

MINUTES

Washoe County Open Space & Regional Parks Commission June 2, 2009

Vice Chairman Bob Jacobson called the meeting to order at 2:32 p.m.

1. Roll Call

Members present: Sarah Chvilicek, Jim Nadeau, Jakki Ford, Bill von Phul, Patty Moen, Jakki Ford and Jim Nadeau. Cliff Young and Tina Nappe had excused absences. A quorum was present.

County Commission Liaison: Commissioner Kitty Jung

Staff present: Leslie Admirand, Deputy District Attorney; Doug Doolittle, Al Rogers, Eric Crump, Doug Mullens, Jennifer Budge and Melissa Currie.

2. Approval of the Agenda for the Open Space and Regional Parks Commission Meeting of June 2, 2009.

Commissioner Chvilicek motioned to approve the agenda for the Open Space and Regional Parks Commission Meeting of June 2, 2009; Commissioner Nadeau seconded. Motion carried.

3. Approval of the Minutes for the Open Space and Regional Parks Commission meeting of April 7, 2009.

Commissioner von Phul motioned to approve the minutes of the April 7, 2009 meeting; Commissioner Ford seconded. Motion carried.

4. Public Comment and Discussion Thereon

No public comment was given.

5. Update on proposed changes to Washoe County Code Chapter 95 - Parks and Recreation.

Al Rogers, Assistant Director, explained that it has been awhile since Chapter 95 has been updated and it has outlived its usefulness and its serving to the department and the community. We are asking for feedback now and will come back to this board for a formal recommendation prior to taking it to the County Commissioners.

Commissioner von Phul thinks the requirement of only four meetings a year is a wise decision as it will save staff time and still give the option of more meetings if necessary. He recommended on page 9 in regard to the Director's responsibilities to delete *of him* after required. On page 16 regarding extinguishing fires, he questioned the advisability of requiring people to extinguish charcoal in the large barbecue pits at the picnic pavilions. Mr. Rogers explained that we wanted to put it into the code so we can address those issues, but the point is well taken that the charcoal

grills in the developed areas are self contained and to extinguish them may be counter-productive, and we will look into it. Commissioner von Phul stated on page 20 regarding the number of motor vehicles in an individual campsite not exceeding two, that if the vehicles are motorcycles, it is inappropriate. Eric Crump, Operations Superintendent explained that we can address that by including a definition of vehicle. On page 22 we are recommending deleting *or designee* and Mr. Crump explained that the definition of the director includes the director or his designee so it is not needed in the body of the document. Commissioner von Phul mentioned that throughout the document reference is made to needing authorization from the director but it is unclear what form that authorization would be.

Commissioner Nadeau agrees that quarterly meetings are good, but feels the requirement of three absences needs to be tailored since that would allow a Commissioner to miss 75% of the meetings. Mr. Rogers explained that we left it in for discussion and also we are recommending changing from *shall automatically* to *may* result in a vacancy. In response to Commissioner Nadeau regarding human services animals, Mr. Rogers explained that we will include a definition in the code. Commissioner Nadeau pointed out that the number of terms of office for a commissioner is not listed in code. Deputy District Attorney Leslie Admirand believes that the two term limit is an adopted County policy.

Mr. Rogers explained that we will take this input and come back to this board in July for a recommendation.

6. Recommendation to create an Ad Hoc Committee to review Regional Shooting Facility operations and develop operational guidelines.

Al Rogers, Assistant Director, explained that we have provided a proposal and recommendation for creating a citizen committee to give us input on the current and future operations of the Regional Shooting Facility. We have had recent meetings with various user groups and individuals who have indicated that they would like to see more public input. We have identified some proposed groups for the committee, i.e. the Palomino Gun Club, the Western Pistol League and the Sheriff's Office, and also someone to represent the individual folks that come out and use the range. We also recommend having a Park Commissioner liaison on the committee. A lot of efficiencies and good things can come out of the group.

Commissioner Chvilicek suggested that there be someone to represent youth shooters and Mr. Rogers concurred.

