

MINUTES
Washoe County Open Space and Regional Parks Commission
May 3, 2022

The Washoe County Open Space and Regional Parks Commission met in a scheduled session on Tuesday, May 3, 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 Nenzel called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m.

Chair Nenzel announced technical difficulties in Chambers. Those attending via Zoom could see the PowerPoint presentations but the camera broadcasting what was happening in Chambers was broken.

1. Roll Call

Members Present: Stephanie Chen, Chris Nenzel, Nicholas Martin Kearney, Doug Doolittle, Maxwell DiNatale, Kevin Joell, Darla Lee (logged on after roll call), Kitty Jung

Staff Present: Denise Evans, Colleen Wallace Barnum, Jennifer Penland, Sophia Kirschenmann, Trenton Ross, Bryan Harrower, Celia Walker

Absent: Timothy Dake, Lisa Rode

2. Pledge of Allegiance

The pledge was recited.

3. Introduction and Welcome of new Open Space and Regional Park Commissioners, Kevin Joell and Timothy Dake

Chair Nenzel welcomed the new Commissioners.

Colleen Wallace Barnum, Park Operations Superintendent thanked the new commissioners for volunteering and welcomed them to Park Commission.

4. Public Comment

Public comment from Tom Van Reutin. Mr. Van Reutin expressed the need for mountain bike only trails in Washoe County.

Chair Nenzel thanked Mr. Van Reutin for his comments. Chair Nenzel stated that there is opportunity to make public comment on specific agenda items.

5. Approval of the Agenda for the Open Space and Regional Parks Commission Meeting of May 3, 2022.

No public comment.

Motion by Commissioner Doolittle to approve the agenda for the Open Space and Regional Parks Commission Meeting of May 3rd, 2022. Second by Commissioner Chen. Motion carried unanimously.

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

No public comment.

Motion by Commissioner Doolittle to approve the Minutes for the Open Space and Regional Parks Commission Meeting of April 5, 2022. Second by Commissioner DiNatale. Motion carried unanimously.

7. Resolution for Phil Brazier for his 20 years of service and contributions as the Washoe County Horticulture Assistant. (For Possible Action)

Chair Nenzel read the resolution for Phil Brazier. Phil said that it has been a pleasure serving citizens for over 20 years and working with fellow employees.

Colleen Wallace Barnum, Park Operations Superintendent, presented the certificate signed by Chair Nenzel.

Commissioner Doolittle said it was an honor working with Phil and thanked him for his dedication.

8. Resolution for Dan O'Connor for his 18 years of service and contributions as the Washoe County Park Maintenance Supervisor. (For Possible Action)

Chair Nenzel read the resolution for Dan O'Connor. Dan said it has been a pleasure to work with Washoe County over the years and he appreciates the support.

Colleen Wallace Barnum, Park Operations Superintendent, presented the certificate signed by Chair Nenzel.

Commissioner Doolittle thanked Dan for all his years, dedication and training over the last 18 years and wished him well in his retirement.

9. Eagle Scout Presentation

No items.

10. Presentation, discussion, and possible recommendation to the Board of County Commission to approve a sub-lease Agreement with Silver Arrow Bowman (SAB) for the non-exclusive use of 110-acres known as the Regional Archery Facility for a term of 5 years with a one-time renewal option of 5 years. SAB will provide a minimum of \$2000 annually towards the maintenance and upkeep of the Regional Shooting Facility. (For Possible Action)

Colleen Wallace Barnum gave a presentation of the background on Silver Arrow Bowman and introduced James Pecca.

James Pecca, President of Silver Arrow Bowman gave a presentation.

In response to Commissioner Joell's question if it is a hinderance with BLM being the landowner and the lease being Washoe County, James said that SAB's interaction has always been directly with Washoe County and hasn't and won't need interaction with BLM. Commissioner Kitty Jung said she would take the question to Commissioner Lucey and discuss with park staff.

Commissioner Doolittle thanked SAB for their hard work and going above and beyond. In response to Commissioner Doolittle's question about liability insurance, if it includes public and participant liability, James stated that the liability insurance covers events and Washoe County and for any incident where SAB or Washoe County may be liability.

Motion by Commissioner Joell to recommend recommendation to the Board of County Commission to approve a sub-lease Agreement with Silver Arrow Bowman (SAB) for the non-exclusive use of 110-acres known as the Regional Archery Facility for a term of 5 years with a one-time renewal option of 5 years. SAB will provide a minimum of \$2000 annually towards the maintenance and upkeep of the Regional Shooting Facility. Second by Commissioner Nenzel. Motion carried unanimously.

11. Presentation, discussion, and possible recommendation to the Board of County Commissioners to adopt the 2022 Hidden Valley Regional Park Master Plan. (Commission District 4.) (For Possible Action)

Sophia Kirschenmann, Park Planner introduced Barb Santner with Stantec Consulting. Barb Santner, project manager gave presentation.

In response to Commissioner Doolittle's questions about the dollar amount of the improvements and how to get some of the improvements started, Sophia stated this is a long-term plan, but there is opportunity to move forward on certain aspects more quickly. This year, there is a new trails program coordinator and trail maintenance workers. Possible partnerships with mountain biking groups, Washoe County Utility can be explored, and the master plan will be pieced together as opportunities arise. Sophia stated partnerships and funding from groups would be considered, and the more the private community can help, the more Washoe County can leverage opportunity for the park.

