

## MINUTES

### Washoe County Open Space and Regional Parks Commission

Tuesday, January 5, 2021

The Washoe County Open Space and Regional Parks Commission met in a scheduled session on Tuesday, January 5, 2021, in the Washoe County Commission Chambers, 1001 East Ninth Street, Reno, Nevada.

No members of the public were allowed in the Commission Chambers due to concerns for public safety resulting from the COVID-19 emergency and pursuant to the Governor of Nevada's Declaration of Emergency Directive 006 Section 1 which suspends the requirement in NRS 241.023(1)(b) that there be a physical location designated for meetings of public bodies where members of the public are permitted to attend and participate. This meeting was held by teleconference only.

The meeting was televised live and replayed on Washoe Channel at:

<https://www.washoecounty.us/mgrsoff/Communications/wctv-live.php> also on YouTube at:

<https://www.youtube.com/user/WashoeCountyTV>

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

#### 1. **Roll Call**

**Members Present via Zoom:** Doug Doolittle, Stephanie Chen, Jennifer Oliver, Darla Lee, Greg Shorts, Heidi Anderson

**Members Absent:** Thomas Guinn, Chris Nenzel

**Staff Present via Zoom:** Eric Crump, Dave Solaro, Colleen Wallace-Barnum, Lindsay Liddell, Kathy Emerson, Katy Stark, Bryan Harrower, Celia Walker

2. **Pledge of Allegiance** – The pledge was recited.

#### 3. **Public Comments**

There were no public comments.

#### 4. **Approval of the Agenda for the Open Space and Regional Parks Commission Meeting of January 5, 2021**

Motion by Commissioner Doolittle to approve the Agenda for the Open Space and Regional Parks Commission Meeting of January 5, 2021. Second by Commissioner Shorts which carried unanimously.

#### 5. **Approval of the Minutes for the Open Space and Regional Parks Commission Meeting of December 1, 2020**

Motion by Commissioner Shorts to approve the Minutes for the Open Space and Regional Parks Commission Meeting of December 1, 2020. Second by Commissioner Oliver which carried unanimously.

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

Colleen Wallace Barnum recognized Bryan Harrower for his 15 years of service. She noted he started as a seasonal lifeguard and seasonal ranger and became fulltime in 2005. Mr. Harrower noted it's been 25 years of total service and appreciates the opportunities. The Commissioners complimented and congratulated Mr. Harrower.

**7. Presentation, discussion and possible recommendation to the Board of County Commissioners to direct staff, with the District Attorney's Office's assistance, to begin stage two of the unsolicited-proposal policy by completing all necessary documents including leases and a term sheet for the proposal from MAZZ Golf Management for the continuation of golf operations at Wildcreek Golf Course. (For Possible Action)**

Dave Solaro, Assistant County Manager, provided an overview and background of the unsolicited-proposal policy.

Mike Mazzaferri, MAZZ Golf Management representative, provided a PowerPoint presentation.

The Commissioners and Mr. Mazzaferri held a discussion about the future direction of Wildcreek golf course including new golfer development training center. The Commissioners noted they were interested in learning more about the deed versus lease option when it comes to that phase. Mr. Mazzaferri spoke about the history of First Tee in the Northern Nevada area and added the value and benefits of their involvement in the re-development of Wildcreek. Travis Hansen, Board Chair for First Tee, introduced himself. Mr. Solaro noted this presentation will go before the Board of County Commissioners. In response to inquiries by the Commissioners, Mr. Mazzaferri spoke about the architect, operations, club house, drainage, and water management. The Commission members stated they were excited about the future of Wildcreek and thanked Mr. Mazzaferri.

**MOTION: Commissioner Lee moved to recommend to the Board of County Commissioners to direct staff, with the District Attorney's Office's assistance, to begin stage two of the unsolicited-proposal policy by completing all necessary documents including leases and a term sheet for the proposal from MAZZ Golf Management for the continuation of golf operations at Wildcreek Golf Course. Commissioner Doolittle seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.**

Kathy Emerson noted Commissioner Kitty Jung is having technical issues and cannot join the meeting.

**8. Eagle Scout Presentation** - There was not a presentation at today's meeting.

**9. Program/Park of the Month - Fall Ranger Programming at Rancho San Rafael Regional Park presented by Celia Walker, Park Ranger II.**

Celia Walker, Ranger for Peavine District/Rancho San Rafael, provided a PowerPoint presentation. Commissioner Lee asked where the Nevada Farms and Families was located. Ms. Walker replied it is next to the May Museum, behind where the turkeys are. Commissioner Doolittle said great job and keep the programs going, everybody needs them right now. The Commissioners thanked Ms. Walker for the creative programming during COVID.

**10. Parks Reports**

Colleen Wallace-Barnum, Parks Operations Superintendent, provided an update. She highlighted a recent retirement, John Keese, who was employed with Washoe County for 21 years. They had an interview process in mid-December. She thanked Commissioner Oliver for being on the panel. They will continue with the hiring process. She spoke about Christmas Tree chipping program at

Bartley Ranch Park and the Reno Sports Complex. Washoe County partners with KTMB for Christmas tree recycling. She reported on a future Joint Commission meeting with City of Sparks and Reno. Reno and Sparks have not been having regular meetings and they are in discussions about a future joint meeting. They are hoping to have a presentation by City of Reno Parks Director, Jamie Schroeder, at the next meeting. Ms. Wallace-Barnum noted Tianyu Arts and Culture dragon lights have been cancelled for 2021. Artown has reached out for use of Rancho San Rafael for some of their events. She noted some Parks staff has been used in Heath District to help with COVID-19 efforts. Commissioner Doolittle requested Jamie Schroeder with City of Reno provide an update of their ongoing projects. He thanked Ms. Wallace-Barnum for her hard work.

**11. 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.**

Eric Crump, Operations Division Director, noted Mr. Solaro had to step out of the meeting. On October 27, 2020, the Board accepted a grant for \$45,000 from the Community Foundation of Western Nevada for weed management close to the Truckee River. On December 28, 2020, the Board accepted a grant for \$40,000 from the State of Nevada for the Thomas Creek to Ballardini Ranch Trail Connection. In response to Commissioner Shorts inquiry about golf numbers and impacts to the budget, Mr. Crump reported golf did really well in the summer and fall. Mr. Crump noted operators pay a fee back to the County which goes into a restricted fund. Those funds are used towards maintenance, improvements, including a well pump at Sierra Sage. He said he will bring a report back to the Commission.

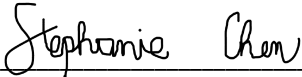
**12. Commissioner's Comments:** None

**12. Public Comments:** There were no requests for public comment.

**13. Adjournment:** Meeting adjourned at 3:49pm.

Respectfully submitted by Misty Bray, Independent Contractor.

Approved by Commission in session on February 2, 2021.

  
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Stephanie Chen, Chair