

Draft MINUTES

Washoe County Open Space and Regional Parks Commission
December 3, 2019

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

1. Roll Call

Members Present: Doug Doolittle, Stephanie Chen, Heidi Anderson, Polly Boardman, Thomas Guinn, Chris Nenzel, Greg Shorts

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

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Public Comments

David Von Seggern, Representing Sierra Club Great Basin Group, spoke in support of the Truckee Meadows Trails Initiative that would be presenting during item #11. Mr. Von Seggern stated that his group was one of the biggest organized users of the trails in the Truckee Meadows with almost 2500 members. They are big advocates for the Truckee Meadows Trails Initiative and would like to thank Mark Kimbrough and his associate for their efforts. The Sierra Club has put in hundreds of volunteer hours towards the efforts to map non-motorized trails and trail heads. They recognize that the importance and benefits of the trail system to draw people and businesses to the Truckee Meadows. The Sierra Club advocates for Washoe County Parks Commission to recommend to the Board of County Commissioners to support and help fund the Truckee Meadows Trails Initiative.

4. Approval of the Agenda for the Open Space and Regional Parks Commission Meeting of December 3, 2019

Motion by Commissioner Guinn to approve the Agenda for the Open Space and Regional Parks Commission Meeting of December 3, 2019. Second by Commissioner Shorts. Motion carried.

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

Motion by Commissioner Chen to approve the Minutes for the Open Space and Regional Parks Commission Meeting of November 5, 2019. Second by Commissioner Anderson, Commissioner Doolittle abstained as he did not attend the November 5, 2019 meeting. 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

Carter Rockwell, introduced by Andy Brown, is an eagle scout in the Southern Reno area. Carter Rockwell organized efforts to help build a fence and conduct a small clean-up for the Galena Creek Park. This fence will help protect the wildlife in the area. Carter gathered over 70 volunteers to help build,

stain, and install the fence. Carter Rockwell received support from Home Depot, Tholl Fencing, and donations from the community.

Andy Brown emphasized that this fence being built helped with deferred maintenance that Galena Creek Park has endured. Commissioner Doolittle thanked Carter Rockwell for his project and for volunteering. Commissioner Nenzel asked who donated the materials. Carter Rockwell stated that the Home Depot provided some of the safety equipment such as gloves and glasses which were later donated to the Galena Creek Park to reuse in the future. Commissioner Shorts thanked Carter Rockwell and asked him what his biggest challenge was. Carter Rockwell replied that he learned a lot about public speaking and was overwhelmed by the support he received from so many community members.

8. Presentation, discussion, and possible recommendation to the Board of County Commissioners to approve an easement agreement and easement deed between Washoe County and TMWA for a water facilities easement totaling ±3,734 square feet and a temporary construction easement totaling ±8,206 square feet on APN 152-430-18, part of Arrowcreek Open Space.

Sophia Kirschenman presented both easement agenda items #8 and #9 at the same time noting that they would need to be considered and voted on separately. The proposed easements are located within Arrowcreek Open Space. Truckee Meadows Water Authority, TMWA, requests two water facilities easements on Washoe County's Arrowcreek Open Space property which are necessary to bring South Truckee Meadows General Improvement District, STIMGID, 5 and 6 Wells into compliance with current Nevada Administrative Codes. STIMGID 5 Well would impact two parcels, APN 152-051-22 and 150-121-25 with a permanent water facilities easement of +/- 967 square feet for the negotiated value of \$967.00. The cost of an appraisal for the permanent easement would exceed the cost of the easements themselves, and staff determined after researching similar easement appraisals from 2017 that the price negotiated would amount to \$1/square foot. The STIMGID 6 Well would impact APN 152-430-18 with a permanent Water facilities easement of +/- 3,734 square feet for the negotiated value of \$3,734.00.

A new culvert pipe will be installed from STMGID 5 Well underneath a portion of the existing trail. Construction would take a maximum of 2 weeks sometime during the months of January and February 2020. Construction hours would be limited, and trail users would utilize a detour to reconnect to the existing Thomas Creek Trail while work is being conducted for the easements. NDEP permits are required and TWMA will revegetate disturb areas outside the permanent proposed easements.

