

Draft MINUTES

Washoe County Open Space and Regional Parks Commission
June 4, 2019

Commissioner Doug Doolittle called the meeting to order at 2:30 p.m.

1. Roll Call

Members Present: Doug Doolittle, Chris Nenzel, Darla Lee, Stephanie Chen, Polly Boardman

Staff Present: Colleen Wallace Barnum, Leslie Admirand, Eric Crump, Dave Solaro, Kathy Emerson, Jennifer Purgitt

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

4. Approval of the Agenda for the Open Space and Regional Parks Commission Meeting of June 4, 2019

Motion by Commissioner Boardman to approve the Agenda for the Open Space and Regional Parks Commission Meeting of June 4, 2019. Second by Commissioner Nenzel. Motion carried.

5. Approval of the Minutes for the Open Space and Regional Parks Commission Meeting of May 7, 2019

Motion by Commissioner Nenzel to approve the Minutes for the Open Space and Regional Parks Commission Meeting of May 7, 2019. Second by Commissioner Chen. Motion carried.

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

There were no acknowledgments at today's meeting.

7. Eagle Scout Presentation

There was not a presentation at today's meeting.

8. Presentation by Carly Borchard on Verdi Barnwood Project at Crystal Peak Park

Colleen Wallace Barnum, Parks Operations Superintendent, introduced Carly Borchard with the Verdi Community Council. Ms. Borchard gave a presentation on the Verdi Barnwood Project. The original barn was torn down and some of the wood was saved. A replica will be built at Crystal Peak Park using some of the original barnwood. Ms. Wallace Barnum added that through discussions with Ms. Borchard and the Verdi Community Council, they would like to create, along with Barbara Ting at the Verdi Historical Center, an interpretive panel that would go through some of the history of the barn and show how important it was to the community.

Commissioner Nenzel asked at which part of the park they are planning to build the barn? Ms. Wallace Barnum answered that there is a bridge going under Highway 40, it will be on that side where the ponds are. Commissioner Nezel also asked if there are plans to make the barn a historical monument? Ms. Borchard replied that they are looking into researching the process and potentially making this happen. Commissioner Lee asked if this was a shelter house? Colleen Wallace Barnum replied that the replica will be much smaller than the original barn. Ms. Borchard said the dimensions are 8x10. Commissioner Doolittle asked if it is an open-walled gazebo? Ms. Borchard replied yes. He also asked what elements will be comprised of the historical barnwood? Ms. Borchard replied that it would be mostly the façade, not the structural material. Commissioner Doolittle commented that the visual impact will be significant, it should blend with what is already existing. He thanked Ms. Borchard for bringing the project to the Commission.

9. Presentation, discussion and possible recommendation to the Board of County Commissioners for approval of an Easement Agreement and Easement Deed between Washoe County and Spanish Springs Associates, L.P., for a slope and temporary construction easement totaling + 14,717 square feet on APN 532-091-12.

Sophia Kirschenman, Park Planner, gave a presentation on the Gator Swamp Park Easement Agreement and Deed. Commissioner Doolittle asked if the slope was going down into the park and whether the slope was going to be 3:1 across the whole area? Ms. Kirschenman answered yes to both questions. He asked about drainage and whether the land would be treated to eliminate dust and erosion. Eric Crump, Operations Division Director, said all of the standard requirements - drainage, dust abatement, erosion would be addressed with the grading permit. Commissioner Nenzel asked if the grading area is to be to the west and north, labeled Sand Dune Drive? Ms. Kirschenman said that there is a road and they would just be crossing over it. The shaded portion of the slide in the presentation is the proposed addition to the existing park.

Motion by Commissioner Nenzel to recommend to the Board of County Commissioners approval of the Easement Agreement and Easement Deed between Washoe County and Spanish Springs, Associates, L.P. Second by Commissioner Chen. Motion carried.

10. Presentation, discussion, and possible recommendation to Community Services Department staff to negotiate an agreement to exchange Washoe County land (a portion of APN 038-100-31) for land owned by the River Bend Mobile Home Park and Storage, LLC (portions of APNs 038-112-12, 038-112-04, 038-112-03, and 038-112-02) for presentation and possible approval by the Washoe County Board of County Commissioners.

Sophia Kirschenman, Park Planner, gave a presentation on the Riverbend Boundary Line Adjustment. Staff are hoping to get feedback about support for this concept and whether the Commission would like staff to move forward with executing a boundary line adjustment. Staff would also like feedback about whether there are particular parts of the proposal the Commission supports or disagrees with and what the Commission would like incorporated in the agreement.

Present at the meeting were Mark Bruce, the applicant's representative, and Rob Fitzgerald, the applicant's manager. Mr. Bruce talked about the benefits to the County from this project. The County would receive land closer to the river. It is his understanding that the County is looking for riverfront property for parks purposes. The project will not cost the County anything, they will take

care of all costs. The applicant will make up the difference to the County if the appraisals vary. The applicant is looking to work with the County in good faith.

Commissioner Boardman asked if the land owned by Washoe County has ever been used for anything else? Eric Crump, Operations Division Director, said there is a large easement for a sewer line currently being used by SNC in connection with a temporary project to bring a water line under the Truckee River, contracted by TMWA. There has been no development that they are aware of. Commissioner Boardman asked if there is a reason why the river bank is not desirable for the applicant? Mr. Crump replied that the applicant is looking for developable land.

