

## MINUTES

### Washoe County Open Space and Regional Parks Commission January 5, 2016

Commissioner Thomas Guinn called the meeting to order at 2:30 p.m.

1. Roll Call

**Members Present:** Al Sheakley, Austin Olson, Thomas Guinn, Nathan Daniel, Doug Doolittle and Anne Buckley. Ed Harney and Janet Davis had an excused absence.

**Staff Present:** Eric Crump, Deputy District Attorney Michael Large, Dennis Troy, Cheryl Surface, Bob Holland, Pat O'Mara and Joanna Schultz

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Public Comment

Cathy Brandhorst discussed issues of interest to herself.

Eric Wonhof with the Reno Disc Golf Association said they came before this Commission in June, 2014 to get approval at the Sun Valley Regional Park for a new disc golf course. He wanted to give an update and thank staff and this Commission for endorsing this project. This course is the biggest project they've completed to date raising \$25,000 with 36 holes and about 80% done. They are very happy with it and the public also seems happy with it. They had a tournament last spring that sold out with about 60% of the players coming from outside of Nevada. There are three holes that they requested a minor change with Parks. Mr. Wonhof is happy to see an agenda item with some trail work for the park and they would like to be included in this type of work. They would like to finish this course and potentially find space for a course south of town.

4. Election of Open Space and Regional Parks Commission Chairman and Vice-Chairman for a term of January 1, 2016 through December 31, 2016

Motion by Commissioner Buckley to nominate Commissioner Thomas Guinn as Chair and Commissioner Nathan Daniel as Vice-Chair. Second by Commissioner Sheakley. Motion carried.

5. Approval of the Agenda for the Open Space and Regional Parks Commission Meeting of January 5, 2016

Motion by Commissioner Doolittle to Approve the Agenda for the Open Space and Regional Parks Commission Meeting of January 5, 2016. Second by Commissioner Buckley. Motion carried.

6. Approval of the Minutes for the Open Space and Regional Parks Commission Meeting of August 4, 2015

Motion by Commissioner Buckley to Approve the Minutes for the Open Space and Regional Parks Commission Meeting of August 4, 2015. Second by Commissioner Olson. Motion carried.

7. Approval of the Minutes for the Open Space and Regional Parks Commission Meeting of October 6, 2015

Motion by Commissioner Sheakley to Approve the Minutes for the Open Space and Regional Parks Commission Meeting of October 6, 2015. Second by Commissioner Doolittle.

Commissioner Doolittle said the minutes were clearly written and nicely laid out and thanked Joanna Schultz, Recording Secretary.

Motion carried.

8. Introduction of new Recreation Coordinator Patrick O'Mara

Eric Crump, Operations Director, introduced Patrick O'Mara as the new Recreation Coordinator. Pat will oversee the aquatics program, which includes Bowers pool, Melio Gaspari Water Park, the North Valleys Water Play Park, the operations of the Robert Z Hawkins Amphitheater and administering the athletic field permits. Pat comes to us with a great deal of experience. He was with the City of Reno for about 15 years and brings a lot of experience in municipal recreation, specifically in aquatics.

Patrick O'Mara, Recreation Coordinator, said he was born and raised in Washoe County. He started as a lifeguard with the City of Reno his sophomore year of high school and worked his way up to eventually become a fulltime employee. His background includes primarily aquatics, running various programs and facilities, as well as training staff. Mr. O'Mara has run community centers, special projects at the golf course and the before and after school programs. He is excited about having a bit of the old and familiar and new challenges like the amphitheater and sports leagues.

Commissioner Guinn thanked Mr. O'Mara and said it's nice that we are actually hiring staff and not reducing staff.

9. Presentation of the newly developed South Valleys Regional Park Master Plan and possible recommendation to the Board of County Commissioners to accept the Master Plan as presented

Dennis Troy, Park Planner, introduced Derek Kirkland of Wood Rogers Consulting Firm. Wood Rogers played a big part in updating this plan as the consultant.

Mr. Troy and Mr. Kirkland gave a presentation.

Commissioner Doolittle said the plan overall is very nicely done and a lot of effort was put into it. He missed the planning and meeting phase of this plan and as a footnote, he's not expecting any changes, but asked if there was there any consideration to changing the use of the existing Babe Ruth field? It is not currently used for youth, but for adult baseball. Was their thought to moving the little league fields and flat field zone closer to the existing little league fields and swapping that with the Babe Ruth field? Mr. Troy said that within Zone 3 the Babe Ruth field is oversized with quite a bit of wasted space, so it will be scaled back in size and we can pick up

more area to the north of that existing field. The idea behind the new ballfields is to make them pony league size fields so you could play pony league ball on them, but a shorter outfield fence could be put in to accommodate little league. They are a little bit larger to accommodate more user groups, but can easily be scaled down to accommodate little league.

In response to Commissioner Doolittle regarding the priorities listed, he did not see little league or Babe Ruth fields, Mr. Troy said they are listed.

In response to Commissioner Doolittle regarding there was mention of an exit off 395, did you mean off S. Virginia, Mr. Troy said yes, off of S. Virginia. They have had preliminary discussions with NDOT about a possible right turn-in, right turn-out in that area a little bit to the south of the existing dirt road, by the fence line.

In response to Commissioner Doolittle regarding where the hard courts are, in the original Master Plan it did call for tennis courts in that area. Since that original Master Plan was designed, all that housing went in and that may not be a good location because of the noise. Mr. Troy said they did reach out to the Property Manager who sent out an email blast to everyone within that community. We did not hear anything back. One consideration they did take was to exclude overhead lighting within that area.

