

**Wasatch County Parks & Recreation SSD #21
Board Meeting
October 10, 2023
Minutes**

Attendance:

Kendall Crittenden, Chairman
Karl McMillan, Vice-Chairman
Steve Farrell, 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
Taylor Baker, Program Director
Laurie Duke, Admin. Assistant
Travis Dial, IT Specialist

Excused:

Mark Nelson, Board Member

Kendall Crittenden called the meeting to order at 3:17 p.m.

Minutes: September 12, 2023

Tom Bonner presented the minutes. Karl McMillan made a motion to approve the minutes for September 12, 2023. Erik Rowland seconded the motion. Motion passes with the following vote:

AYE:	Kendall Crittenden
AYE:	Karl McMillan
AYE:	Steve Farrell
AYE:	Spencer Park
AYE:	Erik Rowland
AYE:	Luke Searle
NAY:	None

ABSENT: Mark Nelson

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.

Warrants:

Tom Bonner presented the warrants for September 8, 2023 through October 5, 2023 in the amount of \$126,073.79.

Tom mentioned that we had to pay \$19,279. for Wilderness Circuit Finals, which is half of their contract, 30 days before the performance.

Kendall asked if most of our summer employees are almost done and Tom responded that yes, they are. He said that the water was shut off last week so they will only be mowing for the next few weeks. He stated that we still have our part-time staff at the Rec. Center.

Spencer Park made a motion to approve the warrants for September 8, 2023 through October 5, 2023 in the amount of \$126,073.79. Luke Searle seconded the motion. Motion passes with the following vote:

AYE:	Kendall Crittenden
AYE:	Karl McMillan
AYE:	Steve Farrell
AYE:	Spencer Park
AYE:	Erik Rowland
AYE:	Luke Searle
NAY:	None

ABSENT: Mark Nelson

2024 Budget Discussion:

Tom reminded everyone that last month we talked about the 2024 Budget and Truth in Taxation. Luke Searle had asked about the growth dollars and where the money that we are asking for would be going. Tom explained that with the tax rate we are asking for of .000193, that would generate \$531,104. With that he is asking for five new employees, which would be a total of \$431,358. and the remaining \$99,746 would go to help cover the wage study. Tom said that to cover the wage study we need about \$185,000. and he feels we could cover the balance in the budget.

Tom stated that the IT budget has gone up drastically this year. Last year we subsidized it with some of the surplus dollars which isn't the case this year. Our portion with IT maintenance, Computer Replacement, and IT Services will be an additional \$81,639. this year, so we are planning to use some of the growth money that we get to cover those costs.

Kendall asked what the tax rate would be if we didn't do Truth in Taxation and Tom answered that it would be .000158. Steve asked if they have looked to offset some of the costs by raising user fees, so that those who are using the facilities are paying more. Tom responded that we look at all of our fees on a yearly basis. Heath stated, that just last year, we did a fee increase for the Rec. Center. We raised entrance fees, membership fees, and rental fees. We are still low compared to others in the state, minus the pool. He also stated that all of our programs pay for themselves.

Tom explained that our tax rate has fallen since 2016, which was the last time we held the tax rate and at that time we only asked for \$180,000. He reminded everyone that the tax rate that is approved is .0004, so we are still under half of that tax rate. In 2022 the tax rate was .000193 so we are just asking to hold the tax rate.

Spencer asked what the five new employee positions would be. Tom answered that one would be for Sponsor & Advertising. He explained that Jon has been doing that since Adair Willoughby moved to Delta. Our numbers are good, but he just doesn't have the time to go out and solicit new sponsors. One employee would be for the Events Center, two employees for Parks and Ground Maintenance and one employee as a Program Coordinator. He commented that it is very hard to hire seasonal employees and this would cut our seasonal employees.

Tom explained that to staff a baseball tournament you need 10 people. Heath commented that with all the events we do, we are wearing our employees out. Tom agreed and said that for our last event, the RAM show, some employees were on 16 & 17 straight days trying to clean up from an event and get ready for the next one. Kendall asked about keeping everyone busy during the winter and Tom said they would be able to help with the Event Center and Rec. Center. Tom said that there would be zero problem keeping them busy.

Kendall asked what we need to do moving forward and Tom replied that State code requires notification to the County Council of the tax increase, what the dollar amount will be and where the dollars will go. Tom reported that he has given all the paperwork to Diane in the Treasurer's Office. We will hold a Public Hearing on December 12th at 6:00 p.m.

Luke thanked Tom for going over the numbers and Luke summarized that we need approximately \$800,000. with all additional costs, and wondered if the new growth funds we get will cover the difference. Tom answered that we usually get about \$150,000. for new growth so it will not cover the difference, but he is confident we can cover the difference inside the budget.

Tom explained that the TRT dollars help us immensely and we are utilizing those dollars to help as much as we can. Steve asked if TRT money could help fund the Sponsorship & Advertising position and Tom responded that yes that position would qualify for TRT money. Tom also stated that if we see an increase of 15 to 20% through our sponsors and advertising this would also offset the cost of that position.

Kendall reported that he was in a discussion with some city officials and the comment was made that the train brings in the most revenue. Kendall told them that the train does bring in a lot of revenue, but the biggest revenue for local businesses is all of the baseball tournaments and events that are put on by Parks & Recreation. Many tournaments and events are multiple-day events which bring in a lot of revenue for our hotels and restaurants. Kendall commented that he doesn't know if some of the other jurisdictions realize this and wondered if there was a way we could promote this so they understand.

Tom responded that he feels this council has done some great things with TRT funds. He stated that we never did a GO Bond for the Rec. Center, Vets Park or the Event Complex. Tom thinks the campaign should be that we have some world class facilities that the public gets to use and they don't see it on their taxes.

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

Karl McMillan made a motion to adjourn. Erik Rowland seconded the motion. Motion passes with the following vote:

AYE: Kendall Crittenden

AYE: Karl McMillan

AYE: Steve Farrell

AYE: Spencer Park

AYE: Erik Rowland

AYE: Luke Searle

NAY: None

ABSENT: Mark Nelson

Meeting was adjourned at 3:37 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Laurie Duke