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Washoe County Open Space and Regional Parks Commission April 1, 2014

Commissioner Sarah Chvilicek called the meeting to order at 2:31 p.m.

1. Roll Call.

Members present: Allan Sheakley, Nathan Daniel, Janet Davis, Scott Pierson, Sarah Chvilicek, Thomas Guinn, Anne Buckley and Ed Harney

Board of County Commission Liaison: Kitty Jung

Staff present: Eric Crump, Dave Solaro, Dwayne Smith, Deputy District Attorney Leslie Admirand, Andy Mink, Cheryl Surface, Jennifer Budge and Joanna Schultz

2. Public Comments

No public comment

3. Approval of the Agenda for the Open Space and Regional Parks Commission Meeting April 1, 2014

Motion by Commissioner Buckley to Approve the Agenda for the Open Space and Regional Parks Commission Meeting of April 1, 2014. Second by Commissioner Guinn. Motion carried

4. Approval of the Minutes for the Open Space and Regional Parks Commission Meeting of August 6, 2013

Motion by Commissioner Davis to Approve the Minutes for the Open Space and Regional Parks Commission Meeting of August 6, 2013. Second by Commissioner Guinn. Motion carried

5. Approval of the Minutes for the Open Space and Regional Parks Commission Meeting of September 17, 2013

Motion by Commissioner Davis to Approve the Minutes for the Open Space and Regional Parks Commission Meeting of August 6, 2013. Second by Commissioner Pierson. Motion carried

6. Presentation on Park or Program of the Month featuring the Park Ambassador Program at Rancho San Rafael and Hidden Valley Regional Parks

Andy Mink, District Manager for the Peavine and Pah Rah Districts gave a presentation.

Mr. Mink presented Ed Wishart, Hidden Valley Park Ambassador with a Presidential Volunteer Service Award and pin. Those volunteers who were unable to attend this meeting will receive their award and pin from Mr. Mink when he sees them next.

In response to Commissioner Jung regarding the number of active volunteers at Rancho San Rafael Regional Park, Mr. Mink said there are 6-8 volunteers currently.

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In response to Commissioner Jung regarding complaints she received in the past about volunteer fatigue, Mr. Mink said that the program has changed over the years. Initially, it volunteers were responsible for closing restrooms, clearing the park and closing all three gates. In the beginning they had about 20 volunteers.

In response to Commissioner Jung regarding number of volunteers at Hidden Valley, Mr. Wishart said there are 5-6 volunteers.

Commissioner Jung would like to invite the public to honor the Park Ambassadors and recruit additional volunteers. Mr. Mink and the Commissioners agreed that this would be a great idea to show appreciation and honor volunteers.

7. Presentation by Karen Mullen on the Lake Tahoe Bikeway North Demonstration Environmental Assessment alignment requesting public input

Karen Mullen explained that she is here to provide an update and let this Commission know that the public comment period ends April 11th.

Ms. Mullen gave a presentation.

In response to Commissioner Chvilicek regarding where to send comments, Ms. Mullen said send comments to Alfred Knots, Tahoe Transportation District at aknotts@tahoetransportation.org.

In response to Commissioner Guinn regarding if a joint effort were being made Route 250 where the county line is broken up, Ms. Mullen said it is a cooperative effort between the three counties, with Washoe County acting as-lead agency for this project.

Commissioner Chvilicek asked all Commissioners to review and send in their comments as this is an important project.

8. Discussion and possible recommendations to the Nevada State Lands State Question One Grant Program regarding Washoe County Community Services Department's proposal to install a replacement back-up supply well for the Sunrise water system located in Pleasant Valley, Nevada (Valley) and supply water to a County owned parcel [APN 045-310-67, 1005 Mini Way], which has been identified for future parks, trail, and open space uses and which was partially funded by the State Question One Grant Program

Jennifer Budge, Park Planner explained that the parcel is the O'Brien parcel.

Dwayne Smith, Director of Engineering explained they are here to ask this Commission for approval for a variance to drill a municipal back up well. The primary backup well for this area has some problems such as water quality issues and is in the zone of influence of a residential septic system. They have looked at several locations and the best location identified is on parks' property.

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This will be used as a backup well and have similar capabilities of the current well. Part of the analysis and why this site was chosen takes into account domestic well users. The backup well will be further away from the domestic wells. With the water quality issues and proximity of where the tank is this is by far the best location for the backup well.

