

MINUTES

Washoe County Open Space and Regional Parks Commission January 6, 2015

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

1. **Roll Call**

Members present: Anne Buckley, Al Sheakley, Jim Nadeau, Thomas Guinn, Nate Daniel, Janet Davis and Scott Pierson. Ed Harney has an excused absence.

County Commission Liaison: Kitty Jung

Staff present: Eric Crump, Deputy District Attorney Leslie Admirand, Jennifer Budge, Colleen Wallace-Barnum, Marie Fong, Andy Mink, Bob Holland, John Keesee, Cheryl Surface and Joanna Schultz

2. **Public Comment**

Kent Ervin is a resident of the North Keystone neighborhood and co-organizer of the Promoting Safety on Peavine Trails group. He wishes to voice concerns about public safety in the open space on Peavine Mountain, adjacent to Rancho San Rafael Regional Park. Mr. Ervin has biked and hiked on Peavine Mountain for 24+ years, a wonderful recreational asset for the community. There is, however, a serious issue with unsafe recreational shooting over and toward the single track trails and 4-wheel drive roads. Over the weekend Mr. Ervin went hiking and encountered 3 separate parties of shooters. There have been other incidents of unsafe shooting and those are shown in documents he submitted and can also be seen on their Facebook site – Peavine Trails Safety. Fixing the safety concerns will require a multi-prong approach including effective enforcement, better education for all users and smarter regulations. Part of the solution should be an examination and realignment of the congested area boundaries. Most of the land is US Forest Service land and it is also designated as open space by Washoe County and the County regulates shooting restrictions within the congested area boundaries. This fits in mandate of the Open Space and Regional Parks Commission to advise County Commissioners on promoting and regulating regulation. Mr. Ervin requests that this issue be put on a future agenda.

3. Approval of the Agenda for the Open Space and Regional Parks Commission of January 6, 2015.

Motion by Commissioner Guinn to approve the Agenda for the Open Space and Regional parks Commission of January 6, 2015. Second by Commissioner Pierson. Motion carried

4. Approval of the Minutes for the Open Space and Regional Parks Commission Meeting of October 7, 2014.

Motion by Commissioner Guinn to approve the Minutes for the Open Space and Regional Parks Commission Meeting of October 7, 2014. Second by Commissioner Sheakley. Motion carried

5. Presentation by Eagle Scout Lane Radar on Lemmon Valley Horse Arena Mounting Station Project.

Park Ranger Marie Fong introduced Eagle Scout Lane Radar.

Eagle Scout Lane Radar gave a presentation.

Commissioner Nadeau said Mr. Radar had a great project and can already see the benefit. We appreciate all the help Eagle Scouts provides.

Ranger Fong thanked Mr. Radar for his work. The goal of these projects is to make mounting and unmounting horses easier and allows children to lead their horses through the streets safely.

In response to Commissioner Nadeau regarding the material donated, Mr. Radar said dad's boss allowed him to purchase the materials.

Commissioner Jung congratulated Mr. Radar and reminded him to go home and thank his parents for their support.

Eric Crump, Operations Division Director said this is the most popular horse arena and will get a lot of use.

6. Presentation by Eagle Scout Steven Rose on the revitalization of the Bearmat picnic area at Galena Creek Regional Park.

Park Ranger John Keesee introduced Eagle Scout Steven Rose.

Eagle Scout Steven Rose gave a presentation.

Commissioner Nadeau thanked Mr. Rose. He also asked Mr. Rose to pass on thanks to those who contributed and helped with this project.

7. Review and possible direction to the Board of County Commissioners regarding a donation to Washoe County from the Greater Reno Community Ice Skating Association and other user groups to fund an update to the South Valleys Regional Park Master Plan.

Jennifer Budge, Park Operations Superintendent said this is an exciting project that has been a grass roots citizen effort. We acquired the South Valleys Regional Park in the early 1990s. The first Master Plan was completed in 1993 that called for a lot of heavy athletic components. In 2000, the Master Plan was updated to accommodate for the Library, this was right after the WC1 Parks, Trails, Open Space and Libraries bond was passed. No update has been done and since then Dr. Dorostkar donated an additional 22 acres in 2009, the northern parcel right off of the round-about. The past few years we've had a lot of user groups come forward wanting additional fields built and an update to the Master Plan. With the cutbacks we did not have the staff, or the financial resources to facilitate and update.

