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Washoe County Open Space and Regional Parks Commission
February 4, 2014

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

1. **Roll Call.**

Members present: Jim Nadeau, Sarah Chvilicek, Janet Davis, Scott Pierson, Anne Buckley, Thomas Guinn, Ed Harney and Nathan Daniel

Staff present: Eric Crump, Deputy District Attorney Leslie Admirand, Cheryl Surface, Jennifer Budge, Dan O'Connor and Joanna Schultz

2. **Public Comment**

No comment

3. **Presentation by Mark Kimbrough, with Great Basin Institute on the Bureau of Land Management's National Landscape Conservation System and the Black Rock Desert High Rock Canyon Emigrant Trail National Conservation Area.**

Cheryl Surface, Park Planner introduced Mark Kimbrough. Mr. Kimbrough gave a presentation.

Mr. Kimbrough said they will gather any comments from this Commission.

Ms. Surface suggested sending the survey to the Friends of Black Rock, Mr. Kimbrough said they already meet with them.

In response to Commissioner Guinn regarding the timeframe of the study, Mr. Kimbrough said their contract was extended for one year to obtain better statistics. There is no set timeline on the recreation study but they would like to get it done as soon as possible.

In response to Commissioner Nadeau regarding would the historical trail be brought into the protection zone, Mr. Kimbrough said yes.

In response to Commissioner Chvilicek regarding the solid green lines on the map, Mr. Kimbrough said those are the boundaries for the wilderness area.

In response to Commissioner Chvilicek regarding Washoe County access points and have they spoken to the Paiute Tribe, Mr. Kimbrough said yes, they have had a lot of input from them.

In response to Commissioner Buckley regarding when the survey is completed and if they find that the public are going for a particular use that will degrade it, how will they fix it? Greg Page with BLM said it depends on the type of activity. Burning Man is the largest special recreation permit issued by BLM. Anything that takes place inside the conservation area must have NEPA (National Environmental Policy Act) done and analyze what those impacts will be. Those impacts that they can mitigate, they will.

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In response to Commissioner Buckley regarding if someone wanted to go 4-wheeling, are there permits? Mr. Base said BLM is in the process of finalizing the Resource Management Plan. There are open and closed routes that can be traveled on. It is public land so no permits are issued. There are signs and if found outside of those areas citations can be issued. Mr. Kimbrough added that they are finding, in the survey, that people are very protective. There is a lot of protection in place for this area now.

In response to Commissioner Chvilicek regarding the designation as a National Conservation Area different rules apply, Mr. Page said that's true; there are special stipulations and laws.

Commissioner Chvilicek encouraged everyone to complete the survey.

Mr. Kimbrough distributed the BLM's gift to the community - 150th calendar. Commissioner Nadeau said it's an awesome calendar and thanked them for putting it together.

4. Update on Pyramid Way and US 395 Connection Project

Jennifer Budge, Park Planner explained that this item is a follow-up to the Commission and provided the Commission with the County's official comments on the draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). Not included, are the Library's comments as they were still in draft form. Ms. Budge received responses from Regional Transportation Commission (RTC) from questions the Commissioners had. Official responses would be in by the end of February and will be able to see what other agencies and individuals commented along with responses to comments.

The next step for the project will be to identify the preferred alternative. They will conduct the official cultural field surveys and update the traffic projection and noises analysis, with a final document expected in 2015.

RTC is still working out where they are getting the funding for this project. The EIS and a portion of the first part of the design are funded federally. The estimated schedule is to design an acquisition of land which is scheduled in the 2013-2017 time frames with construction in the 2015-2040 time frames.

At the Sky Ranch park site they are proposing a detention pond, also a park and ride location. We are in the process of selling that property but wanted them to treat it like a park because nothing is finalized.

In response to Commissioner Chvilicek regarding the decision on the other portions of the connector projects, how does everything fit together? Ms. Budge said the expense is too exorbitant, that they will probably start in phases and start at the McCarran site and work their way over.

Commissioner Guinn said he asked for this topic on the agenda as there is quite a bit of concerning issues that need to be address; sensitive species, Wild Creek Park, Sky Ranch Park. People need to understand these are big concerns with these alignments and people

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will continue to bring it up. He understands that these are preliminary alignments; studies are still being done and need to be done.

Ms. Budge said that the sensitive species are not on the Federal list; they are on the State watch list and fluctuates. They are indigenous only to this area and because they are not on the Federal list and it was federal funds doing the impact statement, they did not list it.

The City of Sparks has adopted an updated Park Master Plan. In that document it identifies the Wild Creek site for disposal. Previously we had worked with them to do a cooperative effort to develop a trailhead for the future. Our Sun Valley open space is adjacent to their Wild Creek Park site. Ms. Budge does not see that the property being for disposal is a deal breaker and will be a great opportunity to work with RTC and still get what we want, built in the safest way possible.

