

MINUTES

Washoe County Open Space and Regional Parks Commission August 7, 2012

Vice Chairman Commissioner von Phul called the meeting to order at 2:30 p.m.

1. Roll Call.

Members present: Bob Jacobson, Sarah Chvilicek, Bill von Phul, Anne Buckley, Jim Nadeau and Ed Harney. Cliff Young arrived at 3:06pm. Patty Moen had an excused absence.

Board of County Commission Liaison: Kitty Jung

Staff present: Al Rogers, Deputy District Attorney, Leslie Admirand, Eric Crump, Jennifer Budge, Rosemarie Entsminger, Marie Fong and Joanna Schultz.

2. Approval of the Agenda for the Open Space and Regional Parks Commission Meeting of August 7, 2012.

Motion by Commissioner Chvilicek to approve the Agenda for the Open Space and Regional Parks Commission Meeting of August 7, 2012. Seconded by Commissioner Jacobson. Motion carried.

3. Approval of the Minutes for the Open Space and Regional Parks Commission Meeting of June 5, 2012.

Motion by Commissioner Chvilicek to approve the Minutes for the Open Space and Regional Parks Commission Meeting of June 5, 2012. Seconded by Commissioner Jacobson. Motion carried with correction to the minutes.

Commissioner von Phul added corrections to be made to the meeting minutes: Add Givens to item #5 after Stefanie; page 2, item #6, paragraph 2, add "said" after "Mr. Rogers"; item #6 paragraph 3 change some to someone.

4. Public Comments and Discussion Thereon:

No public comment

5. Presentation by Seth Coffland for an Eagle Scout project for improvements to the Golden Valley Park.

Park Ranger, Marie Fong introduced Seth Coffland with Eagle Scout Troop 88. Ranger Fong said Mr. Coffland has completed his project at Golden Valley Park.

Mr. Coffland gave a presentation on his project.

Commissioner von Phul thanked Mr. Coffland for doing a great job.

Commissioner Jung thanked Mr. Coffland. This area was part of her District until the rezoning so she is familiar with that neighborhood and they are very grateful. Mr. Coffland added that he even had one of the neighbors helping them take apart one of the benches.

Al Rogers, Acting Director also thanked Mr. Coffland for his work at the park.

6. Presentation by Christian Mahler for an Eagle Scout project to rejuvenate the Nature Trail Loop at Rancho San Rafael Regional Park.

Christian Mahler gave a presentation on his project.

Commissioner Jung thanked Mr. Mahler for his work and a beautiful presentation.

Commissioner von Phul also thanked Mr. Mahler on a job well done.

Al Rogers, Acting Director also thanked Mr. Mahler.

7. Presentation by Colton O’Gorman for an Eagle Scout project to rejuvenate the Ghisletta picnic area in Rancho San Rafael Regional Park.

Park Ranger, Marie Fong introduced Colton O’Gorman from Eagle Scout Troop 443. Mr. O’Gorman’s older brother completed and Eagle Scout project a couple of years ago for Parks and Ranger Fong thanked the O’Gorman family for their continuous support.

Mr. O’Gorman gave a presentation on his project.

Commissioner Jung thanked Mr. O’Gorman for his presentation and also reminded him and the other scouts to thank their parents.

In response to Commissioner von Phul regarding animal prints, Mr. O’Gorman said Ranger Fong’s animal footprint stamps will be used.

*Al Rogers, Acting Director requested item #8 be heard after item #9 as presenters for this item have not arrived.

8. Update on Washoe and Sierra Sage golf courses.

Al Rogers, Acting Director said he would be giving a brief presentation on operations and future for golf. Mr. Rogers will also ask Mike Mazzaferri from Sierra Sage and Barney Bell and Darin Menante from Washoe Golf to give an update to the Commission.

Mike Mazzaferri, Cal-Mazz Golf Management, said that in the 2 ½ years since taking over operations of Sierra Sage Golf Course everything has gone very well. They have worked hard on course conditions which have improved dramatically, presentation of the golf shop and renovations to the restaurant. After a tough winter the turf didn’t come back like it normally does. It took a few months, they had to close three of the greens for three weeks in May but as of today the course is fine with no real signs of a tough spring.

They are currently working on a bunker drainage project. When they put the required amount of water on the greens, the bunkers fill up with water. They pump and rake them and it is hard to get them presentable. The project will be a subterranean drainage that will move water through the bottom of the bunker.

Mr. Mazzaferri added that this is a good time to be in the kind of shape the courses are in financially and management wise. They are pleased with the numbers and rounds are continuing to climb. The Ladies' and Men's Clubs are seeing better numbers, locals are supporting the course and he has been approached by UNR's men's and women's team about practicing at Sierra Sage.

Commissioner von Phul congratulated Mr. Mazzaferri on what sounds like a success story and asked if there was anything that the County can do to help. Mr. Mazzaferri said that there isn't. He can pick up the phone and call staff and everyone has been helpful and cooperative.

