

## MINUTES

Washoe County Open Space and Regional Parks Commission  
December 4, 2012

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

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

**Members present:** Sarah Chvilicek, Bob Jacobson, Cliff Young, Bill von Phul, Ed Harney, Patty Moen and Jim Nadeau. Anne Buckley had an excused absence.

**Board of County Commission Liaison:** Kitty Jung

**Staff present:** Al Rogers, Deputy District Attorney Leslie Admirand, Eric Crump, Marie Fong and Joanna Schultz.

### **2. Approval of the Agenda for the Open Space and Regional Parks Commission Meeting of December 4, 2012.**

Commissioner Nadeau motioned to approve the Agenda for the Open Space and Regional Parks Commission Meeting of December 4, 2012. Commissioner Harney seconded. Motion carried.

### **3. Administer Oath of Office to reappointed Commissioner Ed Harney. County Clerk**

Amy Harvey, County Clerk administered the Oath of Office.

### **4. Public Comment**

No public comment.

### **5. Discussion and consideration of changing January regular meeting date of January 1, 2013 to an alternate date or cancel meeting in consideration of conflict with the New Year's holiday.**

In response to Commissioner von Phul regarding is there anything that would require a meeting in January, Al Rogers, Acting Director said there was not.

Commissioner von Phul motioned to cancel the January 1, 2013 meeting. Commissioner Nadeau seconded. Motion carried.

### **6. Eagle Scout project presentation by Josh Mooney to update all fire hydrants within Rancho San Rafael Regional Park.**

Marie Fong, Park Ranger introduced Eagle Scout John Mooney and gave a brief description of the work to be done.

Mr. Mooney gave a presentation on his project.

Commissioner von Phul thanked Mr. Mooney stating that this is a safety issue and is needed.

In response to Commissioner von Phul regarding coats of paint on the hydrants and any plan to deal with this, Mr. Mooney said that he would address those as needed, scraping off as much as possible before repainting.

Commissioner Young thanked Mr. Mooney.

Al Rogers, Acting Director also thanked Mr. Mooney for taking on this project to not only help the community but also the park.

Commissioner Jung stated that she is very proud of Mr. Mooney.

**7. Presentation and update on the recreation components of the Living River Plan by Danielle Henderson, Natural Resource Manager, Truckee River Flood Management Authority.**

Al Rogers, Acting Director introduced Danielle Henderson who gave a presentation/update on the Living River Plan.

Commissioner von Phul said that the original plan called for a pedestrian/bicycle trail to continue down the Truckee Canyon and that at this time may not be possible. He would like to see the trail get as far as the Court of Antiquity along with some other facilities. Ms. Henderson agreed and they are working with the Tahoe-Pyramid Bikeway. The idea is, if they do the restoration projects, with the majority having been unfortunately removed from the scope of the project, is to work with partners. Three large projects have been implemented with grant money, with the Tracy project having been encumbered by the Flood Management Authority.

In response to Commissioner Nadeau regarding Ms. Henderson mentioned some of the restoration projects in the lower Truckee area and this past weekend was a good test, was there any realization of success as far as relieving some of the upstream pressure, Ms. Henderson said part of the restoration was to attenuate the floods and move the flood waters onto the plain rather than channeling them down stream. She has not seen all of the data, some of it is still being compiled, but has been communication with staff. It was not a big flood event to test it but the projects as far as she is aware held intact. She will need to confirm with partners, go out into the field and can send an email update.

In response to Commissioner Young regarding property that has been acquired and are there any intermediate steps to allow for parking access to the river, Ms. Henderson said she believes people are parking there now and they do have contracts for use of the buildings. The original recreation plan did include preservation and/or upgrade.

**8. Consideration and recommendation to the Board of County Commissioners for approval of a land lease buy-out offer from American Tower Corporation, (ATC) for the cellular antenna site located on a small portion of Washoe Golf Course, (APN 019-140-12), for the sum of Two Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$200,000), for a forty year land lease; Revenue to be directed to the Community Services Department/Golf Enterprise Fund.**

Al Rogers, Acting Director explained we are seeking feedback from the Commission on this proposal.

