

MINUTES

Washoe County Open Space and Regional Parks Commission July 13, 2017

Commissioner Nathan Daniel called the meeting to order at 2:30 p.m.

1. **Roll Call**

Members Present: Austin Olson, Chris Nenzel, Nathan Daniel, Matthew Webber and Carissa Tashiro. Tom Guinn had an excused absence.

Staff Present: Dave Solaro, Colleen Wallace Barnum, Dennis Troy, Cheryl Surface, Denise Evans, Jen Purgitt and Joanna Schultz

2. **Pledge of Allegiance**

3. **Administer Oath of Office to newly appointed Commissioners Matthew Webber, Chris Nenzel and Carrisa Tashiro**

Nancy Parent, Washoe County Clerk administered the Oath of Office to Commissioner Nenzel, Webber and Tashiro.

4. **Public Comments**

Cathy Brandhorst discussed issues of importance to herself.

5. **Approval of the Agenda for the Open Space and Regional Parks Commission Meeting of July 13, 2017**

Motion by Commissioner Nenzel to approve the Agenda for the Open Space and Regional Parks Commission Meeting of July 13, 2017. Second by Commissioner Webber. Motion Carried

6. **Approval of the Minutes for the Open Space and Regional Parks Commission Meeting of April 4, 2017**

In response to Commissioner Daniel regarding approval by Commissioners who were not at this meeting, Dave Solaro, Director said Legal has said that it can be approved regardless of being present at the meeting. Director Solaro stated Commissioner Daniel, if present at the last meeting, should make the motion.

Motion by Commissioner Daniel to Approve the Minutes for the Open Space and Regional Parks Commission Meeting of April 4, 2017. Second by Commissioner Olsen. Motion Carried

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

Dave Solaro, Director said there are no Parks' staff reaching a milestone at Washoe County for the last five years.

8. **Review, discussion and possible recommendation to the Board of County Commissioners regarding a proposed reclaimed water line and sewer force main alignment by Heinz Ranch Land Company on APN 087-031-13, commonly known as Cold Springs Park (3355 White Lake Parkway)**

Dennis Troy, Parks Planner gave a presentation.

Angela Fuss with Lumos & Associates gave a presentation.

In response to Commissioner Nenzel regarding impact to the people going to the park, Mr. Troy stated it will have zero impact. It will have its own separate entrance and does not affect any existing uses on the site.

In response to Commissioner Daniel regarding where the reclaimed water goes, Ms. Fuss said that at this time the Cold Springs Sewer Treatment Plant does not provide reclaimed water. Lumos and Associates have been in discussions with the County for quite some time so the idea has come up that potentially sometime down the road it could provide reclaimed water.

Commissioner Daniel said it is a small path thru an unused portion of the park and appreciates the small impact on the park.

In response to Commissioner Tashiro regarding drainage and impact of flooding, Mr. Troy said the existing drainage is the same alignment as the western property boundary of the park. The drainage course runs thru the gap between the two different all surface roadways. Angela Fuss added the drainage goes to the gap with the idea the sewer line would run underneath that but there would not be a road running over it.

Motion by Commissioner Tashiro to recommend approval of a proposed reclaimed water line and sewer force main alignment by Heinz Ranch Land Company on APN 087-031-13, commonly known as Cold Springs Park [3355 White Lake Parkway]. Second by Commissioner Nenzel. Motion Carried

9. Community Services Department Budget Update

Dave Solaro, Director gave a presentation.

In response to Commissioner Daniel define how above base works, Director Solaro said every year we start the same budget with the funding amount from the prior year. Each department develops requests for additional funds for different needs such as programs, staffing, equipment needs, etc. that is submitted to the Budget Office. As a department we then have the opportunity to sit down with the Budget Analysts and the Manager's staff to explain what it is we are trying to accomplish and what benefit the request brings to the County. The Manager then makes their recommendation to the Board of County Commissioners.

Commissioner Daniel said for the past two years this Commission has endorsed a letter to the Board of County Commissioners and Manager recommending we see an increase in the above base spending to try to get us back to the place we were pre-recession. Parks is still operating at a deficit. Commissioner Daniel would like to submit another letter but instead of it being so general he would like to include an increase in funding for specific programs.

In response to Commissioner Daniel regarding Capital Improvement Projects, Director Solaro said all of the Parks' projects are moving forward and nothing has been put on the back burner. We have identified some projects for deferral potentially. They are more on the building and technology side and we are working with Budget on this.