In response to Commissioner Nenzel's question about the effect the master plan will have on maintenance and other parks, Sophia stated the master plan is not for maintenance and general funds will be identified. There has been success with additional staffing positions. Other parks projects and improvements are moving forward with partners. If partnerships aren't created, there will be a longer build out time.

Commission Doolittle commented that user groups need to be aware that this is a long-term plan and new projects won't occur without new funding.

In response to Commissioner Joell's question about the easement at the end of Mia Vista Dr, Sophia stated the easement is only proposed. Washoe County Utility will have to apply and go through Parkland Easement policies and procedures. The proposed easement was included in the master plan to be transparent as the application is forthcoming and will be presented to this board at a later time with more information.

Sophia stated there is planning effort for mountain bike specific trails, details will be finalized, and appropriate signage will be placed when that part of the master plan takes place.

In response to Commissioner Joell's question about fencing the pond, the representatives from Stantec stated that it is required by the state to restrict access to ponds, but wetlands do not need to be fenced.

Commissioner Doolittle stated that the plan is conceptual and there will be opportunity to discuss details and ask questions about specific projects as they come before the board individually.

Public Comment received by e-mail and sent to park commission in advance from Dale & Charmaine Doerr, Laura Carman, Denise & Thomas Fusso, Tom Judy, Roger Jewett, Rick & Fran DeAvila, Marge Frandsen, Farrell Vaughn, Tom Van Ruiten, Samuel Echo.

Public comment by Wayne Shaffer. Mr. Shaffer stated he attended meetings and was impressed with the receptiveness of Sophia and thanked Commissioners for their time. Mr. Shaffer stated that as a stakeholder of Hidden Valley, he would like to see the landscape kept open and that item 40 was not brought up in the meetings, majority of homeowners do not approve of this item.

Public comment by Dale Doerr. Mr. Doerr stated he shares concerns about item 40 and does not want vehicular access as that is the resident's access for emergencies and they are at risk of wildfire. Mr. Doerr stated Truckee Meadows Fire Protection should be contacted for approval. Mr. Doerr also stated that residents would rather see trees or irrigation put in rather than ponds similar to Caughlin Ranch.

Commissioner Jung stated that Caughlin Ranch is maintained and paid for by the Homeowner's Association.

Public comment by Charmaine Doerr. Mrs. Doerr stated there was a traffic study done for the north side of the park, but not for the south, would like to have a traffic study done with the proposed dog park and is also opposed to item 40. Mrs. Doerr inquired who owns the land of the proposed trails and if it is being sold or swapped.

Public comment by Curt Dunn. Mr. Dunn stated he is a retired park ranger and has gone through many master plans and the biggest concerns are traffic, overly developing for specific user groups and concerns with the practice fields and the traffic it would create. Mr. Dunn stated he does like the automatic gates and a lot of the other proposed features.

Commissioner Doolittle move to recommend to the Board of County Commissioners to adopt the 2022 Hidden Valley Regional Park Master Plan. Second by Commissioner Chen. Motion carried unanimously.

12. Quarterly update of the off-leash dog pilot program, which allows off-leash dogs during certain hours in areas of North Valleys, Lazy 5, and South Valleys parks by Celia Walker, Park Ranger II. Updates will include status of the program and observations of the public's participation in the program since November 2021

Celia Walker, Park Ranger II, gave the quarterly update.

Commissioner Joell commented that this a great program.

In response to Commissioner Nenzel's questions about adding White's Creek, Celia stated there have been a few too many negative e-mails but is hopeful that residents will respect the current rules so it can be revisited and proposed in November.

In response to Commissioners Nenzel's question about waste bags, Celia said they have been stocking bags and are required to carry waste bags.

In response to commissioner Joell's question about rangers possibly giving citations, Assistant County Manager, Dave Solaro stated that will come before the Board of County Commissioners next week.

No public comment.

13. Parks Reports

Colleen Wallace Barnum, Park Operations Superintendent thanked KTMB and parks staff for the Great Community Cleanup.

14. Director's Report

Assistant County Manager, Dave Solaro, gave the report.

There was a public hearing for the widening at North Valleys Regional Park.

The Board of County Commissioners accepted donations on April 19th.

Chapter 95 revisions going to the Board of County Commissioners the following week. The revisions will need to go before the Board of County Commissioners twice, it will go into effect, if approved 10 days after the second reading.

The Board of County Commissioners will hear the recommended budget on May 15th. The recommended budget includes reclassified positions, full time range safety officers, additional maintenance staff and vehicles, increase in operating supply costs and increased seasonal and temporary categories.

In response to Commissioner Jung's question about ARPA funds, Dave stated parks is always looking for grant opportunities.

In response to Commissioner Doolittle's question about updates on state or federal grants, Dave said he will give updated at meetings when available.

15. Commissioner Requests for Future Agenda Items

Chair Nenzel announced his resignation and relocation to Illinois and thanked the Commission for letting him serve.

16. Public Comments

No public comment

17. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 3:29p

Respectfully submitted by Jennifer Penland, Office Assistant III.

Stephanie Chen

Stephanie Chen, Chair