County Commissioner Jung would like to see other law enforcement groups, i.e. UNR Police Department, Reno PD, Sparks PD, Washoe County School District Police and the Junior ROTCs. Doug Doolittle, Director, explained that we would like to keep the committee to a small level but we will certainly invite all user groups to the table.

Commissioner von Phul stated that the suggested committee would be in a far better position to make decisions about the shooting facility than would this body.

Commissioner von Phul motioned to recommend the creation of Ad Hoc Committee to review Regional Shooting Facility operations and develop operational guidelines; Commissioner Ford seconded. Motion carried.

Mr. Doolittle asked if a Commissioner would volunteer to sit on the committee as a liaison; Commissioner Chvilicek stated she was willing to participate and could also represent youth shooters.

7. Planning Division Report

Jennifer Budge, Park Planner, highlighted a few projects. The final walk-through for the Lockwood Trailhead was last week. We will do a soft public opening with a celebration this fall in conjunction with the Flood Project as part of the Living River Celebration. We have gone to contract with Wood Rogers and Design Workshop for design of the Persigehl Trailhead and the Environmental Assessment. There will be a big public scoping process in the next few months involving the Commission and the surrounding community. The Galena Visitor's Center is complete and we are working with the Forest Service and Federal Highways this summer to do some road improvement on Mt. Rose Highway. For the O'Brien Trailhead, we are on contract with Gradex Construction to demolish all but one of the existing structures. Lynda Nelson, Planning Manager, is working on securing \$3.8 million of stimulus funding for ecosystem restoration.

In response to Commissioner Nadeau regarding the status of the Eagle Scout project at Lockwood, Eric Crump, Park Operation Superintendent explained that it is not done but he would be happy to follow up.

In response to Commission von Phul regarding the project description for the Lockwood Trailhead to construct a pedestrian bike trail from Vista Blvd. in Sparks to McCarran Ranch, which is beyond the scope of the Lockwood Trailhead, Ms. Budge explained that it is a description for the State Question 1 funding for Truckee River as a separate project. In response to Commissioner von Phul when the report was last updated, Ms. Budge explained that the report is updated twice a month.

In response to Commissioner Jacobson regarding a charge for the use of Golden Eagle Park, Ms. Budge explained that it is a City of Sparks park located on leased land from the BLM. The County portion is the trailhead at the southern edge of the park and we do not charge for its use.

8. Park District Report – North Region

Doug Mullens, Park Operations Superintendent, highlighted events from the North Region. The Melio Gaspari Water Play Park will open this Saturday. The Keep Truckee Meadows cleanup was on May 9th and Hobeys Casino was a sponsor for the event again this year. The Board of County Commissioners approved funding for Sun Valley and Bowers Mansion pools about two weeks ago and staff has been diligently working to hire staff and get the pools ready for use, including installation of new drains. Water started flowing in the Highland Ditch in early May and this year we are able to push water to the northeast pasture area. The Park Ambassador volunteer program at Rancho San Rafael has begun, and we have equipped the volunteers with vests, flashlights, and keys.

In response to County Commissioner Jung regarding communicating with the community on the opening of Sun Valley pool, Mr. Mullens explained that we had an approximate three week lead time to get the pool open and the weather has caused delays in getting work done on the pools. We have sufficient staff on to operate it safely. Doug Doolittle, Director added that he has been speaking with Darren Price at the Sun Valley GID weekly. In response to County Commissioner Jung regarding our contact with the Reno Tahoe Blues Fest, Al Rogers, Assistant Director explained that we had a conversation with them this afternoon and they will be submitting their special use application. They have one more year under their current contract for an extension. They are sensitive to the fees and we will work with them as far as we can. In response to County Commissioner Jung regarding the portable toilet at disc golf course, Mr. Mullens explained that it was removed due to a miscommunication. Reno Golf Association will take care of the monthly cost as of July 1st and we will have it replaced until then. Doug Doolittle, Director, explained that we began removing portable toilets from the parks in this fiscal year as part of our current budget cuts. Doug Mullens added that the athletic user groups are providing the portable toilet at the athletic fields. In response to County Commissioner Jung regarding the Keep Truckee Meadows Beautiful clean-up, Jennifer Budge, Park Planner explained that Washoe County normally has from three to seven locations but with budget constraints the only County sponsored site was Sun Valley.