In response to Commissioner Daniel regarding water quality issues now being faced, Mr. Smith said not only is there is iron in the water, it is an older well and experiencing sand issues which will limits the life of the equipment and creates more problems.

In response to Commissioner Daniel regarding the new location and its proximity to the current well, will they do a test, Mr. Smith said yes, they will test the well to evaluate water quality in the new proposed location.

In response to Commissioner Guinn regarding the well eventually going to TMWA, how will that work property wise, Mr. Smith said they haven't worked on the final details. They would either provide a transferable easement with restriction language.

Commissioner Guinn said this is a good location for the backup well.

Motion by Commissioner Guinn to recommend to the Nevada State Lands State Question One Grant Program regarding Washoe County Community Services Department's proposal to install a replacement back-up supply well for the Sunrise water system located in Pleasant Valley, Nevada (Valley) and supply water to a County owned parcel [APN 045-310-67, 1005 Mini Way], which has been identified for future parks, trail, and open space uses and which was partially funded by the State Question One Grant Program. Second by Commissioner Daniel. Motion carried.

9. Review of Regional Shooting Facility Fees and possible direction to staff – citizen request

Eric Crump, Division Director of Operations explained that he was contacted to re-evaluate fees for user groups.

John Glatthar, Palomino Valley resident and firearms instructor, explained he uses the County's range for training purposes. There are few locations where firearms instructors can do training, one of which is on Bureau of Land Management (BLM) land. A few years ago the Sheriff's Office sent out a letter encouraging firearms instructors to use the Regional Shooting Facility and not shoot on BLM land due to hazards such as fires as well as the urban and rural interface. The sheriffs have been called out as the houses are very close to that property. It's legal to shoot on BLM but not wise. The challenge is the fee structure could be improved a little. A regular shooter can use the public range and pay an \$8.00 fee; instructors cannot as it is not practical. There are other ranges that can be used with a \$40 minimum fee for 10 people. A \$4/ person fee is reasonable, but the problem is it is a \$40 minimum fee.

There are 56 entities that teach the CCW course, the most popular. He does not know how many of those entities utilize the range, but does know that a lot of them drive to the Carson

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City range because it is free of charge and open seven days a week from dawn to dusk. There are a few entities that get the lion's share of the business because they are affiliated with the big gun shops so the \$40 minimum fee is not a big burden. Most of are small businesses with 3-4 students at \$50/student and that \$40 fee is burdensome.

Mr. Glatthar feels that if there was a better fee structure more instructors would utilize the range. He suggested a minimum fee of \$20 for 5 people, same amount per person, just a lower threshold for the instructors. Or an annual rate of \$180 nonrefundable fee for instructors. Instructors would still need to contact reservations but the fee would already be taken care of. Or offer both and offer an online system for paying through Parks.

In response to Commissioner Davis is the current fee an all-day fee and if all entities reserved at the range, would it be difficult, Mr. Glatthar said that he can use the range all day. There are plenty of ranges to use so scheduling shouldn't be a problem.

In response to Commissioner Guinn regarding how was the fee determined, Mr. Crump said the current fee for the Public Range is \$8/person, the group fee is a discounted rate per person and they can shoot all day. The group fee has been in effect for a few years and is evaluated every year.

Commissioner Guinn said the biggest issue with trying to proportion it down is typically when you go to the range and not in a club; it's not something you plan. He would like to see more reasoning on how the fees were determined. Mr. Crump said there are two ranges. The public range serves the needs of the person who decides to go shooting, it's not planned. The other ranges outside of the public range are used by specialty groups by reservation only and are usually reserved well in advance for special shoots and events. Use of those ranges does not push the public off the public range.

In response to Commissioner Guinn regarding it sounds like we're losing fees, Mr. Crump said we have not done a full analysis but would expect some revenue loss. The \$40 fee provides access all day for up to 10 shooters, with an additional \$4/person over the 10. Administration of a \$20 fee with Joanna's time to make the reservation and the range staff time it would be a huge loss.

Commissioner Guinn would like to see this item come back to this Commission for further analysis, Mr. Crump said we can utilize the new software and will give the Commission an idea of the number of reservations on both public and reservable, size of the groups and revenue generated.

