the minutes for May 13, 2025. Erik Rowland 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 May 1, 2025 through June 4, 2025 in the amount of $283,398.74. Tom pointed out that we purchased some panels for Jr. Livestock which were about $45,000. Jr. Livestock paid $16,700. of that. We also paid a deposit of $48,000. for the Skate Park project from the TAP Tax Grant. Kendall noted there were a lot of pass-through items and asked if there were any other questions. There were none.

Karl McMillan made a motion to approve the warrants from May 1, 2025 through June 4, 2025 in the amount of $283,398.74. Erik Rowland 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

Wasatch Tennis Club:

Tom reported that The Wasatch Tennis Club wants to emulate what the Pickleball Club did to get additional courts by helping to fund them and getting help from the municipalities. The Tennis Club is hoping to get 25% of the funding from Heber City, 25% from Midway City, 25% from the County and their club would put in 25%. Tom feels like this would be a good addition and we are looking at the property north of where the new administration building will be to put in 6 to 8 new outdoor courts. The cost right now is approximately $150,000. for each court. Luke asked about operating costs and Tom responded that once the courts are done, the Parks & Recreation District takes ownership and will be responsible for all operation and maintenance costs. This will be added to our MOU and funds will be put in on a yearly basis for future maintenance.

Skate Park Repairs Update:

Tom reported that the renovations at the Skate Park have been done. All the grass is gone and it is completely concrete. All the pool coping areas were re-done and made more sturdy with rails. This project was long overdue. Total cost was $171,000. We will be opening it on Monday, June 16th and lights will be turned back on. Colleen asked about doing a re-grand opening. Heath answered that during Fair Days we always have a skate competition and that's when we will do a re-grand opening.

Kendall asked if we had any other options besides paint for covering up graffiti, because the paint makes the surface so slick. Tom and Heath both responded that they have researched this extensively and even did some test sections with lasers but it is very expensive. Our grounds crew have their own sand blaster and they are trying to fine tune it so we don't damage the new concrete. They are actively working to come up with a better solution. Fortunately, since our public meeting, campaign, and Tom and Heath meeting individually with some of the offenders we have had very few incidents of vandalism.

Skijoring Discussion:

Kendall explained that for the past couple of years we have hosted a Skijoring Event and Parks & Recreation chose, at this time, not to do it next year. Joe Leveridge, from Skijoring, reached out to him to see if they could address this Board. Kendall turned the time to Jon Provost and then to Joe Leveridge.

Jon Provost prefaced his comments by saying that when he was hired back in 2007 as the Event Center Director, he was asked to fill the place up. For the first few years we had about 56 events a year, but discovered that at least half of those events were not viable, so we had to make adjustments. We must evaluate every event, and keep it on a trial basis for a period of time, to make sure that each event is viable.

Jon stated that Skijoring is an amazing event. It is popular and continues to grow, however our complex is not built to accommodate this type of event.

Jon’s key concerns are:

<u>Safety</u>: Skijoring is a wintertime event being held in a summertime outdoor venue. Walkways, parking lots, and stairs are icy, slippery, and dangerous.

<u>Alcohol Consumption</u>: Jon said that last year was better because there was a designated “Beer Garden”, but alcohol was still a big issue with tailgating and alcohol on the premises.

<u>Concrete/Decorative Concrete at Complex</u>: Ice melt, salt, shovels, and snow removal equipment are not good for concrete. In the past year we have spent over $100,000. on sealing and caulking the expansion joints in the grandstands. The life expectancy is 5 to 10 years, but when you put a shovel to it, it turns a product life expectancy from 5 to 10 years into 1 to 2 years. Jon explained that last year we had over 400 man hours in two days using10 different vehicles and pieces of equipment trying to make it safe for patrons to come into our facility. There are significant costs to open up our facility after it has already been winterized.

Joe Leveridge, from Skijoring, addressed the Board and gave them some information. Spencer had asked why they left their previous venue, Soldier Hollow, and Joe answered that it was because they outgrew it.

Joe then responded to the concerns raised by Jon.
<u>Safety</u>: Joe feels it is a safe venue. He commented that people who go to winter events like this are prepared for winter conditions. He said that they expect ice, snow, and slippery grounds. He also stated that Skijoring pays a premium that should help cover some of the costs related to snow removal.

<u>Alcohol Consumption</u>: Joe stated that he has not seen the issues that Jon talked about. He said that if they do have a problem they call the Sherriff’s Office to come in and address it.

<u>Concrete at Complex</u>: Joe feels that all of the snow removal is not just for their Skijoring Event. They hire some of their own people to help with snow removal. They understand there is some wear and tear on a summer facility and they try to pay for anything that is damaged.

Joe stated that they want to be good partners and continue this event at the Event Complex. Their goal is to follow the mission statement of the Event Complex, which is to provide events and recreation, especially equestrian, for outdoor activities. Joe stated that this is exactly what Skijoring is. It is also the fastest growing winter sport. Joe claimed that the Chamber did a study and that their Skijoring Event brought in over 4 million dollars in economic impact. Joe said that they would like to rent the facility for two months and that would put the burden on them to make sure the complex is taken care of.

Heath commented that Parks & Recreation is responsible to operate and maintain our facilities. Recently we have spent a lot of money to improve things that have needed to be done for 20 years and we hope to be able to have their full life expectancy.

Tom shared his main concerns if we were to host this event again:
<u>Alcohol</u>: He said that every year he gets heated calls from the Chief of Police because of alcohol and this becomes our liability. No tailgating allowed.

<u>Ticketing</u>: Ticketing needs to be under Parks & Recreation. Last year we were flooded with calls that we could not answer because they did their own ticketing.

Costs: They need to bring in enough money to support their event and cover complete repair costs.

Tom also challenged the validity of the Chamber study that Joe said brought in 4 million dollars in economic impact.

Jon, Tom, and Heath all agree that it is a great event. The bottom line is that this is a wintertime event and our facility has been built for summertime events.

There were questions from the Board regarding what it would take to make our venue year-round and if it would make sense to do so. Currently, Skijoring is our only wintertime event. Colleen asked Tom to come up with a timeline and the total costs of this event.   Also, if we want to start doing winter events, this will need to be in our Master Plan.

After a very lengthy discussion, Spencer suggested that Parks & Recreation and Skijoring meet and come to an agreement in the next few weeks. He stated that since the Parks & Recreation Directors are the ones who know the facility issues the best, and are responsible for them, once an agreement has been made Tom will present it to Chairman, Kendall Crittenden and Vice-Chairman, Karl McMillan and the Board will be comfortable with their decision. Everyone was in agreement with this.

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

Spencer Park made a motion to adjourn. Colleen Bonner seconded the motion. Meeting was adjourned at 4:13 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Laurie Duke