Commissioner Guinn emphasized that when talking about building structures, staffing also needs to be considered. Structures are built, but we don't know how they are going to be staffed.

Commissioner Guinn would also like to see pickle ball and tennis separated with signage specifically saying courts for tennis or pickle ball, to avoid any issues like we had at Hidden Valley Regional Park. Commissioner Guinn lives in that area and parking is a big issue. Parking must be addressed.

Commissioner Doolittle said that parking and staffing is an issue in this park. Having a circulation plan and another entrance will help, but even then, it may not be enough. He lives in that area and the park is heavily used. Commissioner Doolittle would gladly work with this Commission and the Board of County Commissioners to try to increase staffing levels, if and when these facilities get built. He commends staff on the job they're doing now, but if new facilities come on board there is no way that the park would be maintained, at level it is currently at.

Commissioner Buckley commended staff and Wood Rogers on the report, she is very impressed. It's very exciting to see a plan like this in the south of town and hopes she will be able to see it completed.

In response to Commissioner Buckley regarding when will the plan go before the Board of County Commissioners, Mr. Troy said January 12, 2016. Commissioner Buckley would like someone to point out to the Board that if these facilities are built staffing needs to be increased.

#### Public Comment:

Cathy Brandhorst discussed issues of interest to herself. Deputy District Attorney Michael Large informed Ms. Brandhorst that she must restrict her comments to the development of the South Valleys Regional Park Master Plan.

Mr. Troy added, it is important to note that this project would not have moved forward if not for a \$40,000 donation from O'Neal family. Thank you O'Neal Family!

Commissioner Guinn said we appreciate donations especially with the financial condition of Parks. We really do appreciate that donation.

Commissioner Doolittle requested that a letter be generated by staff, to be signed by the Chairman of this Commission, thanking the family for their generous donation, if it has not already been done.

Motion by Commissioner Doolittle to recommend to the Board of County Commissioners, to accept the Master Plan as presented. Second by Commissioner Buckley. Motion carried.

10. Presentation of the Mount Rose Scenic Byway Corridor Management Plan and Washoe Valley Scenic Byway Corridor Management Plan

Cheryl Surface, Park Planner gave a presentation.

Commissioner Daniel said this is an amazing piece of work and a valuable contribution.

In response to Commissioner Doolittle regarding who was on the committee to develop the plan, Ms. Surface said the technical advisory group composed of Washoe County, NDOT, US Forest Service, State Parks, ENDOW, and a lot of individuals from the public.

Commissioner Guinn said this is a great plan. He lives off of Callahan Ranch Road so he gets to enjoy the Mt. Rose Highway in snowy conditions as well sunny conditions. He does have a concern with the photo op pull-outs on Thompson Lane and Mountain Ranch Road. Once you get past the Thomas Creek intersection, the weather is day and night. If there is no snow in the valley, there's always snow once you pass Thomas Creek and the two pull outs are right there. It is currently a dangerous situation because mostly tourists are pulled over taking pictures with no lighting on the highway.

There is a recommendation for animal crossings and as an engineer, Commissioner Guinn doesn't believe in those because you can't push a deer to cross where you want them to cross. It is a huge bicycle pathway going up Mt. Rose and cautions on putting something like this out there where you are now giving someone the opportunity to cause a dangerous situation.

Ms. Surface that all has to go through NDOT. A lot of the community members came on bus to school pull out sights and the opportunity to maybe use these for some of these for bus pullouts. One individual who came said she has to drive her daughter across the street to get a bus to school. There is no way for a bus to stop and safely pick up or drop her daughter off from their area. There was a lot of input into this. There are acceleration and deceleration lanes in the lower reach between Timberline and Wedge Parkway. There was a lot of concern with the ingress and egress and not having the acceleration and deceleration lanes.

11. Program/Park of the Month: *Christmas Trees for Special Families*

Bob Holland, Park Ranger gave a presentation.

Commissioner Guinn said it is a great program and thanked staff.

Commissioner Daniel said it is great to see everybody from the Community Services Department working together.

## 12. Parks Reports

Eric Crump, Operations Division Director highlighted reports.

Cheryl Surface and Dennis Troy, Park Planners highlighted the Planning Report.

## 13. Director's Report

Eric Crump, Operations Division Director, highlighted the Board of County Commissioners actions.

In response to Commissioner Buckley regarding use of the donation from AAA, Mr. Crump said the donation was earmarked for Nevada Farms and Families area in Rancho San Rafael Regional Park and not placed into the General Fund.

## 14. Commissioner's Comments

Commissioner Buckley said with the new year, and the budgets coming up she said we should start making some suggestions to the Board of County Commissioners (BCC) about Parks' funding.

Commissioner Doolittle agrees with Commissioner Buckley. Hopefully we receive some acknowledgement of what is necessary for proper maintenance staffing, to make certain the parks continue on an upswing. It's nice to see an additional staff member today, but there is a great need and we need to be at the head of that discussion with the BCC to make certain they understand the importance.

Commissioner Daniel would like to see an agenda item for February or March bringing the letter this Commission drafted last year. The letter was never finalized and he would like it back as an action item to vote on.

Deputy District Attorney Michael Large said we do have the draft of the letter and it will need to be recirculated again. He recommends this item comes back at the March meeting.

Commissioner Guinn said he would also like to correlate the 5-year CIP Plan with the budget item to get a better picture of the future which would help this Commission make better decisions.

Commissioner Guinn said he recycled his tree and wanted to remind everyone to please recycle your trees and not throw them in the open space. It is free to recycle and they only request a \$3 donation.

## 15. Public Comments

Cathy Brandhorst discussed issues of interest to herself.

16. Adjournment

Meeting adjourn at 3:57 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joanna Schultz