

Draft MINUTES

Washoe County Open Space and Regional Parks Commission
November 5, 2019

Commissioner Chen called the meeting to order at 2:31 p.m. She introduced and welcomed the two new Commissioners; Heidi Anderson and Greg Shorts.

1. Roll Call

Members Present: Stephanie Chen, Heidi Anderson, Polly Boardman, Darla Lee, Jennifer Oliver, Greg Shorts

Staff Present: Eric Crump, Colleen Wallace-Barnum, Leslie Admirand, Sophia Kirschenman, Kathy Emerson

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 November 5, 2019

Motion by Commissioner Boardman to approve the Agenda for the Open Space and Regional Parks Commission Meeting of November 5, 2019. Second by Commissioner Oliver. Motion carried.

5. Approval of the Minutes for the Open Space and Regional Parks Commission Meeting of October 1, 2019

Motion by Commissioner Oliver to approve the Minutes for the Open Space and Regional Parks Commission Meeting of October 1, 2019. Second by Commissioner Boardman. Motion carried.

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

There were no acknowledgements at today's meeting.

7. Eagle Scout Presentation

There was not a presentation at today's meeting.

8. Presentation on Washoe Golf Course and Sierra Golf Course Operations

Eric Crump, Operations Division Director, introduced Mike Mazzaferri with Mazz Golf Management who will give a presentation on golf operations for Sierra Sage Golf Course. Washoe Golf was unable to make the meeting and will be rescheduled to the December meeting.

Mike Mazzaferri, Golf Professional and Manager of Sierra Sage Golf Course gave a presentation on operations at Sierra Sage. The year started off below average because of the weather – they are hoping to end up with an average year for 2019. There may be a small rate increase in 2020. Mr. Mazzaferri listed some of the promotional events they participate in during the year. Maintenance focuses on greens, tees, and fairways. They purchased an Air 2G2 machine which has helped the greens. They have done some improvements and clean-up to the pond and stocked it with some native fish, which has attracted some bigger birds. They have started a turf nursery to have turf for patching. Some of the programs and hosted events are: PGA Junior

League, First Tee for kids, they host some high school programs, Nevada Wolf Pack teams practice at Sierra Sage, individual and group instruction, a veteran's program, men's and women's clubs.

Commissioner Shorts asked if they have a veteran's discount. Mr. Mazzaferri answered that they have a \$3 discount off the normal rate and a \$4 discount for nine holes. They are going to have the PGA Hope for Veterans and they are going to start a veteran's league on Wednesday evenings this year.

Commissioner Lee asked about the First Tee program at Wildcreek Golf Course. Mr. Mazzaferri answered that Wildcreek, going forward, will have a par three course and maybe a regulation nine but no driving range. They will need an area to teach if they are going to have First Tee.

9. **Presentation on May Center Annual Report**

Colleen Wallace Barnum, Park Operations Superintendent presented and highlighted significant items on the 2019 May Center Annual Report. The Wilbur D. May Foundation has been supporting the May Center since 1983. Staff and the Foundation have an annual meeting to review the accomplishments each fiscal year (July 1 to June 30). Attendance increased by 53 % due to the Dragon Lights Reno event. The Arboretum Educator position increased outreach to children from 500 to 2,151 in FY 2019. Greenhouse operations improved with a new floor, security fencing, and staff/volunteer assistance. They grew 5,000 plants for schools, parks, and the May Arboretum Society plant sale. Donations are increasing, rentals are the same as the last two fiscal years, the money earned increased due to a fee increase this year. The May Arboretum Society donated almost \$175,000 this FY. Volunteer hours were 5,098 at a value of \$114,973.

The May Museum has on-going exhibits throughout the year to keep the Museum vibrant; the main exhibit was The Lost World of Dragons. Others included Small Expressions and New Directions. A significant statistic is the gift store with \$64,000 in gross sales, a huge increase.

In total revenue, the May Foundation provides about 45 % of the revenue. The majority of expenses are staff related. The County does also support the May Center through its general fund, this is important to show the May Foundation.