Commissioner Nenzel asked how approving this easement would allow TMWA to come into compliance. TMWA representative, Kelly McGlynn, Senior Design Engineer for TMWA, stated that Nevada Administrative Code requires a pump-to-waste feature for all wells. These easements would allow the wells to be retrofitted with the pump-to-waste ability, disposing of the water into Thomas Creek which they have a dominus permit to do. Though currently out of compliance, TMWA is not currently paying a penalty.

Commissioner Guinn asked if the rock-line channels flow directly into Thomas Creek. Mr. McGlynn stated that the rock-lines would go to the edge of the creek and preventative measures would be taken to prevent erosion.

Commissioner Anderson asked questions in regards to the revegetation measures that would occur. Mr.

McGlynn stated that NDEP requires that revegetation be maintained for multiple seasons until the area has been revegetated. Commissioner Anderson asked additional questions regarding the damage or impact of the current trail which Mr. McGlynn replied that the trail would in fact be impacted but would be restored to pre-construction status at the completion of the project.

Commissioner Doolittle asked staff regarding impacts to the park with regards to construction workers utilizing parking spots originally designated for the public. Park Planner, Sophia Kirschenman, noted that signs could be created to lessen the impacts of workers taking up public parking spots, but that there are existing TMWA easements that could be utilized by the workers as well. Ms. Kirschenman also noted to Commissioner Anderson's revegetation comment that the agreement specifically specified a 1 year and 3-year-revegetation plan which required additional hydroseeding if revegetation did not reach 100% after 3 years.

A motion by Commissioner Guinn to recommend to the Board of County Commissioners, approval of an easement agreement and easement deed between Washoe County and TMWA for a water facilities easement totaling ±3,734 square feet and a temporary construction easement totaling ±8,206 square feet on APN 152-430-18, part of Arrowcreek Open Space [at the negotiated value of \$3,734]. Second by Commissioner Shorts. Motion carried.

9. Presentation, discussion and possible recommendation to the Board of County Commissioners to approve an easement agreement and easement deed between Washoe County and TMWA for a water facilities easement totaling ±967 square feet and a temporary construction easement totaling ±2,585 square feet on APNs 152-051-22 and 150-121-25, part of Arrowcreek Open Space [at the negotiated value of \$967].

Sophia Kirschenman presented both easement agenda items #8 and #9 during item #8.

Before voting on item #9, Commissioner Guinn asked if the sites would be fenced in. TMWA representative, Kelly McGlynn, stated that the sites would not be fenced in permanently.

Motion by Commissioner Anderson to recommend to the Board of County Commissioners approval of an easement agreement and easement deed between Washoe County and TMWA for a water facilities easement totaling ±967 square feet and a temporary construction easement totaling ±2,585 square feet on APNs 152-051-22 and 150-121-25, part of Arrowcreek Open Space [at the negotiated value of \$967.00. Second by Commissioner Boardman. Motion carried.

10. Presentation on Washoe Golf Course Operations

Eric Crump, Director of Operations with Community Services, introduced Washoe Golf Course General Manager, Darin Menate, and Director of Golf, Greg Wenzel, who presented a 2019 update on Washoe Golf Course. Total 2019 revenues are projected to be up 10% with huge success in league play, Monday Ladies golf league, and additional in-house events and tournaments. Improvements to the course include aerification of fairways, irrigation system repair, new tee boxes, and re-seeding areas of the course. Fees will increase by \$1 in 2020, but Washoe Golf Course will remain one of the most affordable courses in the area. The 2020 Marketing Plan will include a focus on the junior programs, emails, social

media, the use of the Washoe County phone app with “Push Notifications,” and partnership with local craft breweries. Additional advertising to include Facebook, Google, and radio promotions. New ideas for 2020 including building League Play by shortening the course to 7 holes while expanding the Monday League play from April to September, creating a weekend league, building a bigger junior golf presence, and possibly installing a permanent disc golf course which is subject to approval. A mobile disc golf course is currently a success at Washoe Golf Course.