Commissioner Daniel has the same concerns as Commissioner Guinn.

5. Review and possible recommendation for approval by the Board of County Commission of Fiscal Year 2014-15 Regional Parks and Open Space Fees and Charges schedule

Eric Crump, Park Operations Superintendent explained that these are proposed Fees and Charges for the 2014/15 fiscal year. These will go to the Board of County Commission for final approval. One of the big changes to the schedule is we have always brought the fees to the Commission and Board on a calendar year. We have opted to go on a fiscal year to tie it into budget.

In response to Commissioner Nadeau regarding no increase in the Photo Permit fee, Mr. Crump said the issue has been mitigated, it was a policy issue.

In response to Commissioner Nadeau regarding Golf fees not on the schedule, Mr. Crump said they are both contracted out and they are responsible for putting together the fee schedule. They are currently in negotiation.

In response to Commissioner Nadeau regarding the number of unlimited passes remaining, Mr. Crump said there are very few left. Commissioner Nadeau requested that if the Golf fees come through this Commission he would like know what those numbers are.

In response to Commissioner Pierson regarding the difference between fees that are determined by number of people, item #1 and Item # 14, which is a flat fee, Mr. Crump said Item #1 are for the pavilions and are based on the size of the pavilion at each facility. Each will accommodate the group numbers we have identified with 100 people as the base fee of \$130-\$160 then adding \$1/per person over 100. Item #14 is the Special Activity Fee and is for facilities that may or may not take place in a reservation area, such as trails or field of a park. This fee is associated with the impact on the facilities.

A motion by Commissioner Guinn to recommend approval by the Board of County Commissioners for the Fiscal year 2014-15 Regional Parks and Open Space Fees and Charges Schedule. Second by Commissioner Pierson. Motion carried.

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6. Presentation on “Park of the Month” featuring North Region Park Maintenance.

Eric Crump, Park Operations Superintendent introduced Dan O’Connor, North Maintenance Supervisor.

Mr. O’Connor gave a presentation.

In response to Commissioner Nadeau regarding where Gator Swamp Park is, Mr. O’Connor said it is right next to Alyce Taylor Elementary School in Spanish Springs.

In response to Commissioner Chvilicek regarding Roads equipment being moved out to the Maintenance yard, Mr. O’Connor said we are in the process of evaluating the size of the shop and fitting a small satellite shop for Roads.

Mr. Crump added, on the developed acres there is 47 acres per Maintenance Worker. There was a national survey sent out that we were benched marked against. We are well above the average. The average for Counties/Burrows was approximately 20 or less acres per Maintenance Worker. The standard in the industry is 10 acres.

Commissioner Chvilicek said what they do is amazing with limited resources.

7. Park Reports

Eric Crump, Park Operations Superintendent highlighted report.

In response to Commissioner Daniel regarding what is the New Comers Club, Mr. Crump said it’s a club you can join if you are new to the area. Commissioner Nadeau added that he is a member of the club and anyone can become a member. It is a club to introduce people to the area including different social groups with a variety of activities. Commissioner Pierson said he works with members from the group hiking and doing other activities.

In response to Commissioner Chvilicek regarding will the Labyrinth be open in time for Equinox, Mr. Crump said yes.

In response to Commissioner Buckley regarding she was asked about the trees, in particular the Giant Sequoias at the Washoe Golf Course not getting water, some of them are in bad shape, Mr. Crump said they are actually the first to turn on the water. They have turned it on two times this winter that he is aware of. We’ve had a problem community wide with the Giant Sequoias. It could be age, where they are located or stress from the drought conditions.

Jennifer Budge and Cheryl Surface, Park Planners highlighted Planning report.

Commissioner Guinn said that on the Galena Terrace item he was approached by Parks’ staff (Ms. Budge) that residents would like a park constructed and they would take care of the

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maintenance of the park. It is very exciting when you have a group who wants a park built. He thanked Tom Warren and Dave who brought it to our attention.

In response to Commissioner Chvilicek regarding when the fences will come down in front of the Water Park, Ms. Budge said when it is signed off which she thinks will be March 31st. However, there is a list of things that need to be addressed before that is done. Mr. Crump said all of the fences have been removed with the exception of the fence around the playground.

In response to Commissioner Daniel regarding the status of State Question 1, Ms. Budge said Washoe County has been the fiscal agent for \$10 million on the Truckee River Bond since 2002. We have worked with area partners such as the Nature Conservancy, Nevada Land trust, City of Reno and Sparks and different tribal councils. We are in the final dollars of that funding which expires June 30th. As long as we have agreements with other partners and the money is obligated, the money won't go away.

8. Commissioner's Comments

No comment

9. Public Comment

Tom Nichols, Galena Terrace Association thanked Commission for taking a look at park area. They feel it will be an enhancement for the community.

Adjournment

Chairman Chvilicek adjourned the meeting at 3:50 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Joanna Schultz