

Draft MINUTES
Washoe County Open Space and Regional Parks Commission
September 6, 2022

The Washoe County Open Space and Regional Parks Commission met in a scheduled session on Tuesday, September 6, 2022, in the Washoe County Commission Chambers, 1001 East Ninth Street, Reno, Nevada.

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>

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

1. Roll Call

Members Present: Doug Doolittle, Stephanie Chen, Timothy Dake, Kevin Joell, Maxwell DiNatale, Nicholas Martin Kearney, Lisa Rode

Staff Present: Denise Evans, Colleen Wallace Barnum, Jennifer Roebuck, Celia Walker, Lindsay Liddell, Dave Solaro, Eric Crump, Chris Smyczek, Nicholas Steuer

Absent: Darla Lee, Omer L Rains

2. Pledge of Allegiance

The pledge was recited.

3. Public Comment

No public comment.

4. Approval of the Agenda for the Open Space and Regional Parks Commission Meeting of September 6, 2022

Chair Doolittle struck item 10 of the agenda to be covered at a future meeting.

No public comment.

Motion by Commissioner Dake to approve the agenda as amended for the Open Space and Regional Parks Commission Meeting of September 6, 2022. Second by Commissioner Joell. Motion carried unanimously.

5. Approval of the Minutes for the Open Space and Regional Parks Commission Meeting of August 2, 2022.

No public comment.

Motion by Commissioner Chen to approve the Minutes for the Open Space and Regional Parks Commission Meeting of August 2, 2022. Second by Commissioner Joell. Motion carried unanimously.

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

No items

7. Eagle Scout Presentation

Nick Steuer, Park Ranger introduced Sovereign Edmands. Mr. Edmands gave a presentation on his Eagle Scout Service Project.

In response to Commissioner Joell's question about the need for the retaining wall, Ranger Nick said rainstorms wash down the sediment and flood the area.

In response to Commissioner Dake's question on how the idea for the project came together, Mr. Edmands stated his troop was camping a few years ago and their site was flooded. They decided to do a retaining wall as they couldn't flatten out the area.

Chair Doolittle thanked Mr. Edmands for his project and asked if he has attained his Eagle Scout yet. Mr. Edmands stated he has another project and board review.

Ranger Christopher Smyczek introduced James Koepke. Mr. Koepke gave a presentation on his project.

Chair Doolittle, Commissioners DiNatale and Joell thanked Mr. Koepke for his project and presentation.

In response to Commissioner Joell's question on the life expectancy of the bee houses, Mr. Koepke stated they would last several years and will be able to withstand the elements. Ranger Chris stated that rangers will continue to maintain the projects.

8. Discussion about the newly adopted Chapter 95 section of County Code specific to the powers and duties of the Open Space and Regional Park Commission as well as setting a schedule for the frequency of meetings. (For possible action)

Colleen Wallace Barnum, Park Operations Superintendent, gave an overview of the changes to section 6 & 7 that apply to Park Commission.

Current nine meetings per year have been reduced to 4 meetings per year.

Park Commission will be the final body of approval for fee schedule, park district plans, park naming and design, special event agreements, park policies and guidelines and discretionary permits.

Colleen recommended meetings every other month and potentially changing the day or times from current meetings.

In response to Commissioner Kearney's question on increase in powers and bond requirements, Deputy District Attorney, Lindsay Liddell stated there are no bond requirements, Washoe County does have bonds and the District Attorney's office would represent commissioners if any action were to take place.

In response to Commissioner Joell's question on items on the staff report, Colleen stated those items have already been addressed and approved.

Chair Doolittle stated he agrees with every other month and adding meetings, if necessary, at the discretion of the Chair. Lindsay Liddell stated if staff requires a meeting, the Director can arrange it with the Chair.

Motion by Commissioner Joell to set the regularly scheduled meetings to six times per year, to occur the first Tuesday of November, January, March, May, July and September. Second by Commissioner Dake.

No public comment.

Motion carried unanimously.

9. Park/Program of the month: Artist Edwin Martinez Escobar highlights his work on the McCarran Tunnel murals and North Valley's Skate Park project.

Celia Walker, Park Ranger introduced Edwin Martinez and gave a presentation on his work.