Recently we've had the Greater Reno Community Ice Skating Association come forward who are working with other user groups to help privately fund and update the Master Plan. Discussion today is an anticipated future donation and we're looking at the February 10th Board of County Commissioner meeting to accept the donation to fund a Master Plan update. If the County accepts that donation, we would do a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) to seek a

consultant to help facilitate that processes and work through a very robust public information process to make sure what is planned is what is desired by the community.

Bill Johnson, Greater Reno Community Ice Skating Association, said they started a few months ago to locate a possible location to create a facility for ice users in the Truckee Meadows area. They have looked at private and city properties as a possible location. Working with a coalition of users they are in process of putting together a donation to fund a Master Plan update that could possibly include an ice facility as well as additional athletic fields.

Joel Grace, Greater Reno Community Ice Skating Association, said they have been reaching out to stakeholders who would be part of this process. They have gotten support from Mayor Schieve, a number of County Commissioners and would like this Commission to consider the donation.

Commissioner Guinn disclosed he is with Lumos and Associates who has done preliminary schematics for the private entity and will recuse himself from any decision in the future.

In response to Commissioner Nadeau regarding cost, Ms. Budge said approximately \$45,000 donation. Staff drafted a scope of work and provided that to the ice skating association and user groups to agree on what the Master Plan update would look like.

Commissioner Jung reiterated that this area has been identified as seriously needing a new Master Plan. It has been lacking in any forward motion due to lack of staff and funding. Citizens have been asking to develop this park. The Parks Department took a total of 60% cut in budget and have limped along because of the great staff who are dedicated and took on many roles.

This is a great opportunity and encourages this Commission to come to the County's budget hearing to be a voice and make a strong argument to identify what role Parks should have. Should they continue to be a part of the Community Services Department or a standalone department? Commissioner Jung feels Parks should be a standalone department. An injustice and disservice has been done to the people that use and access our parks as well as to parks staff. Staff didn't get into parks to close parks and they didn't go into parks so they could work for a community services division, which is planning, engineering etc. Standing this department back up is vital and one of the number one indicators for attracting great economic development.

Commissioner Nadeau said that he was on the Commission when Dr. Dorostkar donated property and the Master Plan is in serious need of an update.

Commissioner Guinn said as an engineer a Master Plan is very important. Not only does it predict what is being paid for, but is also a vision into the future. He is in great favor of Master Plans. If you have a plan you can veer from that and it's a good thing for everyone.

Mr. Grace thanked Eric, Jen and their department with their work throughout this process and they appreciate the County's support on this.

Motion by Commissioner Buckley accept an offer of donation to Washoe County from the Greater Reno Community Ice Skating Association and other user groups to fund an update to

the South Valleys Regional Park Master Plan. Second by Commissioner Davis. Motion carried

In response to Commissioner Nadeau regarding does this Commissioner wait for approval on the donation from the Board of County Commissioners before appointing a Park Commissioner on the Master Plan update, Leslie Admirand, Deputy District Attorney said it can be agendaized as a future agenda item

8. Presentation by Frederic Apcar Productions/AEG Live on a proposal to hold the Wagon Wheel Country Music Festival special event at Rancho San Rafael Regional Park October 3-4, 2015 and possible recommendation to Staff to negotiate a special event agreement to be taken to the Board of County Commissioners for possible approval

Jennifer Budge, Park Operations Superintendent introduced Frederic Apcar with Apcar Productions. They have a proposal to do the Wagon Wheel Country Music Festival at Rancho San Rafael Regional Park in October.

Frederick Apcar said he was born and raised in Nevada. He splits time between Las Vegas, Reno and Tahoe. Mr. Apcar does smaller festivals about 5,000-10,000 people in Las Vegas as well as casino one-off gigs in Reno-Tahoe area. The last several years Mr. Apcar has worked with AG Live and has been trying to figure how to fill a void for our state in entertainment outside of Las Vegas. Mr. Apcar reached out to the Reno-Sparks Convention and Visitors Authority and walked the property with AG Live representatives and District Manager, Andy Mink.