2020 Washoe Golf Course improvements include continued irrigation repair, bunker improvement, rebuild a nurse green, repair old and torn netting, rebuild 2 tee boxes, and repair the floors in the restaurant.

Commissioner Doolittle and Commissioner Guinn thanked Mr. Menate and Mr. Wenzel for their presentations and voiced their appreciation for their work.

Commissioner Shorts inquired about the survey of golf fees and if that included the cart, which they do. Commissioner Shorts asked why Washoe Golf Course would maintain the lower end of the fee structure. Mr. Wenzel replied that the course is for the public and it is within their contract to keep fees “reasonable.” Golf is currently “flat” with regards to participation and an increase in fees, even \$5, would result in a decline in participation. Commissioner Shorts commented that the association with craft breweries was not necessarily Washoe Golf Course’s demographic and would they have more success with local wine companies. Mr. Wenzel agreed, but noted that Washoe County Golf Course is trying to encourage a younger demographic. The local breweries already appear on tap in the restaurant and the tournaments are an extension of the existing partnership. Commissioner Shorts noted that the disc golf was currently occurring at no charge but that the disc golf group operates at zero cost to Washoe County.

Commissioner Boardman inquired about marketing and advertising specifically to attract new golfers or citizens who were unaware of the Washoe County Golf App. Mr. Wenzel stated that radio advertising has the furthest reach and social media advertises links more towards people who frequent other golf networks.

Commissioner Shorts asked if Washoe Golf Course had any Veterans discounts noting that they are a big market. Washoe Golf Course offers discounts on Veterans Day, but they do not offer everyday discounts.

Commissioner Doolittle asked about location of disc golf on the fairways. Mr. Menate stated that the disc golfers play to the right or left of the fairways.

11. Presentation on Truckee Meadows Trails – Mark Kimbrough

Colleen Wallace Barnum, Parks Operations Superintendent, introduced Mark Kimbrough and Cheryl Surface stating that the Truckee Meadows Trails Plan has been supported through the Truckee Meadows Planning Agency and the Economic Development Authority of Western Nevada (EDAWN). Mark Kimbrough started the presentation stating that there are six land management agencies that need to come together to allow for the Trails Plan to move forward including the trail users, public support, business support, planning agency, conversation non-profits, and non-profit community trail

organizations. With financial support from EDawn, Truckee Meadows Trails Plan has been able to formulize a name, brand themselves and establish a new website. They receive support from BLM, Forest Service, City of Reno, City of Sparks and Washoe County who all met with them privately to move forward with the plan. Truckee Meadows Trails (TMT) utilized volunteer support to inventory all the trails in the Truckee Meadows. Four workshops and several website surveys were held to accumulate public feedback. Goals of the surveys and mapping are to have complete trail connectivity in the community. Cheryl Surface spoke about formulizing a regional trails plan and the intricacies of accomplishing that. All agency partners helped compile all their GIS technology to gather all the information necessary for mapping the trails. All financial support has come from EDawn, the Great Basin Institute, and land management agencies, but none from the public. There is a draft plan available to include formulizing a TMT Working Group to help coordinate all interested parties and will be housed through the Great Basin Institute. TMT is seeking support from the Citizen Committees and Governing Bodies through letters of support and for a long-term funding source to have a "Trail Liaison." TMT would like to encourage planning agencies to incorporate the TMT Plan into their Master Plans and Codes. The 1st Draft of the TMT Plan in Spring 2020 for public, business, and agency comments and input moving forward for a regional collaborative premiere sustainable trail system. Ms. Surface reiterated that TMT is looking for funding opportunities for the "Trail Liaison" position if that is a possibility in the future. Ms. Surface thanked Mike Kimbrough, Joanne Lowden and Colleen Wallace Barnum and Heidi Anderson for being a part of the Working Group as well as Tahoe Pyramid Trail's support for TMT.

