

MINUTES

Washoe County Open Space and Regional Parks Commission October 4, 2016

Commissioner Thomas Guinn called the meeting to order at 2:31 p.m.

1. **Roll Call**

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

Staff Present: Eric Crump, Deputy District Attorney Leslie Admirand, Bill Wardell, Meghan Sizemore, Brett Steinhardt, Cheryl Surface, Dennis Troy, Nick Steuer and Joanna Schultz

2. **Pledge of Allegiance**

3. **Public Comments**

Lynn Short (Bethel), President of the May Arboretum Society said today they had their 30th Anniversary celebration. As part of the 30th anniversary, they announced that they have an anonymous donor who has provided up to \$5 million to their endowment fund for the May Arboretum and Botanical Gardens. The endowment fund was established 3-4 years ago and is managed by the Western Nevada Community Foundation. Their Board established some regulations, such as, only the interest can be withdrawn. Currently the fund has \$55,000 and by the end of next year they are hoping to have \$10 million. Ms. Short wanted to make this announcement to this Commission.

Cathy Brandhorst discussed issues of importance to herself.

Kent Ervin, co-organizer of the Peavine Trail Safety Group, thanked the Parks Commissioners and Board of County Commissioners for their support in changing the congested areas/boundaries, especially expanding the no shooting zones on Peavine Mountain. This will help a lot in protecting trail areas and showing where the safe shooting areas are. An important part of the effort to make the trail areas safer is education about the new rules, including signage and maps. At the August meeting, it was discussed that County staff is working on new trailhead signs, which would include some parts in Rancho San Rafael Regional Park and hopes they will be making rapid progress on that. The County's online maps have been updated, but there is a deficiency related to the parks. Galena Creek and Davis Creek parks are identified as legal shooting areas and needs to be fixed. State parks are misrepresented on the map as is Pyramid Lake Tribe areas where shooting is restricted, but the map shows it as ok to shoot. On behalf of park users, Mr. Ervin would appreciate the Commission move this forward to County staff.

4. **Approval of the Agenda for the Open Space and Regional Parks Commission Meeting of October 4, 2016**

Motion by Commissioner Doolittle to approve the Agenda for the Open Space and Regional Parks Commission Meeting of October 4, 2016. Second by Commissioner Sheakley. Motion carried.

5. **Approval of the Minutes for the Open Space and Regional Parks Commission Meeting of August 2, 2016**

Motion by Commissioner Sheakley to approve the Minutes of the Open Space and Regional Parks Commission Meeting of August 2, 2016. Second by Commissioner Olson. Motion carried.

Public Comment

Cathy Brandhorst discussed issues of importance to herself.

Motion carried.

6. **Acknowledgement and recognition of Park Operations staff for their outstanding service and contributions to Washoe County**

Eric Crump, Operations Division Director said there are no 5 year service awards.

7. **Presentation by Eagle Scout Candidate Jake Steimle on his project at Hidden Valley Regional Park**

Park Ranger Nick Steuer introduced Eagle Scout Candidate Jake Steimle.

Eagle Scout Steimle gave a presentation.

Commissioner Doolittle thanked Eagle Scout Steimle for organizing the project. The video was very professionally done. The work they do out there is tremendous and Commissioner Doolittle encouraged him to keep volunteering every chance he gets.

Commissioner Olson thanked Eagle Scout Steimle. The ability to identify a need and then make parks and open spaces more accessible, is a job well done.

Commissioner Guinn said accessibility is a big issue. As an Engineer on this Commission, he is impressed with material knowledge, quantities, phasing and the first time he has seen a video for these projects. Commissioner Guinn said Eagle Scout Steimle did an awesome job and appreciates it.

8. **Presentation of the Elmer H. Anderson Park Excellence Award for the North Valleys Splash Park by Nevada Recreation and Parks Society. Awards will be presented to Washoe County, Pace Contracting and Stantec Consulting for their efforts with this project**

Park Planner, Dennis Troy said Elmer H. Anderson was the first Director of Clark County Parks and Recreation from 1963-1976. Prior to his employment at Clark County, he was the Director of Washington State Parks and was also one of the founding members of Nevada Recreation and Park Society. The Park Excellence awards are named for him in honor of his dedication to the society and the field of parks and recreation.

The Elmer H. Anderson award recognizes excellence in park planning, design, construction, and environmental best practices throughout the State of Nevada. The North Valleys Splash Park received this award for 2016 from the Nevada Recreation and Parks Society.

The North Valleys Splash Park is unique in many ways. The funding for the design and construction was from proceeds of Water Rights sales from 2003 and 2005 with the proceeds earmarked for the development of the North Valleys Regional Park. The design started in spring of 2012 lead by Stantec Consulting with Pace Contracting, as the contractor. The park opened to the public in spring 2014.

Video shown.

Barb Santner accepted the award for Stantec Consulting.

Pace Contracting was not available to accept their award.

Brett Steinhardt accepted the award for Washoe County.

Mr. Troy thanked the Commission for their support to make projects like this happen.

9. **Park Reports**

Eric Crump, Operations Division Director highlighted reports.

10. **Director's Report**

Eric Crump, Operations Division Director filled in for Director Dave Solaro, who is on vacation.

The Board of County Commissioners approved an Interlocal Agreement with the State of Nevada for maintenance and operations of the shared use path and associated parking facilities for the Tahoe East Shore Trail

Four proposals were received for the Washoe Golf Course. A committee ranked the written proposals with another committee ranking and listening to presentations given by each of the four proposers. Director Solaro is working through the rankings and will be bringing a staff report to the Board of County Commissioners October 25th for final recommendation.

11. **Commissioner's Comment**

Commissioner Daniel said this is the time of year to start thinking about whether this Commission would like to send another letter to the Board of County Commissioners for parks. A letter was sent out last year, though not sure of the effects of the letter, there was a report out about Capital Improvement Projects. Commission Chair Kitty Jung mentioned that the outpouring of support from the general public for parks help persuade the County Commission to put more money into parks. Commissioner Daniel feels this Commission should do it again and this item agendized for an upcoming meeting.

Commissioner Guinn said he appreciated the invite for the Arboretum. He was unable to attend, but is amazed by the donation and encourages the public to volunteer.

Commissioner Doolittle said it's been a long warm summer and congratulated and thanked staff on a tremendous job. The parks look great.

12. Public Comment

Cathy Brandhorst discussed issues of importance to herself.

15. Adjournment

3:14 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Joanna Schultz