AG Live took over the Coachella Festival in Palm Desert, which was losing money from the original owners. Now it has turned into a 2-weekend event with over \$125 million in local economic impact. They also started a country festival called Stagecoach, which is top two in the country. Mr. Apcar does a lot of work with them and felt they would be the right partner for this festival.

Mr. Apcar would love to do a festival in Reno and keep it here for a long time. He spoke with a majority of the casinos who love the idea. There are so many festivals, the oldest New Orleans Jazz Festival, so they are sensitive to the neighborhood, park such as turf, water issues and very familiar with adapting and figuring it out.

In response to Commissioner Davis regarding closest event to Reno like this, Mr. Apcar said Las Vegas but nothing closer that it country specific. There is a type of country musical festival called Route 91 which was held in Las Vegas last year. The festival is on pavement and the budget completely different. They are spending \$15 million whereas our budget would be \$3-5 million. This will depend on the talent.

In response to Commissioner Nadeau regarding expected attendance, Mr. Apcar said hard it's to say but they are always optimistic. Based off reputation and type of artist he and AG Live have on their festival bills it would be over 7,000 people.

In response to Commissioner Nadeau regarding how late it normally goes, Mr. Apcar said it depends on where they are. In New Orleans the festival is over at 9:00 pm, Coachella over at 11:00 pm. The most important thing is seeing what the neighbors want and the noise.

Commissioner Jung left at 3:09 p.m.

Motion by Commissioner Daniel to approve a proposal to hold the Wagon Wheel Country Music Festival special event at Rancho San Rafael Regional Park, October 3-4, 2015 and recommend staff negotiate a special event agreement to be taken to the Board of County Commissioners for possible approval. Second by Commissioner Buckley. Motion carried

Mr. Aparcar said it is really refreshing to see young people actually making a difference. Seeing the Eagle Scouts, he thinks it's great and not enough of that going on.

9. Review and possible recommendation to the Board of County Commissioners to approve an agreement between Washoe County and Reno Tennis Club for Washoe Tennis Center

Jennifer Budge, Park Operations Superintendent said this agreement is for the tennis courts located on the Moana Lane, on the west side of Washoe Golf Course. We have a long standing relationship with Reno Tennis Club (RTC) who has been in existence since the early 1920s. The agreement is almost identical to agreements in the past with RTC. They are a tremendous partner for us, fantastic stewards of the park and take every dime they bring in and reinvest it into the courts. The courts are in the condition they are in because of their hard work. It's a great cooperative relationship, the County really benefits.

Ray Wooley, President of the Reno Tennis Club said they were established in 1923 and originally at the courts downtown which is now Barbara Bennett Park. RTC is volunteer based nonprofit consisting of about 27s members. RTC collects approximately \$20,000 in membership dues at least 95% of it going back into court improvements. Starting in 2007 they undertook a 4-year project to complete asphalt overlay of all 6 courts at the cost of \$120,000+. In 2012 & 2013 they built a hitting wall with a concrete slab at a cost of \$24,600. They resurface 2 courts in rotation every year with a cost of \$10,000+. Mr. Wooley feels this is a win-win situation. We have a great club there and the public is always welcome. It's a hidden gem.

In response to Commissioner Guinn regarding Washoe buildings, Mr. Woolly said he thinks it's the building on Plumas and they are on Moana Lane inside the golf course.

In response to Commissioner Pierson regarding the demand for pickle ball, Mr. Woolley said because the courts are in high demand for tennis we think it would cause more disruption if they were to add pickle ball. There are a lot of other places in town that are painting lines for pickle ball players; we don't have enough courts to facilitate.

Eric Crump, Operations Division Director said he had the opportunity to work with Reno Tennis Club and Mr. Wooley for many years. These are public courts, they run some leagues and tournaments, but on any given day the public can enjoy probably what are the best tennis courts in this area. This all due to what RTC does. They've maintained these courts, resurfacing a third of the courts every year. Courts within the parks system that have not been resurfaced in 10+ years. Mr. Crump thanked RTC for providing a great deal to the citizens of Washoe County.

