

## MINUTES

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

Commissioner Thomas Guinn called the meeting to order at 2:32 p.m.

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

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

**Staff Present:** Dave Solaro, Deputy District Attorney Michael Large, Eric Crump, Dennis Troy, Andy Mink, Cheryl Surface, Nick Steuer and Joanna Schultz

#### 2. **Pledge of Allegiance**

#### 3. **Public Comments**

Chris Nenzel said he came to this Commission last month regarding the Betsy Caughlin Donnelly Park. An update was supposed to be posted, but there is none. He drives by the park daily and has seen no improvement or attempt to reclaim the pasture by the farmer. Mr. Nenzel has observed the tractor being moved once or twice, a pallet in the field then gone, otherwise the field looks just the way that it did when he came in last month. Mr. Nenzel would like to hear an update in the Director's Report if possible.

#### 4. **Approval of the Agenda for the Open Space and Regional Parks Commission Meeting of July 5, 2016**

Motion by Commissioner Buckley to approve the Agenda for the Open Space and Regional Parks Commission Meeting of July 5, 2016. Second by Commissioner Daniel. Motion carried.

#### 5. **Approval of the Minutes for the Open Space and Regional Parks Commission Meeting of June 7, 2016**

Commissioner Buckley said to change the wording of item #4 to "remove Jennifer Budge as the Park Operations Superintendent from the Agenda letterhead".

Motion by Commissioner Doolittle to approve the Minutes for the Open Space and Regional Parks Commission Meeting of June 7, 2016. Second by Commissioner Daniel. 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 we do not have staff to recognize for the month of June.

#### 7. **Recognition of Jennifer Budge for her years of service and support of Washoe County Parks and Open Spaces**

Dave Solaro, Director, said Jennifer Budge spent 17 years with Washoe County and did great things for Regional Parks and Open Space. She started out as a lifeguard in Sun Valley, ballooned from there with her career and has been a part of a lot of great things in Parks.

Director Solaro presented a plaque to Jennifer Budge.

Jennifer Budge thanked everyone for acknowledging her and her years of service. It was a pleasure being at Washoe County and leaving Washoe County was one of the hardest decisions she has had to make. It's truly like a family and means so much to her to be acknowledged.

Commissioner Guinn thanked Ms. Budge for her service. He has worked with her for many years and appreciated that she went out of her way to assist in anything he or this Commission needed.

Commissioner Doolittle also thanked Ms. Budge for her service. He worked with her for years and it was a pleasure working with her.

8. **Presentation by Eagle Scout Candidate Clint Cook on his fishing pond improvement project at Crystal Peak Park**

Nick Steuer, Park Ranger, introduced Eagle Scout Candidate Clint Cook.

Eagle Scout Candidate Clint Cook gave a presentation.

In response to Commissioner Guinn regarding the cost of the project, Eagle Scout Candidate Cook said the majority of the donations were materials from Home Depot who donated all the concrete and lumber. Cabela's donated the fishing rod holders. He estimates \$400.00 for the bench.

Commissioner Doolittle thanked Eagle Scout Candidate Cook for his service to the community. Scouts like him have done so much for Washoe County and are always greatly appreciated. Commissioner Doolittle also thanked the Rangers for assisting the Scouts with their projects.

Deputy District Attorney Michael Large said we see a lot of these Eagle Scout presentations, and it's refreshing to see someone recognizing a problem and seeing how it can be improved on his own. This speaks very highly on Eagle Scout Candidate Cook and this project.

Commissioner Daniel said that was the best presentation he's seen. Eagle Scout Candidate Cook did a very good job laying out his presentation from what the Eagle Scouts are to stating the problem and completion of the project. We don't see this very often and he appreciates it.

9. **Possible recommendation to the Board of County Commissioners regarding an update to the Washoe County Code Chapter 95**

Michael Large, Deputy District Attorney said Chapter 95 has not been updated for a while to reflect many of the changes that have taken place within the County and consolidation of departments. Staff provided copies of the rewritten Code and the current Code.