Commissioner Shorts asked if there was a reason for the slight drop off in volunteer hours? Is this something we need to be promoting more? Ms. Wallace Barnum answered that they are going to try something new in 2020. In the past, there has been a six week training for volunteers with a cost associated with it. The fee was waived if the volunteer worked a certain number of hours. Over the last couple of years, it was found that this was not retaining the volunteer hours. They are going to try having monthly training at no cost to see if this will get better numbers for the volunteers.

Ms. Wallace Barnum noted that their annual meeting with the May Foundation is in April of every year. They completed this report well in advance of the meeting. They will have an opportunity to request additional funding for special projects.

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

-Trails and Trailheads within Washoe County Parks – Colleen Wallace Barnum

Colleen Wallace Barnum, Park Operations Superintendent, gave a presentation on the Trails and Trailheads within Washoe County. There are 166 miles of trails within Washoe County. She went over the resources on the Washoe County website which provides a lot of information about the parks and trails. She commented on the trails challenge which is an ongoing program throughout the year – one that Commissioner Jung supports for Washoe County employees. There is a printed "trails guide" available.

They are available throughout the community and the department has them available for anyone who would like one. A trails guide is also available on the web which list trails in the area within Washoe County and outside of Washoe County. A lot of the trails and trailheads were created with funding through WC1 or SQ1. Ms. Barnum presented information on the individual trails and trailheads.

Commissioner Oliver asked if there has been a major impact to and who maintains the restrooms at East Shore Memorial Point? Ms. Barnum replied that State parks maintains those restrooms. She knows the impacts have been huge but has no numbers yet.

Commissioner Shorts asked if they are going to do an update to the trails guide, to include some of the newer trails. Ms. Barnum will find out if there are plans for an updated guide.

Commissioner Anderson said she attended the Transportation and Trails Summit and they mentioned that Washoe County was planning on taking care of snow removal on the East Shore Trail. Ms. Barnum had been told that Washoe County was not responsible for the snow removal. They will try to get more information in this.

11. Parks Reports

Colleen Wallace Barnum highlighted the park reports. Barks and Badges at Bartley Ranch Regional Park on October 12th was a success. Approximately 2,000 spectators attended. There was a civil war re-enactment at Bower's Mansion on October 19th with about 200 people attending. There was a ribbon cutting for a new art installation at Crystal Peak Park with about 70 people attending. They will be teaming up with the Roads Division in December to cut and distribute Christmas trees to some special families including military families and foster families. Reno Lithia Subaru donated trees and staff to help with planting – 25 trees were planted at Lazy 5 along the soccer fields. Meet the turkeys will be held Saturday November 9th at Rancho San Rafael Park. The regional cross country meet will be held at Rancho San Rafael with 800 racers anticipated.

12. Director's Report

Sophia Kirschenman updated the BCC items for October. On October 8th the Board approved the appointment of our two new Park Commissioners, Heidi Anderson and Greg Shorts. She welcomed them to the commission and let them know we are grateful for their service and look forward to their contributions, guidance, and input. On October 15th, the Board accepted cash donations of \$12,970.62 and in-kind donations of \$11,764.07 from various businesses, organizations and individuals for regional parks and open space programs and facilities.

Ms. Kirschenman said the Eric Crump, Operations Division Director, wanted the commission to know that there will be some action items at the next Park Commission meeting.

13. Commissioner's Comments

Commissioner Anderson said she is excited to be on the commission. She is sad she missed the civil war re-enactment but will be excited for next year. She thought staff did an amazing job on the art trail ribbon cutting.

Commissioner Lee asked how to get an item on the agenda. Commissioner Chen suggested talking with Colleen Wallace Barnum, Eric Crump, or Kathy Emerson.

14. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

Meeting adjourned at 3:46 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Emerson, Recording Secretary

Approved by Commission in session on December 3, 2019.

Doug Doolittle, Chairman