Commissioner Nenzel commented that this looks like a neutral thing for the County. Given the steepness of the river bank, it looks like the County will not gain anything but won't lose anything either. Mr. Crump noted that going downstream, around the bend, the bank is fairly flat with good river access. That's where a potential parking lot would be.

Commissioner Doolittle asked if potentially in the future, the County will develop pathways or parking to accommodate river users? Mr. Crump answered yes, that this exchange allows access from a public road along a nice stretch of river. Commissioner Doolittle asked about SQ1, whether anyone has talked with the State. Mr. Bruce answered that Charlie Donohue with State Lands is supportive of this project and the boundary line adjustment. Commissioner Doolittle was concerned about lawsuits or reimbursement of funds since this was not identified initially. Mr. Bruce answered that this would all be negotiated as part of the agreement.

Motion by Commissioner Chen to recommend to the Board of County Commissioners that Community Services Department staff negotiate an agreement to exchange Washoe County land (a portion of APN 038-100-31) for land owned by the River Bend Mobile Home Park and Storage, LLC (portions of APNs 038-112-12, 038-112-04, 038-112-03, and 038-112-02). Second by Commissioner Boardman. Motion carried.

11. Discussion and possible action on scheduling a Parks Master Plan Workshop

Eric Crump, Operations Division Director, let the Commission know that Wood Rodgers, the consultant working on the Parks Master Plan would like to conduct a workshop with the Commissioners. They will present about a 90% draft plan and gather feedback from the Commission. The draft final plan would come back to the Commission at the August meeting with ultimately being adopted by the County Commissioners in late August. After discussion, it was determined that staff would poll the Commissioners to see if they are available for the workshop at the regularly scheduled July meeting – July 2, 2019, 2:30 p.m.

12. **Program/Park of the Month**

Reno Food Systems: Colleen Wallace Barnum, Parks Operations Superintendent, introduced Lindsey Langsdale and Neil Bertrando, of Reno Food Systems. They gave a presentation on their park farm at Betsy Caughlin Donnelly Park. They added that they sell produce to local restaurants. They have a farm stand where they sell anything left over. They also donate produce, mostly to St. Vincent's.

Commissioner Nenzel said it was nice to see that the pasture was being used for growing things. He asked if the stand was still going to be on Wednesdays this year. Ms. Langsdale said they will have a Wednesday farm stand, the Riverside farmers market on Thursdays and potentially a second farm stand day. They are also working on a mobile farm stand.

Commissioner Lee commented that this is a wonderful project. Commissioner Boardman asked where they are getting their funding? Ms. Langsdale answered that they are a non-profit. They have a grant from the Department of Agriculture that pays for a lot of the labor. They are continuously fund raising and they have applied for some other grant funding. They receive private donations and in-kind donations from local businesses. Commissioner Doolittle thanked Lindsey and Neil for their dedication and for making the land useful for others.

Ms. Wallace Barnum added that they partner with AACT High School, where they get a lot of their interns. There are also a lot of school kids that walk through this area and are watching gardening happening. These are added benefits to the community.

Dragons: The Lost World:

Kristy Lide, Wilbur D. May Museum Curator, gave a presentation on some of the history of the exhibits and their most recent exhibit – Dragons: The Lost World. Future exhibits are: 2020 Animation Academy and 2021 Dinosaurs. The Commissioners thanked Ms. Lide for her presentation.

13. Parks Reports

Eric Crump highlighted the park reports. He highlighted a couple of things – the Celtic festival was held at Bartley Ranch on May 18, with roughly 1,500 people attending. Bower’s Mansion tours opened on May 11. Rancho San Rafael hosted the 10th annual Polio Purple Pinky Trail Run on May 4, about 1,500 people participated. The Lazy 5 summer music series will begin June 12th. One highlight that is not listed is that AB84 passed at the Nevada State Legislature.

Commissioner Nenzel asked where the County was in reference to the smoke free parks and signage. Mr. Crump replied that the County Commissioners supported the concept of becoming smoke free. Currently they are smoke free through a director’s update. Signage has been ordered and they have consistent signage with the cities of Reno and Sparks. There will be an update to Chapter 95.

Commissioner Doolittle asked where most of the volunteers come from. Mr. Crump answered that they get mostly corporate volunteers and some from the university.

14. Director’s Report

Eric Crump highlighted Board of County Commissioner items that would be of interest to the Commission.

Commissioner Doolittle asked about the Swan Lake project. Mr. Crump replied that there was significant flooding. Most of the trail system is under water. Assuming that the water recedes, the trails will still be there. They are trying to keep the boardwalks protected and in place right now.

15. Commissioner’s Comments

Commissioner Boardman asked if there are emails that go out to the community about exhibits or activities. There are email distribution lists that the community can sign up for on the Washoe County website.

Commissioner Nenzel said he and his dog went on the Hike for Hounds that Natural Paws put on at Galena. He thanked staff for their role in the event. He hopes that it will continue for many more years.

Commissioner Lee thanked the May Museum for what they do with the Water Color Society and she hopes that they will continue with it.

Commissioner Doolittle would like the Commission to be notified about “future projects, ribbon cuttings, dedications, new exhibits”. Just a general email out would be beneficial.

16. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

Meeting adjourned at 3:39 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Emerson, Recording Secretary

Approved by Commission in session on July 2, 2019.

Doug Doolittle, Chairman