

DRAFT MINUTES

Washoe County Open Space and Regional Parks Commission
November 7, 2017

Commissioner Nathan Daniel called the meeting to order at 2:32 p.m.

1. **Roll Call**

Members Present: Chris Nenzel, Matthew Webber, Carissa Tashiro, Doug Doolittle, Nathan Daniel

Staff Present: Eric Crump, Colleen Wallace Barnum, Bill Carlos, Kitty Jung, Michael Large, Dave Solaro, Kathy Emerson, Jen Purgitt

2. **Pledge of Allegiance**

3. **Public Comments**

Cathy Brandhorst spoke of items related to her personal interests.

4. **Approval of the Agenda for the Open Space and Regional Parks Commission Meeting of November 7, 2017**

Motion by Commissioner Doolittle to approve the Agenda for the Open Space and Regional Parks Commission Meeting of November 7, 2017. Second by Commissioner Nenzel. Motion carried.

5. **Approval of the Minutes for the Open Space and Regional Parks Commission Meeting of September 5, 2017**

Motion by Commissioner Webber to approve the Minutes for the Open Space and Regional Parks Commission Meeting of September 5, 2017. Second by Commissioner Tashiro. Motion carried.

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

Commissioner Daniel stated that there was nothing to report this month.

7. **Review and possible recommendation to the Board of County Commissioners on an agreement between Tianyu, the May Arboretum Society and Washoe County for a Chinese Lantern Festival to take place within the May Arboretum and Botanical Gardens in July/August of 2018**

Colleen Wallace Barnum, Park Operations Superintendent, gave a presentation.

Kitty Jung asked if this where the lanterns are lighted and sent up in the air. Colleen Barnum-Wallace explained that they are LED static lights that are attached to a structure. The lanterns are created by artisans in China. Commissioner Doolittle asked what the impact to staffing would be. Colleen Wallace-Barnum stated that there are not any additional dollars to do that but as stated in the agreement most of the responsibilities are on Tianyu. Parks has blocked the facilities so there will not be any reservations taken during the time of the event. Oversight will be a combination of Rancho San Rafael and Arboretum staff. Commissioner Daniel wanted to remind everyone that there is no rental fee for this event. Commissioner Tashiro asked if the revenues received from this event will make up for not hosting special events. Colleen Wallace-Barnum stated the money from the sale of this event will go directly to the Arboretum.

Commissioner Daniel asked if the money made from weddings and other special events goes into the general fund. Colleen Wallace-Barnum said yes.

Motion by Commissioner Webber to recommend to the Board of County Commissioners to approve an agreement between Tianyu, the May Arboretum Society and Washoe County for a Chinese Lantern Festival within the May Arboretum and Botanical Gardens at Rancho San Rafael from June 30, 2017 to August 15, 2017. Second by Commissioner Doolittle. Motion carried.

8. Update and discussion on Smoke Free Parks Joint Agency Working Group

Eric Crump did not have an update as there was not a quorum for the October meeting. The next meeting is scheduled for November 30th.

Commissioner Daniel went to the meeting in Sparks and feels the longer this process is drawn out the less enthusiasm there is. Commissioner Doolittle talked to the Parks staff in Salem about their policy and they are very strong about no smoking in the parks. They use the Sheriff's Office to come out and arrest people who are smoking in the parks. He was also in Las Vegas a month ago and talked to staff where they do not enforce it. Signs are up but they differ among the communities so there is confusion. On a cautionary note, Commissioner Doolittle feels the enforcement is going to be tricky. Commissioner Daniel said Sparks did a Survey Monkey about banning smoking in the parks. The Truckee Meadows Parks Foundation is going to put a survey out so maybe it is something we could collaborate on. Kitty Jung suggested that maybe before nonprofit funding was used the Foundation waits until the County buys a program for one issue items where the results can be quickly released to the public. Kitty Jung asked Dave Solaro to get a timeline. Kitty Jung doesn't understand why we would put another law in the books if there is no enforcement.

9. Acceptance of a PACK Internship Grant for future interns in Parks

Colleen Wallace-Barnum, Parks Operation Superintendent, gave a presentation.

Commissioner Daniel said the Park Foundation has used these PACK interns before and they work well.

Motion by Commissioner Doolittle to move forward on acceptance of a PACK Internship Grant for future interns to be used in Parks. Second by Commissioner Webber. Motion carried.

10. Program/Park of the Month: Greenhouse Update

Bill Carlos, Horticulturist, gave a presentation.

Commissioner Doolittle congratulated Bill on the success of the greenhouse project. Commissioner Daniel stated this is a great thing and the greenhouse looks amazing. He would also like to thank the Manager's Office and the award of the internal grant. Kitty Jung advised to ask the Manager's Office if they were going to award grants again and when we would be eligible again.

11. Parks Reports

Colleen Wallace-Barnum, Park Operations Superintendent, highlighted reports.

Commissioner Daniel asked about the sand dome at Lazy 5. Colleen stated that Parks would be breathing some life into from a recreation standpoint. Commissioner Doolittle is very happy with the condition of the parks. They look better than he has ever seen them. Colleen will be sure to pass this onto staff as this is a result of dedicated staff.

Dennis Troy, Park Planner, gave an update on Park Planning.

12. Director's Report

Dave Solaro, Director, highlighted the Board of County Commissioner's Actions Reports.

Kitty Jung asked Dave to discuss the golf report. Michael Large asked if the \$61,000 shown in the report owed to the County is outstanding. Dave stated that everything is paid early and there is not an outstanding balance.

13. Commissioner's Comments

Commissioner Webber congratulated Bill Carlos on the greenhouse project. He feels it will be a great addition to the community.

Commission Daniel said that a letter will be written in support of Washoe County Parks. Commissioner Daniel asked for anyone to take a stab at writing the letter. The old letters are available for reference.

14. Public Comments

Cathy Brandhorst spoke of items related to her personal interests.

15. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 3:23 pm