Barney Bell, Director of Golf introduced himself and Darin Menante, Head Professional. Mr. Bell said that all of the improvements would not have been possible without the help of the Maintenance Superintendent Bob Miller and his crew. They have done a magnificent job in getting the course back in shape. The Women's and Men's Golf Clubs have been instrumental in the improvements by volunteering to paint signs and donating money for a flat screen TV for tournament scoring. Mr. Bell also thanked Al Rogers and staff for their assistance as well.

Improvements coming up are purchasing or leasing all new carts, a new range ball machine that will take tokens, credit cards and cash as well as moving the machine and adding a refreshment machine down at the driving range.

Commissioner Nadeau thinks their innovation and the way they have special programs such as Grandparents Day and Kids Day brings the public to the course and a different dimension is excellent. Mr. Bell said that if you go to www.washoegolf.org the programs are part of the Play Golf America program that about 70-80% of golf courses are doing. You can add your own programs to the basics of the Play Golf America plan.

In response to Commissioner Jacobson regarding TV commercials, Mr. Bell said they have had very good comments especially after adding in The Shoe restaurant. There are two different commercials and both have really brought in business.

Commissioner von Phul congratulated Mr. Bell and Mr. Menante and asked if there was anything that the County can do to help. Mr. Bell said the coming winter months are a worry, but being able to change payments if they need to close for a couple of weeks and make it up the next month will help.

Mr. Bell added that the Peter Marich and Josh Anderson Memorial (Mr. Menante is Chairman) Scholarships will reach the million dollar mark in 2013 for scholarships for local high school seniors.

They are very proud of keeping tournaments going. Last weekend the Aaron Arnoldson golf tournament, their biggest tournament of the year, had 156 players. Mr. Bell said "This is unheard of these days". Catering was provided by The Shoe restaurant, which is a first.

Mr. Rogers thanked Mr. Bell, Mr. Menante and Mr. Mazzaferri for helping Washoe County tremendously and for providing and update for the Commission.

9. Review and possible recommendation to the Board of County Commissioners approval of the Draft Red Hill Master Plan.

Jennifer Budge, Park Planner gave a presentation on the Draft Red Hill Master Plan.

Commissioner Jung thanked Ms. Budge. This has been a long process, she knows the Sun Valley residents are very thankful that this is moving forward and they regard her very highly.

Commissioner von Phul said he knows Ms. Budge has worked very hard on this project and thanked her for producing a great plan. The most significant part of this project in the eye of the public is that it is going to become non-motorized. For many years this area has become an informal off-highway recreation vehicle spot and some people are not going to like this. Commissioner von Phul also said the spectacular views at the top of Red Hill are one of its most attractive features and it is quite the hike to get there. He is glad to see that in the plan (item #22) guided tour opportunities will be made available for people to drive up there.

Ms. Budge thanked everyone for their comments. It will be difficult to transition the site and using Sun Valley Regional Park as a recent example of how we can do this will help. The motorized use at Sun Valley Regional Park has been significantly reduced with fencing put in at the south and east sides of the park only. It is still accessible through BLM land, but through signage and education we were able to redirect that use to other places.

There is no budget for Red Hill and they will have to be creative with grants and leveraging partner support to make this happen.

Al Rogers, Acting Director gave kudos to Ms. Budge who has been a tremendous Project Manager leading a big team to produce this plan. Mr. Rogers also thanked the National Park Service. This was our first project assistance grant that we applied for and gave us the opportunity to make this happen.

Motion by Commissioner Buckley to recommend to the Board of County Commissioners approval of the Draft Red Hill Master Plan. Seconded by Commissioner Chvilicek. Motion carried

10. Park Operations Reports

Eric Crump, Park Operations Superintendent highlighted the Park District, May Center and Volunteer reports.

11. Director's Reports

Al Rogers, Acting Director highlighted the Board of County Commissioners actions, North Valley Regional Park Phase IV, Community Services Department, Update of Public Awareness Campaign on Dogs in Parks and the Planning Division report.

Commissioner Jung said there is a Team Tahoe in place, and asked if a Team North Valleys could be put together to look at where efficiencies can be built and have more tax dollars flow to the northern parts of the County as a way to address this. Mr. Rogers they have started to identify other geographic areas.

Commissioner Nadeau said there was a lot of wind last month and that could have had something to do with the lower numbers in golf. Mr. Rogers said that wind and weather are a factor during the summer months.

In response to Commissioner von Phul regarding a coordination effort on master planning with Cities of Reno and Sparks, Mr. Rogers said they will coordinate to the extent they can. City of Sparks has started on their Master Plan and we will be involved.

Mr. Rogers added that Bob Harmon, Parks Public Information Officer has moved full-time to the Sherriff's Department. Salary savings from this position will be used in coordination with the Community Relations office to fill this void.

12. Commissioner's Comments

Commissioner Nadeau was absent and should be shown as abstaining from June 5, 2012 meeting minutes. Deputy District Attorney Leslie Admirand said this doesn't have to be reflected in the minutes.

13. Public Comment

No public comment

Adjournment

Chairman Young adjourned the meeting at 3:53 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Joanna Schultz