

MURFREESBORO PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 2021

12:00 NOON

MPRC Members Present: Mr. Eddie Miller (new Chair)
Dr. Charlie Apigian, Mr. Leroy Cunningham, Mr. Rick LaLance,
Mr. Ronnie Martin, Mr. Ralph Ringstaff, Mr. Tim Roediger (new
Vice-Chair), Mr. Ricky Turner, and Mr. Don Turner (ex officio)

MPRC Member Absent: Dr. Gloria Bonner

MPRD Staff Present: Mr. Nate Williams, Director
Mr. Thomas Laird and Ms. Rachel Singer (Asst. Directors)
Mr. Gary Arbit, Mr. Derek Blake, Ms. Lisa Browning,
Ms. Crystal Ellis-McFerrin, Ms. Gernell Floyd, Ms. Susan Hicks,
Ms. Mitzi Hughes, and Ms. Heather Mullican

Others Present: Ms. Angela Jackson, Exec. Director of Community Services
Ms. Kelley Baker, Asst. City Attorney

For Presentation Only: Mr. Cameron Mitchell (Actor Laureate)
Ms. Megan Brooker (Dance Laureate)

After the meeting was called to order by Mr. Eddie Miller, Mr. Ronnie Martin led everyone in a prayer and in the Pledge of Allegiance. Mr. Nate Williams introduced and welcomed a new member to the commission, Mr. Leroy Cunningham, who has been a Murfreesboro resident for the last 27 years and works at First Bank. Mr. Williams added that Mr. Cunningham was appointed by Mayor McFarland, who sent high praise for him. Mr. Cunningham said he enjoyed meeting several MPRC members before today's meeting and appreciated the warm reception. He hopes to meet everyone soon and is excited to be a part of the Parks and Recreation Commission.

Mr. Williams next announced that the commission needed to select a new Chair and Vice-Chair. Ms. Kelley Baker led the commission through the voting process. Mr. Roediger nominated Mr. Miller as the Chair. Mr. Ricky Turner seconded the nomination, which was approved unanimously by the commission. Mr. Turner then nominated Mr. Roediger for the Vice-Chair position. Mr. LaLance seconded, and the commission voted unanimously for Mr. Roediger to serve as the MPRC Vice-Chair. Mr. Miller thanked the commission for the vote of confidence they had for him. He said it would be his pleasure to serve and that he is taking on a group that has had many years of excellent leadership by Mr. Dee Jernigan.

Ms. Lisa Browning, Cultural Arts Coordinator, showed a video of the 2021 Murfreesboro Cultural Arts Laureates, who each shared their relevant backgrounds to the laureate program and stated their goals for the upcoming year. The three laureates for this year are Mr. Cameron Mitchell, actor laureate; Ms. Meg Brooker, dancer laureate; and Ms. Amie Whittemore, poet laureate (2nd year in role). The laureate theme for 2021 is the "Hope Effect." Mr. Mitchell and Ms. Brooker were present to receive their laureate awards today. Ms. Whittemore was unable to attend. Ms. Browning asked that everyone please congratulate all three laureates in the coming year. She thanked the laureates for "sharing their talents and compassion and for

encouraging, growing, and nurturing creative arts in the community and culture within Murfreesboro.”

Ms. Gernell Floyd, Patterson Park Superintendent, gave an overview of the Martin Luther King, Jr., (MLK) Day of Service, “a day on, not a day off,” that was held at Patterson Community Center on January 18, 2021. She mentioned that Patterson was already serving as the “flagship venue for the local MLK holiday, march, and Day of Celebration.” To go along with the important holiday, Ms. Floyd said that Ms. Karen Lampert, City Grants Coordinator, helped secure an MLK Day of Service grant for \$50,000 through Americore to help with event costs and a new playground for Patterson. One goal of the grant was to encourage people to volunteer with acts of service in the community and to continue their volunteer efforts on a regular basis after the holiday. Ms. Floyd invited the community to watch a Bradley Academy Museum virtual art exhibit depicting MLK, Jr., and his influence with the civil rights movement. The exhibit was developed by youth from Patterson and Bradley Elementary School, and by the MTSU Art History Department. The virtual exhibit started on the MLK Day of Service and will run until the first of April. Another event on MLK Day was a Sort-a-Thon (held at Patterson) in which City employees helped fill backpacks with donated food items for the Murfreesboro City Schools’ (MCS) “Pack the Packs” program, which provides food assistance to MCS students. A Drive-through Giveaway, hosted by MCS, was also held at Patterson that day “to provide MCS families in need with food, hygiene products, and face masks.” Volunteers for the Giveaway included MCS staff and families, Read to Succeed representatives, and Siegel High School students. The MLK Day of Service was promoted to the community through various means, including social media, and Patterson staff requested that community pictures showing volunteer works on the MLK Day of Service be posted to Facebook, Twitter, and Next Door, either individually or as a group to #BoroMLKDay. Ms. Floyd thanked MPRD for its support, as well as the planning team for the day’s events: Ms. Vonchelle Stembridge, Mr. Derek Blake, Ms. Heather Mullican, Ms. Crystal Ellis-McFerrin, and Ms. Karen Lampert (not present today). Mr. Miller said their hard work, which allowed so many to benefit, is appreciated. He added that he’s looking forward to the Virtual Art Show.