Public comment was heard from REI's Reno Store Manager, Dean DeGidio, urging the Commission to support TMT Plan.

Commissioner Nenzel asked what the "restricted access" options the public was asking for in the surveys. Mr. Kimbrough stated that there is a concern surrounding the fact that there is enough use on the trail that conflicts are starting between trail users, mountain bikers, hikers, pets, etc. There are ways to design and regulate to minimize conflict. Commissioner Shorts stated his hopes that mountain bikers would not be excluded from the trails as they are the main source of building trails.

Commissioner Shorts asked what the plan was of TMT to seek funding from local businesses. Ms. Surface stated that they are working with Renown for funding and seeking additional funding, but that a big part would come from the agencies. The "Trail Liaison" position would help reach out to the bigger businesses that look to the "quality of life" in Truckee meadows to attract employees and to help their business grow. Mr. Kimbrough spoke to the fact that there are many funding opportunities that can be mirrored from other communities and also commented the mountain bikers were not being excluded as they are a major part of the trail-building efforts and were in fact the ones who brought up the trail conflict concerns. All the data gathered will be available on the TMT website. Ms. Surface wished to thank the agencies for all the GIS data and efforts to help TMT with ability read and analyze the data coming from several different sources and received in different formats.

Commissioner Anderson thanked TMT for their efforts and asked what more was needed from them at this time. Mr. Kimbrough asked that the commission review the information provided and hoped that the commission would help spread the word and speak positively to the plan or help make connections in the community. Commissioner Doolittle thanked everyone again and asked how the Regional Open Space and Natural Resource Plan align with TMT's goals. Ms. Surface stated the language is broad, but

the plans speaks to having a collaborative effort and having connective trails in the area. Mr. Kimbrough stated that the Truckee Meadows Regional Plan has a short section on trails as well, but their next step will include a natural resource plan in which the trails systems will be added.

12. Presentation on Pesticide use in Parks and Open Space – Coleen Wallace Barnum and Joanne Lowden

Colleen Wallace Barnum, Parks Operations Superintendent, and Joanne Lowden, Washoe County Parks Resource Planner, presented Washoe County Parks and Open Space's use of Pesticides per the request of Commissioner Oliver. Ms. Barnum presented on developed areas and Ms. Lowden presented on Open Space. Ms. Barnum reported that all efforts that use pesticides are governed to the Federal level and the Environmental Protection Agency, EPA, classifies uses and states that "the label is the law." State Laws, Nevada Revised Statutes, NRS CH444 and D86 requires certified applicator for all restricted-use pesticides, and park staff is required to have a "government" applicator's license issued by the Nevada Department of Agriculture (NDA). Washoe County is following all regulations put forth by the EPA and NRS. Pesticide use must be in compliance with the Nevada Department of Environmental Protection (NDEP) Stormwater Permit, which is shared between the City of Reno, the City of Sparks, and Washoe County. Washoe County issues reports for Stormwater compliance regularly. Licensed staff include all maintenance supervisors, the Assistant Horticulturist, park maintenance workers and the Natural Resource Planner. All pesticides are used according to the label provided on the pesticide. Treated areas of public parks were shown on aerial maps.

Joanne Lowden presented on the open space areas to include noxious weeds and their definition. Noxious weeds are categorized and treated appropriately. Cheatgrass does not appear on the list of noxious weeds as it is too widespread in Nevada to control and is no longer considered "noxious" as it cannot be controlled. Inventories were conducted in Washoe County open spaces and area maps were provided to showcase how widespread the issues are with regards to noxious weeds. Weed control methods include hand picking, mowing, chemical use, biological methods or natural enemies, cultural methods such as mulches, and preventative methods including weed-free seed/mulch or equipment clearing. Volunteers provide key labor and clean-up efforts in controlling weeds. Wildfires play a major role as weeds tend to take over in the affected areas. Funding and staff resources are limited and cannot reseed or plant before the weeds take over, but efforts are continually being made. Moving forward, they are working with partners to achieve non-profit status with the Washoe-Storey Cooperative Weed Management Group which will help create better regional partnerships and locate funding opportunities. Washoe County has also hired Resource Concepts Inc., which will help develop an Integrated Vegetation Management Plan to identify best practices moving forward.

