



CITY OF MERIDIAN

MEDIA ADVISORY: November 8, 2016

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MERIDIAN TO CELEBRATE THE OPENING OF THE CITY'S FIRST OUTDOOR GYM

- WHAT:** Tully Park Outdoor Gym Ribbon Cutting
- WHEN:** Monday, November 14, 4:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.
- WHERE:** Tully Park – 2500 N. Linder Road, Meridian
- WHO:** Presenters include Meridian Mayor Tammy de Weerd, Meridian Parks and Recreation Director Steve Siddoway and members of MYAC

The City of Meridian invites the public to the ribbon cutting ceremony for the first outdoor gym in the community located at Tully Park. The new park amenity was made possible through a collaborative effort between the Meridian Mayor's Youth Advisory Council (MYAC), the Meridian City Council, the City's Finance and Parks and Recreation Departments and community partners.

"This outdoor gym represents collaboration with the youth in our community and the amount of change their generation can bring to a city. The entire project was driven by MYAC. From identifying the project, to developing a ballot and voting process, to working with city departments and council – MYAC teens did it all," said Mayor Tammy. "This shows our youth the power of their voice and gives them an opportunity to establish their legacy."

"An outdoor gym is something residents have said they wanted and we are happy to make this dream a reality. What makes it even more unique – is the collaboration with the members of MYAC to make it happen," said Steve Siddoway, Parks and Recreation Director.

Participatory budgeting gives MYAC members the opportunity to direct city funds to projects deemed important to the community. The Meridian City Council gave them a budget line item of \$20,000. They had to research this project, present it to council and get it approved.

On top of that, MYAC raised \$1,039 at their annual Ball at the Hall for the gym and they used a High Five Grant of \$12,961 from the Blue Cross of Idaho Foundation for Health. The total cost



was \$34,000. Conger Management Group and CBH Homes donated the concrete for the outdoor gym. Additional partners include: Flatwork, LLC, Sunroc Corporation, Clements Concrete and Brundage Bone.

See photo attached of the Tully Park Outdoor Gym.



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The City of Meridian is located in the heart of the Treasure Valley in southwest Idaho. Founded in 1893 and incorporated as a city in 1903, Meridian is one of Idaho's largest and fastest growing communities. 24/7 Wall Street named Meridian the *Number One Place to Live in America*. America's Promise Alliance/ING recognized the city as one of the nation's *100 Best Communities for Young People*. For more information, visit www.meridiancity.org.