Mr. Large reviewed changes to Chapter 95:

- 95.600 Code reflects Penalties

- Section 95.500 through end of the Chapter allows enforcement powers to Enforcement Officials, as defined in the Statutes, to allow citations to be done at parks for violation of the rules. Currently it is not available in many cases and the Community Services Department feels that it is a problem that needs to be remedied.
- 95.440 through 95.600 outlines Enforcement Powers. This Code mirrors Chapter 55, Animal Services' Code, to provide a procedure by which a Park Ranger, or Enforcement Official, can give a citation to a park patron who is violating the rules. This gives the Enforcement Official a great deal of discretion, but codifies what they need to do in order to cite someone and enforcement power to prevent some of the damage we see in some of our park areas.
  - Other major changes are general rewrites and reflect the changing nature of the County and consolidation of departments. 95.010 through 95.190 has additions such as 95.110, Commercial and Professional Filming and Photography regulation has been delimited and aerial apparatuses has changed to include drones, as this has become an issue in the parks.

Mr. Large requested the Commission review the changes and vote to approve for presentation of a first reading at the next available Board of County Commissioners (BCC) meeting.

In response to Commissioner Doolittle regarding enforcing the Codes, Eric Crump, Operations Division Director said we have worked diligently with staff over many years and feels it's in a really good place. We use best practices from around the nation with other agencies similar to ours. There is a lot of discussion around citation authority, but it's just another tool, and hopefully a last resort, to gain compliance for all of the rules and regulations to keep our parks safe and clean. Mr. Crump is confident with proper training Park Rangers will use good discretion to determine when it is appropriate to issue a citation.

Commissioner Daniel said they just received the updated packet and is uncomfortable voting until they have a chance to review this newer version.

Mr. Large said the changes were presented at the previous month's meeting for review and comment. The only change has been the removal of the notes, renumbering of the paragraphs and addition of the Table of Contents. We can move this item to the next month's meeting for a vote.

In response to Commissioner Daniel regarding 95.000, Mr. Large said 95.000 is a reserved section for possible future statutes. This was not going to be included in the Table of Contents as it states it is reserved. The only addition to the Table would be the Penalties section.

In response to Commissioner Daniel regarding were the Penalties in the last draft, Mr. Large said there were.

Mr. Crump said this is the cleanest version of the rewrite and wants it to be right. If Commissioners would like to review it, we can bring this back next month for a vote.

Mr. Crump added that they did try to increase the authority of this Commission. In Section 7, items such as the fee schedule, Park Master Plans, Park District Plans, park naming and design, Special Event Agreements, policies and guidelines, discretionary permits and Resolution of Support can be approved by this Commission. Currently they all these items go to the BCC for

final approval. Some items may need to move forward to the BCC for approval, but most of them will remain with the Commission for review and approval.

In response to Commissioner Guinn regarding the section of code with the authorities, Mr. Crump said 95.020, Section 7 under Washoe County Open Space and Regional Parks Commission.

Mr. Crump said the number of mandatory meetings for this Commission was reduced to four, but anticipates there will be more than four meetings. Currently there is a minimum of nine, and often there is not a necessity to have that many meetings per year.

Commissioner Doolittle said changing the Chapter 95 Code has been in process for years, with the exception of the corrections being eliminated, it is much the same as the cleaned up version. He thinks the scheduling of the approval process and the two readings is going to take months and it is appropriate that we go forward with the clean version as there have not be any substantial changes for the last couple of months. Commissioner Doolittle feels comfortable approving this now.

In response to Commissioner Guinn regarding clarification of the process, Mr. Large said there is a first reading, and then a vote by the BCC. The final version presented to the BCC will be a cleaned up version with all of the changes made.

In response to Commissioner Guinn regarding the BCC meeting date it will be presented at, Mr. Large said it will be scheduled for the next BCC meeting after this Commission approves the changes.

Commissioner Guinn said to Commissioner Daniel that he would volunteer to attend the BCC meeting and speak at the Public Comment if he has any edits. Commissioner Daniel said he understands the timeline issue.

Mr. Large said it would take several months to place this on the BCC Agenda, so if Commissioners want to delay it by one month to make sure that we get it right, we can do that. He would like Commissioners to be comfortable with the recommendations.