In response to Commissioner Sheakley regarding any problems with golfers, Mr. Wooley said not too many. They are pretty well protected from getting hit by golf balls.

Motion by Commissioner Sheakley to recommend to the Board of County Commissioners to approve an agreement between Washoe County and Reno Tennis Club for Washoe Tennis Center. Second by Commissioner Guinn. Motion carried.

10. Update and discussion on proposed off-leash pet area at Hidden Valley Regional Park and possible recommendation to staff on the management of certain area(s) within Hidden Valley Regional Park

Colleen Barnum-Wallace, District Manager gave a presentation.

In response to Commissioner Pierson regarding is there a Master Plan or Development Plan in place for Hidden Valley Regional Park, Ms. Barnum-Wallace said there is from 1992.

Commissioner Daniel commented that the March joint Parks Commission with Cities of Reno and Sparks is shaping up that dogs off-leash and dog parks will be a major issue they will be looking at. This is a regional issue and it's important to look at this in a regional context. Making a decision on one particular area could mean a lot of issues and it is better to look at it in an overarching context. Commissioner Daniels suggests if anyone had an interest in this to attend the joint meeting in March.

Commissioner Daniels main concern with parks is that any trail that is used primarily by people, the people feel comfortable on those trails. This means a dog off-leash is always an issue. He is skeptical of putting large tracks of land for dogs to be off-leash.

In response to Commissioner Nadeau regarding comments or discussion with the other entities on health issues related to waste, Ms. Barnum-Wallace said the main issue is the dog waste. In Austin, Texas they have a scoop-the-poop program and is mainly due to water shed issues. They have real concerns with their water quality and making sure dog waste is removed. It is a problem in all of our parks.

In response to Commissioner Nadeau regarding any discussion with the entities on how effective citizen enforcement has been, Ms. Barnum-Wallace said she did not have an opportunity to contact the entity that has this program. She is very interested to know their results and is planning on contacting them.

Commissioner Daniel added that he feels there is a real need in the community for off-leash areas and dog parks. There are only five in the community and not sufficient for the population. He likes the idea of monitoring for environmental impact with enclosures that allow off-leash and have dog parks.

Public Comment:

Nancy Espin, Hidden Valley resident said she lives about 50 yards below the lower loop. She has lived there for 12 years and walks the lower loop daily. Those who walk this area are mostly elderly people who live in the area are not capable of walking the upper loop. The upper loop is rugged terrain, has rattlesnakes, coyotes, wild horses and used more by the younger people. Residents heavily use the park and have had very little problems. There is a heavy interest from residents to police themselves and they also clean up dog waste in the area. Most dogs people encounter off-leash on a trail are usually well trained. The only time she has really felt unsafe was within a dog park where many people visit socially while their

dogs are running around and she was bitten. Ms. Espin has never had a problem on the trails but knows people have encountered dogs and were not dog people. She thanked Ms. Barnum-Wallace on all the work and research on this issue but if you have ever walked the lower loop the idea of fencing it is not something that would work and creates another enclosed area. Ms. Espin also spoke about the commitment of the Hidden Valley residents to maintain surveillance of the park. Occasionally there are problems, but there is a lot of heavy community involvement.

William Dickinson, Hidden Valley resident thanked Ms. Barnum-Wallace for her research but it does not compare apples to apples. Like people, parks are not all the same. Repercussions for other parks/trails were mentioned, but there are already repercussions in all the other parks. Will there be enforcement in the Jumbo Grade where there is 10 miles of trails? Hidden Valley does not have a trailhead going into the foothill and BLM land. Hidden Valley is the only access. Another repercussion brought up was the developed area of the park. Most people enter the park from other streets walking through the developed area to undeveloped area with their dogs on leash. He has never seen anyone do this otherwise or any problems with people with their dogs on trails. Most people on the trails have some control of their dogs when off-leash on the trails and he doesn't see any problems. There is no conflict of interest between joggers, bikers, hikers and dogs. The Hidden Valley problem is just the tip of the iceberg. With the Parks Department managing 21,000 acres of land with only seven Rangers it is almost an insurmountable and impossible task to enforce. Mr. Dickinson suggested that the department and Commissioners declare that all open space be maintained as open space for most usage.