Commissioners Doolittle and Dake thanked Edwin for all his hard work. In response to Commissioner Dake's question on vandalism, Edwin stated it is being respected and they haven't had any issues.

In response to Commissioner Joell's question to Chair Doolittle about recognizing Edwin's work with a certificate, Chair Doolittle stated staff can put that together.

In response to Commissioner Kearney's question about the artist's and county relationship, Edwin said he tried receiving a grant two years ago, which was denied but they were still able to make it happen.

Commissioner Kearney thanked Edwin and recommended everyone see the mural in person and it be added to the Washoe County website.

In response to Commissioner Kearney's question about funding future projects, Chair Doolittle stated the Board of County Commissioners approved the budget funding for all projects, but County staff can look for funding through grants if available. Deputy District Attorney, Lindsay Liddell said donations could also be solicited for future projects. Ranger Celia stated they have looked at grants and partnered with other organizations, and donors have been solicited for funding as well.

Chair Doolittle suggested adding a sign near mural on how to donate to Edwin for future projects. Celia stated they could install an iron ranger for donations. Commissioner Joell stated staff may not always have time to collect from iron rangers and funds are not always secure. Celia said they will discuss a QR code linking to a donation account.

In response to Commissioner Doolittle's question about lights in the tunnel, Ranger Celia said they got quotes and \$15,000 was the discounted price for solar lighting. Commissioner Joell suggested a Conserve Nevada grant, Celia stated they

did paint the inside of the tunnel white to brighten it up but may look into temporary lighting during events.

Celia also stated that they have seen a huge decrease in vandalism compared to before the project at North Valleys.

10. Presentation by Commissioner Joell on the Stead MX track located on a Bureau of Land Management parcel (APN 089-100-29). Discussion and direction to staff to determine if Washoe County Community Services Department should pursue a partnership with the motocross group for utilization of the land for the current use. (For possible action)

Item 10 was deferred to a future meeting.

11. Parks Reports

Colleen Wallace Barnum, Park Operations Superintendent highlighted events. Bowers Mansion Regional Park hosted the Bluegrass Festival which has been happening for almost 30 years. Bowers Pool splash pad opened to the public the second week in August and will be open weekends only until September 25th.

Hawkins Amphitheater had heavy use in August. Lazy 5 Concert Series ended in August. There will be a report on Dragon Lights at Rancho San Rafael in November, there were over 92,000 visitors for the event.

Reno Balloon Races take place this weekend at Rancho San Rafael. May Center Annual Report was given to commissioners and there will be a May Center update in November.

In response to Commissioner Joell's comment during Edwin's presentation about Conserve Nevada, Colleen stated would be great to come up with a variety of art projects on a larger scale and several requests for funding were submitted and will continue to look into other grant opportunities.

Washoe County Parks was awarded \$407,000 from the Nevada Division of Wildlife for the Regional Archery Facility.

Volunteer hours were the same as August. The Truckee River Clean Up with Keep Truckee Meadows Beautiful will take place in September.

Chair Doolittle asked Colleen to thank staff and volunteers for all their hard work and maintaining the parks.

Commissioner Joell commented about Wilson Commons Park and thanked Ranger Nick for maintaining that park.

12. Director's Report

Eric Crump stated the Board of County Commissioners accepted a \$300,000 donation for the Wilbur D May Center, \$200,000 is for general operating expenses for the museum and arboretum, \$100,000 is for the temporary exhibits the museum brings in. Over \$3000 in donations was also accepted from various businesses and organizations.

The Board of County Commissioners approved the agreement between Washoe Tennis Club and Washoe County.

Jamie Schroeder, City of Reno Parks and Recreation Director, is interested in a joint meeting with City of Sparks, Reno and Washoe County on a proposed date of February 21st, 2023, at 6pm, which was historically done every other year before Covid. Mr. Crump stated the commission can request a meetings during item 13.

13. Commissioner Requests for future agenda items

Commissioner Joell requested to join the joint meeting between City of Reno and City of Sparks for a proposed date of February 21st, 2023.

14. Public Comments

No public comment.

15. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 3:38p

Respectfully submitted by Jennifer Roebuck, Office Assistant III.