In response to Commissioner Guinn regarding minor changes after a vote, Mr. Large said if they are substantial changes, they would need to come back to this Commission. If they are grammatical and formatting, it does not. The BCC is the board empowered to change ordinances and codes, therefore the first and second reading need to be identical.

In response to Commissioner Doolittle regarding Mr. Large's comfort level with the changes, Mr. Large said he is comfortable with the current version with the changes he has made and Mr. Crump has reviewed. They are in compliance with how Washoe County Code is done and reflect what Community Services wanted changed.

Motion by Commissioner Doolittle to approve the Chapter 95 changes as put forth to this Commission, conditionally that if there are any items of substance it would return back to this Commission for another review. Second by Commissioner Buckley. Motion carried.

## 10. **Parks Reports**

Eric Crump, Operations Division Director said he would answer questions regarding the Park Reports.

In response to Commissioner Doolittle regarding Betsy Caughlin Donnelly Park, Mr. Crump said he has not had a chance to speak to staff on an update on the park. This pasture, along with our other pastures, suffered dramatically through the drought. We've worked with the leasee, Pete Lazetich on restoration of that pasture. He suspects the pallet of materials seen was fertilizer, which is part of the restoration effort. We've been working with the leasee to reseed and fertilize now that we have appropriate water. Like anything, you are not going to see instant gratification. There's weed abatement and that takes time. The decision to close the pasture was made mostly because of the increase use that impeded our ability to maintain and restore that pasture. There is no time frame for reopening. Mr. Crump can bring back a report to the next meeting on all of the pasture restoration efforts.

In response to Commissioner Sheakley regarding an update on the Washoe Golf Course, Mr. Crump said it would be covered in the Director's Report.

## 11. **Director's Report**

Dave Solaro, Director said tomorrow there will be an ad in the Reno Gazette Journal for a Request for Proposals (RFP) for the operation of the Washoe Golf Course from January 1, 2017 through June 30, 2021. This end date will put both contracts for the golf courses on the same schedule. Sometime in late November of 2020, we will also put out an RFP for operation of both courses by one operator/vendor. Director Solaro has a list of people who have requested copies of the RFP and will notify them once the RFP is advertised. Mr. Solaro anticipates bringing this item to this Commission in October, then to the Board of County Commissioners (BCC) for review/approval in November. He may ask the Chair to sit in on the review panel and could take up to three months before we have a review for Washoe Golf.

In response to Commissioner Buckley regarding the deadline to submit proposals, Director Solaro said we are having a mandatory course walk July 22<sup>nd</sup> and the proposals are due in August.

Director Solaro said at the last meeting Commissioner Buckley mentioned her time had expired on this Commission. After review, Commissioner Buckley's term actually ends June 30, 2017. Commissioner Harney's time expired June 30, 2016. Director Solaro does have a replacement and a BCC item will be on the agenda for the July 26<sup>th</sup> meeting to appoint.

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

Commissioner Doolittle congratulated staff on how the parks look. Parks he has visited look great and staff is doing what they can with the resources they have. He applauds their efforts.

Commissioner Guinn said he attended the meeting for the Board of County Commissioners last week. The topic of firearms on Peavine came back up, unfortunately he had to leave early so he is not sure if it passed. The group who presented to this Commission was there and had a pretty good contingent with them. Commissioner Guinn understands both sides and it is nice to see items that were presented to the Commission then to the Board of County Commissioners where they did consider our comments and decisions. He appreciates this.

### 13. **Public Comments**

Chris Nenzel said in follow up to Mr. Crump's comments regarding Betsy Caughlin Donnelly, he would like to touch on a few things.

- Mr. Crump mentioned that part of the reason he felt the pasture needed to be closed is because of increased usage. There was a lot of usage in that pasture before it closed.
- Mr. Crump mentioned weed abatement was happening there as well as Rancho San Rafael, they didn't close Rancho San Rafael for that.
- Irrigation season is just about over. When this Commission reconvenes for the August meeting, he asks that this Commission ask Mr. Crump to reopen the pasture since the irrigation season will be over. The pasture will be close to mowed, based on Rancho's typical mowing schedule, we could reset the cycle and start all over again where the public could use the pasture again.

### 14. **Adjournment**

3:18 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Joanna Schultz