Director Solaro said Commissioner Kitty Jung was very much behind getting funding specific to Parks. Commissioner Daniel agreed and he understands

10. Discussion and possible appointment of a Washoe County Open Space and Regional Parks Commissioner to the Working Group for the development of a smoke free park policy

Colleen Wallace Barnum, Park Operations Superintendent said in January this Commission had a joint meeting with City of Reno, City of Sparks and Washoe County regarding smoke free environment in parks. No decisions were made at this meeting. There has been some movement from City of Reno, City of Sparks

and Carson City to create a working group to come up with a smoke free policy. The idea of today was to see if one of you would participate in the working group.

In response to Commissioner Daniel regarding clarification of the open meeting, Ms. Wallace Barnum said Sparks will manage and administer this group from the perspective of the Open Meeting Law. There is still a need for administrative support for this group.

In response to Commissioner Webber regarding time commitment, Ms. Wallace Barnum said she believes quarterly meetings.

Motion by Commissioner Nenzel to volunteer for the Working Group. Second by Commissioner Olsen. Motion Carried.

Ms. Wallace Barnum said there is a variation between smoke free, vape free and tobacco free which is part of the discussion and will be considered when creating the policy.

11. Review and possible recommendation to the Board of County Commissioners to approve an agreement between Washoe County and the Celtic Celebration, Inc., to hold the Celtic Celebration special event at Bartley Ranch Regional Park on October 7-8, 2017

Colleen Wallace Barnum, Park Operations Superintendent said has been held since 2007. They reserved the entire park when the event first started. This is a fee based event. It has always been important to this board that the park remained open to joggers, hikers, etc. This has always been the case. When the economy wasn't doing great they only rented a portion of the park but are back to renting the whole park. They organization takes care of everything themselves.

Motion by Commissioner Olsen to recommend to the Board of County Commissioners to approve the agreement between Washoe County and the Celtic Celebration. Second by Commissioner Nenzel. Motion Carried.

Ms. Wallace Barnum said Chris Moreland, Celtic Celebration President couldn't make the meeting and apologized for his absence.

12. Program/Park of the Month: Volunteer Program Updates

Denise Evan, Volunteer Coordination gave a presentation.

Commissioner Daniel said we have used the Pack Internship Program before and have gotten quality interns. It helps that they are getting paid.

13. Parks Reports

Colleen Wallace Barnum, Park Operations Superintendent highlighted reports.

Cheryl Surface, Natural Resource Planner and Dennis Troy, Park Planner highlighted the Planning report.

Commissioner Daniel said Ms. Surface and Mr. Troy are very good at bringing in grant money for Parks. He was also impressed with the work on the Ballardini trails. We are always in need of more trails.

In response to Commissioner Daniel regarding pre-emergent weed spraying, Ms. Surface said we can get a large area treated that is not adjacent to private properties using the pre-emergent. Ms. Surface has data on plots testing different methodologies regarding weed spraying. She would love to take the Commission on a field trip to see the results.

In response to Commissioner Daniel regarding Parks Master Plans, Mr. Troy said each park has a master plan but the county does not have a master plan. Mr. Troy said they are in the process of working on this and highlighting deficiencies.

14. Director's Report

Dave Solaro, Director highlighted the Board of County Commissioners actions report.

Director Solaro has inspected both golf courses and things appear to be going really well.

Commissioner Daniel said WC-1 funds have gone a long way. It is great to see this.

Director Solaro reviewed Open Meeting Law. Please do not reply to all on emails as this is in violation of the Open Meeting Law. We will have Mike Large do an ethics review.

15. Commissioner's Comments

Commissioner Tashiro wanted to thank you for the opportunity to serve on this Commission. She is looking forward to working with everyone.

Commissioner Webber wanted to thank everyone for their presentations and is excited to serve on this Commission.

Commissioner Nenzel wanted to echo the two prior comments.

Commissioner Daniel said Assembly Bill 379 was passed in the Legislature. This Bill allows certain local government agencies to create Park Districts. Commissioner Daniel thanked Karen Mullin, former Washoe County Parks Director who played a vital role in getting this Bill through, Julie Conway, former City of Reno Parks Director, Assemblywoman Amber Joiner who sponsored the bill and worked tirelessly rewriting this bill. This is very exciting. Lastly, Commissioner Daniel would like to thank the members of the Truckee Meadows Park Foundation.

16. Public Comments

Cathy Brandhorst discussed issues of importance to herself.

17. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 4:08.