

MINUTES

Washoe County Open Space and Regional Parks Commission August 2, 2016

Commissioner Nathan Daniel called the meeting to order at 2:31 p.m.

1. **Roll Call**

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

Staff Present: Dave Solaro, Deputy District Attorney Michael Large, Dennis Troy, Kristy Lide and Joanna Schultz

2. **Pledge of Allegiance**

3. **Public Comments**

Cathy Brandhorst discussed issues of importance to herself.

4. **Administer Oath of Office to newly appointed Commissioner Charles Guffey**

Nancy Parent, Clerk, administered the Oath of Office.

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

Item #10 pulled.

Motion by Commissioner Doolittle to approve the Agenda for the Open Space and Regional Parks Commission Meeting of August 2, 2016. Second by Commissioner Buckley. Motion carried.

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

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

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

Dave Solaro, Director presented Kristy Lide, May Museum Curator, with a plaque. Ms. Lide has been with Washoe County for the past 30 years.

Ms. Lide said before she came to Washoe County, she worked as a Landscape Contractor for four years, was an Intern as a Landscape Architect, designed small and large irrigation projects. When she came to the County she was a Park Planner then was pulled to work at the Museum.

Commissioner Doolittle said Ms. Lide has done a wonderful job at the May Museum. She has been instrumental in getting May Foundation on board with a lot of different projects and did a lot of the design of the interior and bringing in exhibits.

Commissioner Daniel said he has known Ms. Lide for four years and she has done a fantastic job.

8. **May Arboretum Society presentation by Lynn Bethel**

Lynn Bethel, May Arboretum President, gave a presentation.

Commissioner Daniel thanked Ms. Bethel for her presentation. This Commission has been working on raising the overall budget for County Parks, of which the Arboretum is a part. Last year this Commission wrote a letter to the Board of County Commissioners encouraging them to prioritize parks and will probably do it again this year around September, or October. Commissioner Daniel said it would be helpful if Ms. Bethel draft a paragraph explaining the benefit of the May Arboretum to the County and add this to the Commission's letter.

Commissioner Buckley said she understood why Washoe County wouldn't let the Society use the cart. What would it take to allow them to use it? Ms. Bethel said she is not sure. She was told it could only be used in the point of business of the Horticulturist. The point being, if his job description was to move people around, he would be able to use it, but that isn't in his job description. So we have a cart sitting in storage unable to be used for what it was garnered for. Ms. Bethel is hoping to get more information, but wanted to make this Commission aware that we have this cart.

9. **Congested Shooting Update**

Dave Solaro, Director said an update on congested shooting was requested at last month's meeting.

Director Solaro gave a presentation.

In response to Commissioner Davis regarding signage, Director Solaro said one of the next steps is to make sure the signage is uniform. He is setting up a group, specific to Peavine right now, to make sure signage is uniform for all trailheads, for where people access the mountain, so they clearly understand. We have FAQs on the CSD and Sheriff's webpage and he is waiting for the electronic mapping to be updated. There was some confusion as the Sheriff's Office had also created an electronic map, so we are going to a simple map for all.

In response to Commissioner Doolittle regarding sharing maps with retailers, Director Solaro said we are going to push the information to sporting stores, such as Cabela's and Scheels, gun shops and trails groups.

Commissioner Daniel commended Director Solaro on the work he has done. This is a good example of responsive governance. This is a complicated issue and a solution was found that was a good compromise.

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

Item pulled.

11. **Park Reports**

Dave Solaro, Director said Park District Reports are in Commissioner packets, but he would like Dennis Troy to come up and talk about the Planning projects. He will have additional updates in the Director's Report.

Dennis Troy, Park Planner highlighted the Planning Report.

Commissioner Doolittle said the pickleball courts look really nice and as a Commissioner and pickleball player, he really appreciates it.

In response to Commissioner Daniel regarding last update to the Parks Master Plan, Director Solaro said this is a continuation to the Master Plan process that we started about 1 ½ years ago. We ran up against some legislative issues that we can now address within the Master Plan. This is an overarching Master Plan for all of the park system. We still have various Master Plans for each individual park and this is the first time we've had an overall Master Plan of all park facilities separate from individual Master Plans for each one.

Commissioner Doolittle said the Master Plans are more park specific and not for the whole system and it would be great to see this come forward and completed.

Director Solaro said Bowers Mansion pool will close Sunday, August 7th. Both water parks will remain open weekends only through Labor Day.

12. **Director's Report**

Dave Solaro, Director said Eric Crump and Colleen Barnum-Wallace met with the constituent who made public comment the last two meetings regarding the pasture at Betsy Caughlin Donnelly Park. He fully understands now what is going on and why we are making the decisions we are making to rehab that pasture. Mr. Crump said the pasture is looking pretty good and we'll have the operator hay next week and run cattle.

On July 22nd we held a walk through at Washoe Golf Course in response to the Request for Proposals. Six groups showed up to take part in the walk through and understand our golf course. They can ask him questions up until August 12th, proposals are due August 19th and somewhere around September 19th we will do interviews of the top two.

This evening there is another "Walk with Washoe" at the Lockwood Loop Trail. It starts at 6:30pm at 505 Lockwood Drive. There will also be another walk this week at the Galena Creek Nature Trail at 6:30pm on the 16th.

In response to Commissioner Daniel regarding local golf groups, Director Solaro said three of them can be considered local. CalMaz currently has the Sierra Sage Golf Course contract, BelMen Golf who has the current license at Washoe Golf Course and Eagle Valley in Carson City.

Commissioner Doolittle thanked Mr. Crump and Ms. Barnum-Wallace for taking the time to meet with the constituent to go over the Betsy Caughlin Donnelly pasture rehab plan. He came to two meetings and had concerns and glad that went forward.

13. **Commissioner's Comment**

No comments

14. **Public Comment**

Cathy Brandhorst discussed issues of importance to herself.

15. **Adjournment**

3:16 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Joanna Schultz