

MURFREESBORO PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MINUTES  
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 3, 2022

12:00 NOON

MPRC Members Present: Mr. Eddie Miller, Chair  
Dr. Gloria Bonner, Mr. Leroy Cunningham, Mr. Rick LaLance,  
Mr. Ronnie Martin, and Mr. Ricky Turner

MPRC Members Absent: Mr. Trey Duke, Mr. Tim Roediger, and Mr. Don Turner  
(ex officio)

MPRD Staff Present: Mr. Nate Williams, Director  
Mr. Thomas Laird, Asst. Director  
Mr. Kyle Goss, Ms. Susan Hicks, Ms. Kristin Hopkins,  
Ms. Mitzi Hughes, Dr. Gernell Jenkins, and Ms. Melinda Tate

Others Present: Ms. Angela Jackson, Executive Director of Community Services  
Ms. Katie Driver, City Staff Attorney

After the meeting was called to order, Dr. Gloria Bonner led the commission in a prayer and in the Pledge of Allegiance. Mr. Eddie Miller then presented the minutes of the June 1, 2022, Murfreesboro Parks and Recreation Commission (MPRC) meeting for approval. Mr. Rick LaLance made a motion to approve the minutes as read, and Dr. Bonner seconded. Motion passed by unanimous vote.

Mr. Miller then presented appreciation plaques to Mr. Rick LaLance and Mr. Ronnie Martin for their service, leadership, and advocacy to the MPRC. Both members had been appointed to the commission through their City Council positions, which will be ending soon.

Ms. Kristin Hopkins with Outdoor Murfreesboro gave an update on the Bird Survey that began six months ago. She said that each of the three survey sites is similar in acreage. Birds counted at each site and the number of distinct species noted were as follows: Murfree Spring (20 acres) 2,890 birds counted with 57 distinct species; Sinking Creek (20 acres) 1,742 birds counted with 80 distinct species; Gateway Island (30 acres) 6,390 birds counted with 69 distinct species. The research indicated that Eastern Meadowlarks, which are in somewhat of a decline, have been seen at the Gateway Island, and it has been noted that the area is supporting that species through its whole reproductive cycle, which is very good to know. By determining the bird types and their numbers at each site, staff will be better able to manage the areas accordingly to support the birds in these habitats. Also, Ms. Hopkins mentioned that the Tennessee Ornithological Society (TOS) has indicated that 10,221 birds have been counted overall in Tennessee, with 107 distinct species noted. Staff is encouraged that the sites in the MPRD bird survey are supporting impressive numbers of distinct species as well. Mr. Miller asked about the length of the surveys. Ms. Hopkins said each survey is planned for a year.

Mr. Jacob Fogel, Outdoor Murfreesboro Assistant Programmer for the Wilderness Station, presented for approval an Adult Adventure Camp to be held September 10-11, 2022. Activities

planned for the program are kayaking, archery, overnight camping on September 10<sup>th</sup> into the 11<sup>th</sup>, and then caving on the 11<sup>th</sup>. Three meals will be provided during the weekend, as well as transportation to the activity sites. Staff would like to offer the camp twice a year and offer various other outdoor activities for future Adult Adventure Camps. The proposed registration fees are \$125 plus a \$50 activity fee (\$175 total), with a \$15 discount for City residents. Mr. Miller entertained a motion to approve said camp and its fees. Dr. Bonner made a motion to approve the camp as presented, and Mr. Ricky Turner seconded. Motion passed by unanimous vote.

Mr. Kyle Goss proposed a new Aquatics Facilities Swim Attire Policy with more specific guidelines than the current policy. Mr. Leroy Cunningham asked if staff had researched such policies with other similar aquatics facilities. Mr. Goss said that they had and that the proposed MPRD policy is even more specific than the policies at the other facilities. Mr. Ronnie Martin mentioned that he hoped patrons would use reasonable and sound judgment when choosing their swim attire for City facilities, and he questioned who would tell the inappropriately dressed patrons that they need to change or leave. He did not want lifeguards, some who are still minors, to have to approach people who might not be following the policy. Mr. Goss said that he would talk with male patrons, and a female manager would deal with female patrons.

Mr. Williams said that with this updated swim attire policy, staff will have the framework to follow for enforcing proper swim attire. Mr. LaLance asked if there will be signage posted so the public will be aware of the updated swim attire policy. Mr. Williams said the policy will be posted. Mr. Ricky Turner stated that he had requested a clearer swim attire policy at the June 1, 2022, MPRC meeting and that this is the first time in his 11 years on the commission that a matter he was concerned with made the agenda. He added that he feels like he has accomplished something, with this being a serious topic. He believes public pools should be appropriate for all ages to use. Mr. Turner made a motion to approve the revised swim attire policy for the MPRD Aquatics Facilities. Mr. LaLance seconded. Motion passed by unanimous vote.

