Parks and Recreation Board
Meeting Minutes
September 19, 2019

Board Members Present
Claralyn Hill - Chair
Tom Sitake
Jen Peterson - VChair
Bruce Snow
Lisa Brockbank

Board Members Absent
Ricky Frank
Brittany Hyde

Municipal Council Members Present
Gary Winterton

Staff Present
Scott Henderson
Isaac Paxman
Doug Robins
Kari Van Wagner

WELCOME: Claralyn Hill

MINUTES
Jen Petersen made a motion to approve the April 18, 2019 minutes. It was seconded by Bruce Snow and approved by all in attendance.

UNLIMITED PLAY CENTER
Doug Robins gave an overview of the Unlimited Play Center project. The design committee for the project was composed of key staff and stakeholders in the community who had special needs children. The designer was chosen from a group who had experience designing playgrounds for special needs children. There were seven main principles that they focus on for this special design. They are: Be Fair, Be Included, Be Smart, Be Independent, Be Safe, Be Active, and Be Comfortable. Doug reviewed some of the features and the layout of the park. Doug also showed a video Channel 17 put together about the park.

Claralyn commented that the areas of focus where great for this park, but could they also be included in all future parks? Scott commented that in the process of researching this park, the department learned a lot of things that will influence future park designs. The park was delayed by some financial shortcomings, but construction has now started. It is estimated for completion in spring 2021. The project is being done almost exclusively in-house which stretches out the timeline.

REGIONAL SPORTS PARK
Scott Henderson reviewed the Regional Sports Park project which will be on 100 acres of land out near the Provo Airport. The land is now officially owned by Provo City. Scott reviewed the local need for more fields and the regional draw for tournaments that this complex would bring to the area. Utah County had said they would give $2.5 million to the project, contingent on the City getting the property. Now that the property is final, the County has said the money is now not available. There have been some changes in staff at the County since the money was promised, and the City will be making a plan to reapply for money from the Utah County Tax and Tourism Board.

Scott commented that he feels like the City should make a commitment to this project, even if that means going to the City Fund Balance to finance it. The department will be looking at grant options for funding. The RAP Tax has $1 million committed to this project. There will be Park Impact Fees coming in from new construction, and some of that money could go towards this project. The complex is estimated to bring in at least $30 million in economic impact to the area each year. It is estimated that the complex would be self-sustaining. The department has the money currently to start the design process, but there is no funding to go towards the construction at this time.
CHRISTMAS PARK DISPLAY
Doug Robins reviewed the Parks and Recreation Department’s current contributions to the downtown Christmas lighting, which includes the lighting around the City Center and along Center Street. The department also hosts the Lights on Ceremony downtown. The cost of doing this lighting has gone up, and so the amount of lights done has been reduced. With the new City Center project starting, the department has reviewed what could be done in the future. The new City Center will be along 500 West with Pioneer Park directly across the street. The splash pad area is not used during the winter, so it could be a focal area for a winter plaza. Doug showed some ideas of large focal light displays that could be used. The department has limited seasonal resources, so they are looking at optimizing the resources they have. They will be meeting with Modern Display to do a consultation on possibilities.

OTHER ITEMS
Bruce Snow asked if bigger signs could be added to the Provo River Trail project that mention that it’s a RAP Tax project. Bruce also asked for an update on the trail project. Doug mentioned that they haven’t been given a permit yet from the railroad to start on that area of the trail. The project has stopped at Columbia Lance. The next phase will start on Columbia Lane and go up to 2230 North. An update on the trail will be given at a future meeting.

Meeting Adjourned