

MINUTES

Washoe County Open Space and Regional Parks Commission December 6, 2016

Commissioner Thomas Guinn called the meeting to order at 2:30 p.m.

1. **Roll Call**

Members Present: Janet Davis, Tom Guinn, Nate Daniel, Al Sheakley, Anne Buckley and Doug Doolittle. Charles Guffey had an excused absence.

Staff Present: Dave Solaro, Eric Crump, Deputy District Attorney Michael Large, Dennis Troy, Robert Brown, Colleen Wallace, Kristy Lide and Joanna Schultz

2. **Pledge of Allegiance**

3. **Public Comments**

No Public Comment

4. **Approval of the Agenda for the Open Space and Regional Parks Commission Meeting of December 6, 2016**

Motion by Commissioner Doolittle to approve the Agenda for the Open Space and Regional Parks Commission Meeting of November 1, 2016. Second by Commissioner Sheakley. Motion carried.

5. **Approval of the Minutes for the Open Space and Regional Parks Commission Meeting of November 1, 2016**

Correction to Minutes: Members Present , change Doug Davidson to Doug Doolittle.

Motion by Commissioner Doolittle to approve the Minutes of the Open Space and Regional Parks Commission Meeting of October 4, 2016. Second by Commissioner Buckley. Motion carried.

6. **Acknowledgement and recognition of Park Operations staff for their outstanding service and contributions to Washoe County**

Dave Solaro, Director, recognized Robert Brown for 15 years of service.

7. **Review of scoring process for the Washoe Golf Course Request for Proposals (RFP)**

Dave Solaro, Director, gave a presentation.

In response to Commissioner Doolittle regarding a plan in place to collect past due amount, Director Solaro said the direction the Board of County Commissioners (BCC) gave to staff was to negotiate a License Agreement, as well as all outstanding items. Director Solaro and Deputy District Attorney, Michael Large have been working with BellMen and their attorney to come to an acceptable compensation for the outstanding fees.

They will be taking this item back to the BCC because they are so far at opposite ends of the spectrum, that Director Solaro and Mr. Large cannot accept the offer provided by BellMen. The BCC are the only ones who can accept the offer that has been provided by BellMen.

In response to Commissioner Doolittle regarding they're asking to forgive much of the debt owed, Director Solaro said that is a fair statement.

In response to Commissioner Daniel regarding the vote by the BCC, Director Solaro said the vote was 3-2. Dissenting Commissioners were Hartung and Lucey.

In response to Commissioner Sheakley regarding what happens if the contract is not approved, Director Solaro said, as he understands it, if the contract is not approved by the BCC on the 13th and resolution is not taken into account, we will no longer have a contract on January 1st. The golf course would be closed until it can be resolved. We do not have the staff to run golf operations. The time of year is favorable for this due to the window that golf can occur in January. There are limited hours during the day and potential for weather. The impact to the community would be minimal, if it is closed.

In response to Commissioner Doolittle regarding maintenance if closed, Director Solaro said we still have maintenance employees to maintain the course. We just don't have a way to operate the course.

In response to Commissioner Buckley regarding the date this contract will go before the BCC, Director Solaro said December 13th.

8. Presentation of the Wilbur D. May Center Annual Report, July 1, 2015 thru June 30, 2016

Eric Crump, Operations Division Director, gave a presentation.

In response to Commissioner Guinn regarding Arboretum operating loss, Mr. Crump said it's part of the General Fund, so there is a cash balance and would basically be eroding cash. It's a nonsustainable way of operating, but it balances out.

Commissioner Doolittle said staff has been doing a very good job over the years. Volunteers are crucial and thanked everyone.

9. Review, discussion and possible authorization for the Open Space and Regional Parks Commission Chair to sign a letter on behalf of the Commission to the Board of County Commissioners regarding Parks budget allocations (requested by Commissioner Daniel)

Commissioner Guinn read the letter and felt it was written very well. He would like staff to review the letter, as there are statistics that he would like reviewed.

Commissioner Doolittle agreed that the numbers should be proofed and Commissioner Daniel did a great job putting the letter together. Commissioner Doolittle appreciates that a percentage/number was put in the letter, as it gives the Board of County Commissioners something to focus on.

Commissioner Daniel said the rationale for the percentage/number is, last year's letter didn't have any number and really no increase in the funding. There was a significant number increase, but that was cost of living. He chose 5% as it is it's a modest number. Commissioner Daniel said the letter needs to be reworded to request a 5% increase above the cost of living adjustment.

Commissioner Buckley said why not ask for 7%. If we ask for 7% and they gave us 5% that would be great. Having a number in the letter is a great idea, but concerned they won't give us 5%.

Commissioner Doolittle said he would like staff to review the letter to see if anything was missed in the letter.

Commissioner Daniel said he takes responsibility for turning the letter in late, so staff may not have had time to review the letter.

Commissioner Buckley thanked Commissioner Daniel for putting the letter together.

Kristy Lide, Curator for the May Museum, suggested putting the amount being requested at the beginning and end of the letter. A lot of people don't always read the letter all the way through.

In response to Commissioner Guinn regarding staff reviewing the letter and bringing this item back to the January meeting, Eric Crump, Operations Division Director, said as staff we can review for factual information, but don't want to take away from the spirit of the letter.

Commissioner Guinn would like the letter reviewed by staff and to bring this item back to the January meeting.

In response to Commissioner Buckley regarding two meetings are scheduled in January, Mr. Crump recommended during Commissioner's Comments to let staff know, if they would like to have the normal January meeting and the joint meeting.

In response to Commissioner Buckley regarding can this Commission meet briefly before the joint meeting, Commissioner Daniel said the City of Reno Parks Commission is having their regular meeting before the joint meeting.