In response to Commissioner Young regarding estimate of the actual value with regards to having the money now or over the next 20 years, Mr. Rogers said we did not do that financial analysis. We don't have any funding identified to address the safety/liability issue and this is one offer that could address it.

In response to Commissioner Nadeau regarding technology changes and tower changes will there be loss of or payback for early termination and land lease, Mr. Rogers said those issues have been addressed in the staff report. There are a lot of unknowns in this whole process. There is an unknown in terms of technology, whether this site will be necessary in the future and necessary improvements. The land lease can be terminated with a 6 month notice. Also, they have an option to renew after 10 years and there are no guarantees that they will renew.

Deputy District Attorney Leslie Admirand added that additional terms are being discussed. There would be no expectation at termination unless we breach the contract or misrepresented anything. If they terminate the contract they would not receive any type of refund.

Mr. Rogers added that included in the terms of the contract will be provisions that at the end of the contract or termination of the contract the site would be restored to as it or better.

Commissioner Nadeau commended staff for thinking outside the box in trying to fund projects.

Motion by Commissioner Nadeau to recommend to the Board of County Commissioners for approval of a land lease buy-out offer from American Tower Corporation, (ATC) for the cellular antenna site located on a small portion of Washoe Golf Course, (APN 019-140-12), for the sum of Two Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$200,000), for a forty year land lease; Revenue to be directed to the Community Services Department/Golf Enterprise Fund. Commissioner Moen seconded.

In response to Commissioner Jacobson regarding his concern that there be a plan for the \$200,000, Mr. Rogers said staff recommends that the money goes to improving the netting and driving range area. Included in this is heightening the netting which is a safety and liability issue. A plan would be put together for the money and would be used immediately.

Motion carried.

## **9. Review and Discussion of Washoe County Employee Lobbying Policy and Legislative Communication Policy.**

Al Rogers, Acting Director reviewed the County's policy.

In response to Commissioner von Phul regarding former Director, Karen Mullen is advocating with the Legislature for the formation of a Park District, could Commissioners also advocate on this issue, Mr. Rogers said no, but if they chose to advocate on behalf of Washoe County we ask that they discuss this with the department prior to so they know what the County's stance on this is. But as an individual they can make remarks on behalf of you as an individual or for other agencies.

## **10. Park Operations Reports**

Eric Crump, Park Operations Superintendent highlighted reports.

## **11. Director's Reports**

Al Rogers, Acting Director highlighted reports.

Commissioner Young clarified that Option #1 for the Easement at Betsy Caughlin Donnelly Park was through the center of the park rather than the east, Mr. Rogers said yes.

In response to Commissioner Nadeau regarding is someone assigned to monitor the project, Mr. Rogers said we have assurances verbally and through the agreement that the restoration will be completed and monitored by staff, TMWA and a third party they have contracted with.

In response to Commissioner von Phul regarding with Mr. Rogers new position will there also be a change of physical office, Mr. Rogers said yes, at some point his physical location will change and most likely to the main Washoe County complex.

In response to Commissioner von Phul regarding will rangers continue to be physically located in the parks, Mr. Rogers said yes.

Commissioner Chvilicek said is becoming more and more concerned on multiple levels about how Washoe County is restructuring that seems to nullify citizen voice. It's been said that the Parks Commission may or may not continue. A citizen's voice involved in County government is crucial to the success of County government on all levels. She feels that this restructuring has been a way for Washoe County to move away from that advocacy of citizen voice. The County says that they want people to be able to have input to what happens in their County but the actions are the opposite because they are taking away the opportunity for a citizen to feel engaged in their government.

Mr. Rogers said there is no intention to dissolve this Commission. He sees one of his initiatives is to develop a communications plan and a piece that will coincide with Community Relations of how we engage citizens more. Commissioner Chvilicek added that she is skeptical as she has seen how the disillusion of the Citizen's Advisory program has come to fruition.

## **12. Commissioner's Comments**

Commissioner Jung said Amy Harvey and staff in the Clerk's office has organized a food tree for the Evelyn Mount project to help feed the community. It is looking a little bare and she is telling everyone. The tree is located in the lobby here at 9<sup>th</sup> & Wells building A.

## **13. Public Comment**

No public comment.

## **Adjournment**

Chairman Young adjourned the meeting at 3:51 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Joanna Schultz