Jim read comments from Joy Evans. I resided in Hidden Valley since 1978, watching the growth and loss of open space to run my dogs. Now I am becoming a senior, still running the dogs and blessed to have open space to run my dog. Please keep open space to run without leashes. My dogs keep me active, give me a reason to go with hopes of not getting tangled in leashes and falling. I love the parks, outdoors and watching my dog run free to chase rabbits, climb higher hills and exercise in ways I cannot. Keep the leash out of the hills – Nevada's free spirit alive for all to enjoy.

Howard Espin, Hidden Valley resident said he walks his dog and walks the trail twice a day. Ms. Barnum-Wallace gave an excellent presentation and he would be addressing a few things she brought up. In the nine years that he has walked up there, he has never seen more than five cars parked at the north end. Normally there are 5-8 people walking in the morning, some are young people who come in park because there is no trailhead to walk up into the hills. The other comment was the impact on wildlife. The coyotes have parties behind his house very frequently and are all over the place from dusk until early morning. There has been coyote scat in front of his house. He doesn't think walking the dogs up there has had a whole lot of impact on wildlife. The birds in spring and fall are numerous. One reason he thinks coyotes are coming down into the residential area is because of the dry area in the hills and rabbits etc. are on the decrease. A lady he walks with walks the upper trails and has had encounters with coyotes. There was mention of the enclosed area and his wife and dog were attacked inside that park and have never gone back. They have never had a problem in the open space in the loop. He keeps his dogs on a leash until they get inside the fenced area and back on the leash when they exit to go home. There has never been an incident that he has seen between a dog and another person, but there have been some pretty vicious dog fights in the dog park where the owners couldn't control them. He has never seen a dog in the open space where the owners could not control their dogs. It's a good off-leash area with wonderful trails and he hopes it is decided to keep that area off-leash.

Commissioner Guinn said first and foremost it is open space. Being a native Nevadan he's never wanted our open space regulated, but with that comes responsibility. Hidden Valley is an established community and always has been. He's had family who lived there and it's a real community. When talking about making our open spaces responsible owners you really need to look at it community wide instead of regional wide. There are some areas that don't have such responsible dog or home owners. A perfect example is Peavine where they are shooting guns, littering after they're done shooting. There are permitting issues and would have to talk to NDP. Once an area is designated you can't just walk away from it. It will need a Management Plan and those cost money. As far a fence, animals tame or wild will go where they want to and fences aren't going to help. Commissioner Guinn loves the debate, but will come back to this. This is something that needs to have a real close look at with everyone involved. There is a reason we live in Nevada and that is because of our open space.

Commissioner Sheakley said he has close friends who live there and there are a lot of older people who live there. He agrees with Commissioner Guinn on the fencing and open space.

Commissioner Buckley said she is not familiar with the park at Hidden Valley but walks the Steamboat Ditch. On the ditch there are walkers, joggers, dogs on and off leashes. Most of the unleashed dogs are fine but there are number that are not. She believes the Hidden Valley residents are responsible dog owners but if we had an open area people from everywhere would want to also use the area and that is why they have a sight and tag system in some areas, because some dogs she has encountered almost daily have no manners. They don't answer to their owners and she doesn't trust or feel good around them. Commissioner Buckley does not have a dog at the moment but when she did she would allow it to run free in the hills south of McCarran. She knows the joy of doing this, but you are responsible citizens and not everybody is and could ruin it for everybody. The bottom line is it's public space and will have to have some regulation.

Commissioner Nate said, if you make a regulation such as an off-leash area it will also bring in some legal issues. If you have a sanctioned off-leash area and someone is bitten, who would that person be looking to sue for medical bills; owner, County, City? There are areas that you can walk your dog off-leash, if you go a bit further on Bureau of Land Management land. He knows the park well, hikes regularly there and is covered in a lot of dog waste. He thinks there are larger implications and needs to be taken as a whole and thought about strategically.

In response to Commissioner Nadeau regarding the survey showed 80%+ wanted an off-leash area, was it a specific area or just have dogs off-leash? Ms. Barnum-Wallace said there were no areas identified in the survey. We were hoping to eventually get those areas in a follow-up survey, but never did. The hope of creating the stakeholder groups would be to eventually dial in to that area. There were 21 respondents at the public meeting but were allowed to vote on more than one of the maps. Majority were either for all undeveloped areas, or the east of the fence line.

