

AGENDA ITEM #15

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Date: August 6, 2026

To: Mayor Dahlquist and Council Members

From: Anne Butler, Parks & Recreation Director

RE: Drive Through Christmas Light Show – Special Event Exception

Dr. Bryndon Belnap from Belnap Orthodontics is seeking permission to hold a community event in Lower Ross Park in December. The idea is to have business sponsored Christmas Light displays the community could drive through and enjoy with their families. The event would take place in the evenings after dark from 6pm-9pm on December 10-12, 2026. The event would require South 2nd Avenue to be closed near the Outdoor Recreation Shop down to Kirkham Road.

Patrons would enter Lower Ross Park from South 2nd Avenue headed south with one direction traffic all the way to Kirkham Road where they would meet the South Valley Connector. Patrons would have the option to pull off the light show and into the parking lot at Ross Park Aquatics Complex to visit Santa, enjoy Christmas music or have Christmas treats at the pavilion. Belnap Orthodontics would coordinate electricity, security, garbage cleanup, portable restrooms, and all setup or take down logistics for the event. Belnap Orthodontics is considering a small fee to help cover costs. All displays would be staged on right-of-way on South 2nd Avenue or on the green spaces in Lower Ross Park. No vehicles or equipment with wheels will be permitted on any green spaces per City Code 12.36.120. If the need arises, Parks staff will assist with sidewalk and parking lot snow removal in the area.

Fees would include the standard special event fees including pavilion rental. An exception is required as City Code 12.36.020 allows City owned or operated parks and public spaces be open to the public between the hours of 6am until one hour after sunset. This special event will need the ability to take place after sunset from 6pm-9pm. Christmas music would also be permissible during these hours. Street Department staff has reviewed this information and also supports this application and the road closure (a formal Request for Temporary Street Closure form will be required of Dr. Belnap). City staff felt this was a great location during the winter with minimal impact on residents, Belnap Orthodontics would like to make this an annual event.

Council may wish to accept the recommendation of Parks & Recreation Department staff, approve this special event exception and authorize Mayor Dahlquist to sign and execute the paperwork necessary to effectuate the agreement.

Drive-through Christmas Light Show

What: Drive- through Christmas Light display

When: Dec 10th, 11th, 12th from 6-9 pm

Where: Ross Park Road and Pavilion

Details:

The main attraction of this event will be the light displays. Starting on South Second, just south of the last residence, light displays would be set up by participating businesses every 10-15 yards. The displays would be set up on the north bound lane, between the center stripe and the rocks bordering the park on the east side of the road. The grass could also be used if displays need to be staked down, though driving on the grass would be strictly prohibited. The road would need to be closed to north-bound traffic. If the first display started just south of the last residence on south second and went down to the end of the park, there would be room for roughly 50+ displays.

The event would also possibly include a gathering area at the pavilion with hot chocolate and donuts. Drivers could pull off into the parking lot then re-enter the display area driving south bound. They would then exit toward south valley road.

Other logistics:

Electricity: Commercial Generators contracted by Belnap Orthodontics.

Security: Private security to watch the displays over night contracted by Belnap Orthodontics

Restrooms: Porta-potty if park restrooms are not available

Garbage: Garbage/recycling receptacles provided for by Belnap Orthodontics

Participants: Local businesses contacted by Belnap Orthodontics and a committee created to organize the event. Participants would likely pay a nominal fee to share costs of the generators, security, and hot chocolate/donuts.

Set up- take down: The team at Belnap Orthodontics would designate set-up areas to participating businesses and would post signs for them. Set up would start Thursday, December 10th at noon (this can be adjusted as needed). Road closure would need to be coordinated for this time.

I have experienced drive-through light shows in other cities and they can be a magical thing. I want to bring this to Pocatello as a fun way to connect with the community, other businesses, and to create an event that everyone can enjoy.



 Santa & Treats Stop

 One-Way Traffic