Deputy District Attorney Michael Large said that we can have a meeting before the joint meeting, but would need to follow Open Meeting Law and agendaize the meeting.

In response to Commissioner Doolittle regarding a workshop where the items are not to be ratified by the group as a whole, but an open discussion on specific items, Mr. Large said if there is a quorum of this Commission, we would have to be in compliance with Open Meeting Law. We can have certain workshops, but active participation such as making a motion or activity by this Commission would still need to be properly agendaized.

Commissioner Daniel said he is concerned about putting this off until March.

Commissioner Doolittle said we can make a motion to approve corrections provided through the Chair.

Mr. Large said a motion can be made for the Chair to sign a letter with corrections to the numbers upon staff review.

Motion by Commissioner Doolittle to authorize the Open Space and Regional Parks Commission Chair to sign a letter on behalf of the Commission to the Board of County Commissioners regarding Parks budget allocations with correction to the numbers upon verification by staff and giving the Chair discretion to edit the final draft as reflected.

Commissioner Buckley requested the first line of the letter be reorganized.

Commissioner Guinn said he will add the first line as mentioned by Ms. Lide to emphasize the 5%.

Commissioner Daniel suggested the other modification is to change the 5% to 7% and add above the cost of living adjustment.

Second by Commissioner Buckley. Motion carried.

Commissioner Guinn thanked Commissioner Daniel for drafting the letter.

10. **Discussion on possible agenda items for joint meeting between City of Reno Parks Commission, City of Sparks Parks Commission and Washoe County Open Space and Regional Parks Commission**

Eric Crump, Operations Division Director, said this item is based on a request from the City of Reno to hold another joint meeting with Reno and Sparks. After polling Commissioners for availability, January 18, 2017 at 6pm has been scheduled as the joint meeting date. They are still working on a location for the meeting.

Mr. Crump met with colleagues with City of Reno and Sparks to discuss possible topics for the meeting. Based on feedback and length of the previous meeting, staff is recommending 3-4 items. Recommended topics for the agenda are; presentation on the One Truckee River Plan, master planning effort and smoking and vaping in public parks.

Commissioner Davis works at the Northwest pool and lack of swimming pools in the area, is an issue. Mr. Crump said this was discussed at the last joint meeting. Staff also discussed this and understands it is a regional issue. It is a good item to have a discussion about if Commissioners would like it added.

Commissioner Buckley also feels the lack of pools is an issue. When she moved here there were more pools than there are now and the population has grown. She knows that pools are expensive and do not pay for themselves, which is part of the problem. There is a group in town who is trying to change this with fundraisers, but she is unsure of how successful they have been. When she has spoken to city or county officials they say that people don't want them. But when you look at the fact that Sun Valley was prepared to take over that pool and add a tax to the community that lived there, shows that there is an appetite for more pools. Legislature would have to raise the cap on the taxes.

Commissioners Davis and Buckley would like this topic added to the agenda.

Commissioner Daniel said it's a good topic and if added, there's a possibility the meeting could go long, as the public would attend the meeting as it is a big issue.

Mr. Crump said we could capture a piece of this through the master planning item. He agrees that it is a big issue and could take a lot of the meeting time. If the Commissioners would like to have a workshop dedicated to this item, staff could put something together. There are local aquatics groups that could be invited to the workshop in order to hear about their efforts. The Carson Valley Pool in Minden is a district and every property is assessed. We could invite them as well.

Commissioner Doolittle recommended not having this item on the agenda unless we are willing to add fields, ice skating etc. There are a lot of singular issues that could be discussed, but doesn't feel there is a plan in place to discuss one specific item.

Commissioner Davis said she does understand, but it is such a big issue. Northwest pool is the only pool in the area currently open to accommodate swim teams, fitness, lap swimming etc.

Commissioner Guinn said even though it's not specific, with the master planning discussion Commissioner Davis can bring this item up.

Commissioner Doolittle said one item he'd like to hear about is shared use. He would like to know if there are any current agreements.

Mr. Crump said that can be added as an agenda item. He does know that City of Sparks recently approved a Joint Use Agreement with the school district. Washoe County does not have any Joint Use Agreements active.

Commissioner Guinn would also like to add this item. It would be nice to understand them.

Deputy District Attorney Michael Large said Commissioners will have the opportunity to speak and bring up items not on the agenda.

11. Park Reports

Colleen Wallace Barnum highlighted reports.

12. Director's Report

Dave Solaro, Director, said the Board of County Commissioners approved a change order for an extension of the North Valleys Phase V project.

Next to Betsy Caughlin Donnelly Park there is a section that used to be Garden Shop Nursery. The owners of the parcel are going to City of Reno for a rezoning. A lot of people are looking to the County to try to stop this, but it is not a County issue, as it is a City of Reno item. It just happens to be a private parcel next to a County owned park. Washoe County is aware that this is going on, but there is really a place for Washoe County to step in and stop the process.

In response to Commissioner Buckley regarding use of the parcel, Director Solaro said the proposal is to put in housing.

Director Solaro expressed his appreciation to parks staff for doing a very good job with the parks, programs and providing service to the community. He appreciates the Commissioners efforts with the letter to bring awareness to the Board of County Commissioners. He has been taking with budget and budgets are still pretty flat. We're not looking at a depreciable increase in funding, but that doesn't mean we aren't going to try. Director Solaro thanked Commissioners for their service on this Commission.

13. Commissioner's Comment

Commissioner Buckley will not make the January 18 joint meeting.

Commissioner Guinn saw the dump trucks with donated Christmas trees and glad Washoe County is doing recycling again.

Commissioner Guinn requested staff to look at items that recently passed during the election to see if they affect parks and open space.

14. Public Comment

No Public Comment

15. Adjournment

3:42 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Joanna Schultz