Eric Crump, Operations Division Director thanked staff for doing an excellent job in their research. This is a fairly significant decision. We all recognize this is an under-served recreational opportunity in this area and we as land managers and recreation park professionals need to understand that. We all recognize this is also a regional issue and looking forward to talking about it with our sister agencies, City of Reno and Sparks at the joint Parks Commission. There may be an opportunity at Hidden Valley to do some community

based stuff with that regional effort in mind. It is not a decision any of us have taken lightly, has taken a long time to get where we are and we still not where we need to be. The recommendation from this Commission is a good start in involving stakeholders and citizens on where we need to go to address a legitimate activity, but recognizing that not everyone participates in that activity. It seems on the surface like an easy decision, a lot of people will dismiss it as that. Mr. Crump can attest that although they don't show up in big numbers, there are a fair amount of people who call on a regular basis and ask where they can go and recreate without being either barked at, chased or threatened. A lot of people don't feel comfortable about dogs. Overwhelmingly the survey was in support of off-leash and thinks that was that community speaking out, but there were 16% that don't support it and we can't forget that.

Commissioner Nadeau said there are a couple of options. We can move with the staff recommendation, create the stakeholder group or delay this for the joint Park Commission meeting.

Commissioner Sheakley said he would like this addressed at a joint Park Commission meeting.

In response to Commissioner Guinn regarding has an agenda or date been set for the joint meeting, Commissioner Nadeau said its item #11 of the agenda.

Commissioner Daniel said the working group is a good idea and perhaps Washoe County can be the spearhead for this regional issue. If a subcommittee can be setup to address this it can be ahead of the joint meeting. They could be working on this and bring a report to the meeting.

Leslie Admirand clarified for the record that it is not this Commission that is creating the subcommittee, but the recommendation is Parks staff create a citizens stakeholder group.

Motion by Commissioner Sheakley to recommend Parks staff create a citizen stakeholders group as outlined in the staff report to develop an off-leash management plan for the Hidden Valley Regional Park. Second by Commissioner Daniel.

In response to Commissioner Buckley regarding is staff going to form the stakeholders committee what would be the composition, Mr. Crump said in the background of the staff report we list the likely candidates for this committee; interested community members, Parks staff, Open Space and Regional Parks Commissioner(s), representatives from Washoe County Regional Animal Services and technical experts.

Motion carried

11. Discussion and possible action for scheduling a joint meeting with city of Reno and City of Sparks Parks and Recreation Commissions.

Eric Crump, Operations Division Director said at several Parks Commission meetings there has been discussion of a possible joint meeting with the Parks Commissions of City of Reno and Sparks. It is coming together and hearing that in March will work for Reno and Sparks Commissions. A doodle will be sent to all Commissioners to narrow down a date that works, if not for all, then most of the Commissioners and staff. It is anticipated that the agenda will have 3-5 items and will be on some higher level regional issues. Anticipated items include:

- Update on parks or trails construction/CIP projects

- Update on Washoe County 1 (WC1) allocation, status and discussion on any remaining fund balance
- Discussion on off-leash areas within the region
- Regional aquatics facility needs and how to meet those needs
- Anticipated changes to City or County Codes relative to Parks

In response to Commissioner Nadeau regarding Reno and Washoe County meets around the same day/time, when is Sparks, Mr. Crump said they are on a quarterly basis but not sure of the date. They hold an evening meeting. Commissioner Daniel said it is the 1st Wednesday of the month of the quarter.

Commissioner Buckley said the public is not aware that Washoe County and City of Reno's Parks budgets have been cut 65%. This does not get any publicity and everybody else's budgets are getting better and looking for money. She thinks the community owes it to themselves to start giving back the funds. It's a lot of money to make up but they have no idea. She would like this brought up and how can we get it out there to explain to people how it affects their lives. The budget now is 1/3 of what it was 10 years ago.

Commissioner Nadeau requested a presentation on various entities budget status and where they are now compared to 10 years ago.