Ms. Susan Hicks, Cultural Arts Supervisor, explained a proposed new program, the DIY Band Class, which would run for four weeks. She said the target group will be teens interested in starting their own band. In the program, they will be guided through the proper process to start a band. Staff would like to charge \$50 per person (\$25 for registration/\$25 for a supply fee). Mr. Turner asked if there were a way to communicate better with the public regarding the financial assistance (FA) policy for those who might not be able to afford the program fee without financial help. Mr. Williams said that the financial assistance policy is advertised and that Cultural Arts staff has done a good job helping kids get into the arts programs if they need financial assistance. Mr. LaLance asked if the monies for FA are built into the budget. Mr. Williams and Mr. Laird said that they were. Dr. Bonner made a motion to approve the DIY Band Class, and Mr. LaLance seconded. Motion passed by unanimous vote.

Ms. Hicks also proposed to increase fees for guardian and toddler programs from \$3.00 to \$5.00 to help cover material costs for such programs as Little Picassos, Express Yourself,

Move with Me, and Let's Get Spooky Workshop. Mr. LaLance made a motion to approve the fee increase as requested. Mr. Martin seconded. Motion passed by unanimous vote.

Mr. Williams announced that he hopes to have a Financial Report for FY21-22 by the next commission meeting. He said that expenditures are still being paid for that fiscal year, but he will update the commission on how MPRD is operating as soon as he has the new report. Also, at the next MPRC meeting, Mr. Williams plans to discuss some department projects that are on the horizon.

Ms. Melinda Tate, Marketing Coordinator, shared a Power Point Presentation with the commission and updated them on department programs and events. First, she said that the Rutherford Arts Alliance is currently holding a juried show in the City Hall Rotunda that will run through September 1, 2022, with the artists' reception scheduled for August 12<sup>th</sup> from 5:30 - 7:00 p.m. Outdoor Yoga will be offered at Patterson Park on August 13<sup>th</sup> from 9:00-10:00 a.m. (free). Cannonsburgh has had a variety of program offerings this summer for all different ages. August programs will include Toddler Adventures (topic: tractors), village tours for home-schooled kids, a food prep and freezing class taught by an Ag Extension agent, and a Christmas craft class. September 3<sup>rd</sup> is the date for the Hummingbird Festival at the Wilderness Station from 7:30 a.m.-3:00 p.m. There will be children's activities, lots of hummingbird information, and a hummingbird bander who can catch hummingbirds and add a band with a tracker on their legs. Ms. Tate announced that the very popular Greenway Art Festival is scheduled for September 17<sup>th</sup> from 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. at Old Fort Park on the trail that runs by Kids' Castle. Another event scheduled by MPRD will be the City Closed Tennis Tournament, September 23-25, at the Adams Tennis Complex. Ms. Tate mentioned that a new event for the department, the Individual Team Triathlon, is going to be held at Patterson Community Center on September 24<sup>th</sup>. Teams of two to three people each will be required to swim 500 meters at the indoor pool, bike 12 miles (in the weight room), and run on the indoor track for 3 miles. The cost will be \$60.00 per team. Registration has begun, and those interested should contact Roger at Patterson, 615-893-7439. A final event announced by Ms. Tate was the Middle Half Marathon, scheduled for October 8<sup>th</sup>, start time at 7:00 a.m. Ms. Tate reminded everyone that information for all of the mentioned programs and events and other MPRD activities can be found on the City website by going to [www.MurfreesboroParks.com](http://www.MurfreesboroParks.com). Also, information for the MPRD programs and activities can be found on the various department Facebook pages.

Mr. LaLance asked if everything possible was being done to get the word out to the public about the Miracle League All-Star Games in September. Mr. Laird said that a press release would go out soon to all the usual media outlets and that the national office of the Miracle League is working on their own media package to get the information out. Mr. LaLance said that it will be an awesome event, and he wants the community to know about it. Mr. Williams added that staff from Murfreesboro Police and Fire and Rescue Departments are working with the Miracle League staff to help make sure the event will be a wonderful experience for the athletes and spectators.

Mr. Leroy Cunningham asked if staff could give an update at the next MPRC meeting regarding a potential West Park. He has heard information about it, but also realizes some of the information could be misinformation. Mr. Williams said that he will have a design team give a short presentation to the commission soon regarding the potential park/land sites in question. Mr. Williams said that he and other staff do not want to get ahead of themselves on plans for any property until city-owned. He also mentioned that a possible land swap of 120 acres for 149 acres closer to town looks promising. Further, staff needs to see how potential park property is zoned and laid out before doing any comprehensive planning. Mr. Williams said that more information on properties on the west side of town should be available by October or November.

Being no more business, Mr. Miller adjourned the meeting.

Meeting adjourned: 12:34 p.m.

Minutes approved:

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Eddie Miller, MPRC Chair

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Nate Williams, MPRD Director