Commissioner Jacobson mentioned that he attended the fund raiser related to the Sun Valley pool. It was something to see the grass roots efforts and they raised \$500.

In response to Commissioner Chvilicek regarding a time line for expanding the park ambassador program, Mr. Mullens explained that we do not have a time line and it is more of an issue of neighborhoods and communities coming forward and offering to do the program. Commissioner Chvilicek explained that the neighbors as well as the North Valleys CAB are interested. Mr. Doolittle added that we have 21 different groups that have adopted a park area. Our goal is to have every area adopted. Commissioner von Phul is not comfortable with leaving facilities open. He sees a huge potential in the ambassador program and feels we should actively solicit ambassadors for other parks. Commissioner Nadeau is glad to see pools open.

9. Park District Report – South Region

Eric Crump, Park Operations Superintendent, highlighted events from the South Region. Bowers Pool is scheduled to open June 13th. Today was the first press release on the opening of the pools. We are still recruiting for lifeguards and that will be our big challenge. The White's Creek trailhead is open for the season. Davis Creek campground had a very busy Memorial Day weekend. The Robert Z. Hawkins amphitheater kicked off the season. The Anderson Park trail is now a loop and we received positive feedback on that project. There are no programs being conducted by rangers; we are just trying to keep everything open, clean and safe.

10. Volunteer Service Report

Al Rogers, Assistant Director, explained that Director Doolittle already covered a lot of the information and added that the program is phenomenally successful and we will continue to grow the program.

11. Golf Report

Al Rogers, Assistant Director, explained that Washoe was down a little in May and Sierra Sage has increased. Both of the year-to-date numbers are up. We are continuing our 2 for 1 promotion on Tuesday at Washoe and Wednesdays at Sierra Sage. This has been successful as we are bringing new golfers out and generating more dollars in food and beverage. We have a Golf Council meeting coming up where we will continue to discuss Sierra Sage Golf Course. We are in the process of reviewing the proposals for Sierra Sage.

Commissioner Young arrived at 3:30 p.m.

12. Director's Report

Doug Doolittle, Director, updated the Commission on Board of County Commission actions in May. The Board approved the grant of easement Bath Bishop land with mitigation of \$15,000 of in-kind services. The Board did not approve the additional six parking spaces. The developer received comments from the neighbors that they were not in favor of the parking spaces. The Board also approved the bid for landscape maintenance and snow removal. For many years the Regional Parks and Open Space Department has been responsible for landscape maintenance at all of the County buildings and now will be outsourced and that is part of our budget reduction plan.

We have made our proposal on the budget to the Board of County Commissioners. We have no seasonal staff, and through attrition we will also have 19 open fulltime positions. This places a huge burden on the department and we will see a reduced level of service. We did have to eliminate one full time position. Commissioner von Phul said thank you for the work the department has done.

There is negotiation on options for the Northgate Golf Course Property. We have had two public meetings and there is a lot on interest on that property. An item will be coming before the Board of County Commissioners on how to proceed. The Board did make the decision that they are not interested in operating it as a golf course.

13. Commissioner's Comments

Commissioner Chvilicek would like to hear an update on the eagle scout projects as they are completed. Doug Doolittle, Director, would like to have the scouts come back to give the update.

In response to County Commissioner Jung regarding filling mutt-mitt stations at the parks, Mr. Rogers explained that we are filling them at the Dog Park in Hidden Valley and we are working with the Home Owners Association to take over that funding. Doug Mullens, Operations Superintendent explained that we do put recycled bags in boxes around the perimeter of the multi-use pasture at Rancho San Rafael. Commissioner Chvilicek will ask 4-H dog clubs to donate recycle bags.

Commissioner Young had a constituent mentioned that the small dog area at the Hidden Valley Dog Park was not given as many seats as large dog area. He asked if we are going to have our subcommittee on trails get back together.

Vice Chairman Jacobson adjourned the meeting 4:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Melissa Currie, Recording Secretary