Commissioner Guinn would like Residential Park Tax brought up. There are a lot of projects where there is cooperation between entities to use some of the park tax for an actual park. He doesn't think people realize there is money that can't be used, but with the cooperation between entities those could be utilized more. This needs to come to the forefront. Ms. Budge said we could look at the map and have a fund balance for each district for each agency and see if any joint opportunities can be found.

Commissioner Nate said he misspoke, the Sparks meetings are quarterly, on the 4th Wednesday of the month; January, April, July and October at 5:30 p.m. The Sparks Commission let the Reno Commission now that they were willing to meet at the time of the Reno Commission in March. Commissioner Buckley's comment that situation with funding and staffing levels across all Parks Departments is short of ridiculous that it is so low and underfunded and staffed with additional parks coming into the system and all the amenities to maintain every year. Park Commissions can advocate for the parks through press releases, public comment at Board of County Commission meetings and City Council meetings.

Commissioner Pierson said looking at the area as a whole region, rather than silos, if there could be some kind of collaboration on issues that affect all entities such as dog parks, projects etc. would be a good idea and something the public would like to see.

Mr. Crump said the one thing to point out is the staff in each of agency departments relative to land management, parks and recreation do talk on a regular basis.

12. Presentation on Program of the Month featuring the *Christmas Trees for Foster Families*

Ranger Marie Fong and Bob Holland gave a presentation.

Commissioner Nadeau thanked them for their presentation.

13. Parks Reports

Jennifer Budge, Park Operations Superintendent highlighted reports.

In response to Commissioner Pierson regarding State Question One, Truckee River Bond what were those two parcels, Ms. Budge said that refers to the Carcionne Family Trust property off of the Mogul exit across the river from another acquisition the County received previously from the Carcionne Family Trust. It's contiguous to existing public open space and connects in to the County and US Forest system along the river. The contract is currently in negotiations.

Commissioner Buckley thanked staff for the invitation to the Grossology exhibit but difficult to make out when it is open. Not on the literature and when you look up at the Museum site, it took her a long time to find that the exhibit was open the same hours as the Museum; Wednesday through Saturday 10am-4pm and 12pm-4pm on Sundays. Mr. Crump said the exhibit is open during the Museum hours and will make sure that information is clearly posted on the website.

Mr. Crump added that the Grossology exhibit opened this past weekend with over 300 people attend. It's an excellent turn out for an opening and nearly all of the tours are booked.

14. Director's Report

Eric Crump, Operations Division Director said Colleen Seevers, Project Manager with Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Carson City District will be giving a presentation on the Carson City District Draft Resource Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement. It will be held at the January 27th Board of County Commissioners meeting. The plan is in its 120th day review period that ends March 27, 2015 and they are accepting public comment. The BLM has scheduled meeting throughout the district. Information can be found at blm.gov.

There are over 390,000 acres of BLM managed land in Washoe County. They only update this plan every 10-15 years and is much like a master plan and a land use plan providing multiple use guidance and have several options within the plan. It's important to us as it identifies those areas for potential by BLM and acquisition by us. We get a lot of our public parks through recreation public process. Mr. Crump encourages everyone to view the draft and make comments.

At the next meeting we will likely bring Chapter 95 for review.

Mr. Crump was contacted by Mr. Ervin regarding congested area shooting on Peavine and we will likely bring an item to this Commission meeting in February.

Two new Board of County Commissioners were sworn in yesterday. Commissioner Bob Lucey is in District Two and Commissioner Jeanne Herman is in District Five. The Chair is Commissioner Berkbigler and Vice Chair is Commissioner Jung. The Board of County Commissioners and the Manager's Office will be doing the Strategic Planning Workshop this Friday.

The February meeting will be held at Bartley Ranch Regional Park's Western Heritage Interpretive Center.

15. Commissioner's Comments

Commissioner Daniel would like to add shooting on public lands to a future agenda.

Commissioner Buckley will not be able to attend the February meeting as she will be out of town.

Commissioner Guinn welcomed the new Commissioners and realize that Parks needs more funding as budgets start coming.

16. Public Comment

No public comment

Adjournment

Chairman Nadeau adjourned the meeting at 4:41 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Joanna Schultz