Commissioner Doolittle stated that "upstream properties" bring in whitetop to the area and asked what is being done to hold private property owners accountable. Ms. Wallace Barnum stated that property owners are held to the same standards per NRS and are sent the same letters. Washoe County focuses on the parks where water sources are bringing in the weeds/seeds and attempt to abate issues there. Commissioner Shores asked if pesticides were being used in the parks in addition to herbicides. Ms. Wallace Barnum stated that "pesticides" is an over-arching term for herbicides, rodenticides and fungicides. They are all methods to get rid of a pest. Commissioner Shores also asked is more ecological pesticides were being used or more "green" efforts. Ms. Wallace Barnum stated that all the pesticides used can be obtained at a local Home Depot, but that staff continually looks towards those greener efforts. Commissioner Doolittle thanked both staff members.

13. Program / Park of the Month

Christmas Trees for Special Families – Andy Brown.

Andy Brown, Park Ranger with Washoe County Parks and Open Space, presented on the annual program with Park Operations to provide Christmas Trees to special families in the community. The program began in 2012 as a part of the Fuels Reduction Project at Galen Creek Regional Park. It originally partnered with Washoe County and the Nevada Division of Forestry along with Washoe County Human Services and the National Guard. This volunteer-based program and event pairs 50-60 trees with foster families and active-duty members of the Nevada Air and Army National Guard. Today the Regional Parks works with the Roads and Operations staff within the Washoe County Community Services Department to harvest and transport the trees to San Rafael Regional Park for distribution to families in need. Since 2012 over 400 local families have been provided a tree. Mr. Brown gave special thanks to all who help annual with the program and highlighted a letter of recognition received in 2016 by both US. Senator Dean Heller and US Congressman Mark Amodei in appreciation of the program.

Commissioner Doolittle and Commissioner Nenzel thanked Andy Brown for his presentation and for the programs.

14. Parks Reports

Colleen Wallace Barnum, Parks Operations Superintendent, did not have any announcements or highlights and asked if the commissioners had any questions regarding the reports submitted. The commissioners did not have any comments.

15. Director's Report to include updates on Board of County Commissioners actions, future meeting locations/Commissioner field trips, community sponsorship requests, department updates and community partnerships

Dave Solaro, Assistant County Manager, presented a preview of the Wild Creek Golf Course re-design plan that the Board of County Commissioners (BCC) will hear as an agenda item at the December 10th, 2019 BCC meeting. The design plan would allow for a par-three nine-hole course to remain in operation during the construction of the remaining nine holes, club house, parking lot area, and re-alignment of the Orr ditch. While the commissioners could not comment on the preview of the BCC agenda item, Commissioner Doolittle asked for a presentation of the BCC's decision in the future which Mr. Solaro agreed to. Commissioner Doolittle thanked Dave Solaro.

16. Commissioner's Comments: (This item limited to announcements or topics/issues proposed for future workshops/agendas.)

Commissioner Chris Nenzel commented that tomorrow night, December 4th, 2019, at the City of Reno City Council meeting, the council would hear a proposal for the Reno Gateway Business Park near Mayberry, 4th Street, and exit 7 off of I-80. Washoe County land would need to be annexed to approve

this plan. Commissioner Nenzel sited major conflict that would occur between cyclists and semi-trucks if the plan was approved. The proposed area for the project would increase semi-truck traffic in a highly utilized local bicycle route. He urged the commissioners to recommend that the City deny the project. Washoe County Open Space would also be affected as a large portion of the land that was recently “swapped” with the City would be used for the project and Washoe County may have difficulty in the future linking trails along the Truckee River.

17. Public Comments:

There were no public comments.

18. Adjournment:

Meeting adjourned at 4:33pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Johnna Chism, Office Support Specialist

Approved by Commission in session on January 7, 2020.

Chair