Mr. Miller next presented for approval the minutes of the January 6, 2021, MPRC meeting. Mr. Ronnie Martin made a motion to approve the minutes as read. Mr. LaLance seconded, and motion passed by unanimous vote.

Mr. Gary Arbit, Adams Tennis Complex (ATC) Facility Supervisor, said that his staff would like to increase the nonmember court per hour fee from \$12.00 to \$15.00 and change the court booking window for nonmembers from 10 days out to just 3 days out. He explained that his staff believes the changes would allow the current ATC members to receive more value for their money by not having to compete as often with nonmembers for courts. His staff also believes the increased nonmember court booking fee might help encourage more nonmembers to become members for the better court booking options. Dr. Charlie Apigian thought just 3 days out for nonmembers to book a court was too short of a window, since he likes to book his activities farther out than that. Mr. Miller asked what the membership fees were. Mr. Arbit said the youth/seniors/military fee is \$250/year; individual fee is \$450/year; and the family fee is \$600/year. Mr. LaLance mentioned that 5 days out might work. Mr. Williams said that the goal is to boost the value of the memberships, and staff believes the 3-day out booking window for nonmembers would actually allow for that. Dr. Apigian asked how the 10 days out was originally determined. Mr. Arbit said that window is common with other similar-type tennis

facilities. Mr. Cunningham asked what the membership total was. Mr. Arbit said there are around 850 members. Mr. Cunningham also asked if there was a breakdown of court use for members versus nonmembers. Mr. Arbit stated that the court use is primarily by members, with an approximate 10% usage by nonmembers. He added that the changes proposed today are a result of members asking for better court opportunities. Mr. Miller asked if there were a motion to increase the nonmember court per hour fee and shorten the booking window for nonmembers from 10 to 3 days. Mr. LaLance made a motion to approve Mr. Arbit's requests. Mr. Turner seconded the motion, and motion passed by a majority vote, with Mr. Roediger voting "no."

Ms. Susan Hicks, Cultural Arts Facility Coordinator, requested approval for Perform Murfreesboro to offer a new program, Broadcast 101 class with a production at the end for six youth in three separate age groups (9-17) being selected through online auditions. This will be a 12-week pilot program, with 6 weeks of instruction for the youth to learn about journalism, camera etiquette, interview skills, camera engagement, etc. The other 6 weeks will involve sending the participants to conduct live interviews of people at places of interest in Murfreesboro. A 30-minute show will be developed after the youth-led interviews, and the show will be aired on City TV. Ms. Hicks asked that a \$50 participant fee be charged to each of the six youth chosen for the program, in addition to the annual Perform Murfreesboro Membership fee of \$25. Dr. Apigian made a motion to approve the Broadcast 101 class, production, and fee as described. Mr. Roediger seconded. Motion passed by a unanimous vote.

Mr. Miller welcomed Ms. Rachel Singer who gave the department program and event updates. Ms. Singer encouraged everyone to see the new rotunda art exhibit, *The Nurture of Nature*, which features three artists who have highlighted nature in their works. The exhibit will run through February 25th. Next Ms. Singer invited community members to participate in the Guardians of the Greenway (a greenway cleanup program) on Thursdays from 9:00-10:00 a.m. in February at various trailheads, with dates/trailheads being listed on the Parks and Recreation website. Gloves, trash pickers, and bags will be provided each week to the volunteers. Outdoor Murfreesboro is offering numerous programs and activities, which can be found on the Parks and Recreation website as well. Registration for the Spring Racquetball League at Patterson Community Center started on February 1st and will go through March 5th. Pickleball is still as popular as ever and is held at Sports Com, Patterson, and McFadden Community Center. Ms. Singer further announced that MPRD summer camp registration will begin on March 1st at 8:00 a.m., through online registration and in-person registration at Sports Com, Patterson, or the main MPRD office. Ms. Singer stressed that those hoping to sign up online should first contact staff at the main office to make sure their household account number is active, so that they won't be delayed when trying to register online the first day of camp registration. She additionally indicated that many of the outdoor camps fill up fast on the first day of registration. Ms. Singer showed a slide with all the camp listings. She said that the camp information is also on the City's website. Another reminder by Ms. Singer was that all of the MPRD program information can be found online in the *Rec Connection*, the department's programming guide. Also, there are multiple Facebook pages with MPRD information. An interactive calendar is even available for people to check out various dates and events. Mr. Miller thanked Ms. Singer for the update and mentioned that there are always lots of things to do through the Parks and Recreation Department.

Mr. Miller next thanked Mr. Cunningham for serving on the MPRC and welcomed him. The meeting was adjourned, being no more business.

Meeting Adjourned: 12:37 p.m.

Minutes Approved:

Mr. Eddie Miller, MPRC Chair

Mr. Nate Williams, MPRD Director