Commissioner Buckley added that she understands that we don't try to overcharge the public but at the same time its policy not to subsidize adult recreation. These fees reflect that. The instructors who reserve the range are in a business of making money. If the cost doesn't cover what it costs the County to run the range she would not agree with subsidizing a private businesses that use the facility. The County is doing work out at the range and those costs are not reflected in the fees for users. Mr. Crump added that the range is near to covering

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costs. There is some General Fund subsidy, but is pretty close compared to some of the other programs we offer.

Commissioner Harney said one of the things he heard is that we are losing some business to Carson City because the range is free. He would like to see what are we losing and is it possible to see how many instructors we're losing to Carson City. Would we be getting more if instructors conducted two classes, in a two-month period with smaller numbers at the \$20 fee instead of one class with nine at the \$40 rate. Mr. Crump said that reaching out to find out what we are losing could be a challenge. We can reach out to the groups that do utilize the facility and poll them. We have a good working relationship with groups that use the range.

Commissioner Chvilicek said they would like to bring this item back with what impacts it's having on small businesses as well as what revenue the County is losing. She was on the committee when the User Manual was rewritten and found that the groups who use the range are passionate about it. She was there as a Park Commissioner but also interest in her profession for the 4-H shooting program which they can't use.

Commissioner Daniel said impact on business should fall on the business owners to come back with a report on how this impacts their business and what advantage it is to the County. Mr. Glatthar has a good point and if he can come back with a compelling argument that his proposal will bring more people to the facility then the Commission will consider his request.

Commissioner Chvilicek suggested Mr. Glatthar work with Mr. Crump on polling instructors and getting that information.

Commissioner Jung said she does not find that to be appropriate as he is lobbying and advocating for himself and potentially an industry.

Commissioner Chvilicek clarified that she is asking for is a compelling argument from the user as well as directing staff to come back with a fee structure where the Commission can compare apples to apples.

Motion by Commissioner Guinn for staff to return with recorded numbers on the budget for the facility, as along with pro and con comments.

Commissioner Guinn added that he does not want staff to spend too much time on this research.

Second by Commissioner Daniel. Motion carried.

10. Update on North Valleys Water Splash Park

Eric Crump, Division Director of Operations said as of this morning the Grand Opening has been confirmed as Saturday, May 17th with a backup of May 24th in case of weather. Invitations will be sent out to all Commissioners. In response to Commissioner Chvilicek

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regarding date is same day as UNR graduation day, Mr. Crump said they could not pick the perfect weekend.

The event will start at 11am and will be free admission all day. Also in discussion is a media and photo op day as well as an invitation to a local school for Friday, May 16th.

In response to Commissioner Chvilicek regarding whether the park been returned to normal, Mr. Crump said over the course of the next few weeks everything will be returned back to how it should be.

The Water Park will be open on weekends only until school is out June then will go to a 7-day operation, reverting back to weekends only when school is back in session through Labor Day. Admission will be \$3/person.

We will be charging up the system next week. There is a company coming to dewinterize and take care of the punch list items before opening. Because the irrigation has been off in the field adjacent to the park, it will take some time to bring it back up. The field is usually permitted to youth sports leagues and they are anxious to get back on the field.

Commissioner Chvilicek reminded the Commission that there was also funds set aside for maintenance. Mr. Crump added that the Board of County Commissioners did approve \$1 million in maintenance costs for operation of the new amenities that have occurred or will occur at North Valleys, specifically the Water Park and ultimately the Babe Ruth field. A multi-year budget was put together based on that funding with a projection of lasting 6-8 years. This projection includes the revenue coming in.

In response to Commissioner Jung regarding dates that Commissioner Weber will be available, Mr. Crump said the 17th was confirmed with her this morning and the 24th as a backup date was also confirmed and he will reconfirm.

11. Parks Reports

Eric Crump, Division Director of Operations highlighted reports.

Commissioner Buckley requested that the cost of building the berms at the Regional Shooting Facility be included with the re-evaluation of the user fees as requested in item 9.

Cheryl Surface and Jennifer Budge, Park Planners highlighted the Planning report.

12. Commissioner's Comments: (This item limited to announcements or topics/issues proposed for future workshops/agendas)

Commissioner Chvilicek congratulated Eric Crump on his promotion. She would like this addressed as a future item and has also scheduled a meeting with Commissioner Jung and staff regarding concerns about another change in Parks and Parks losing its identity.

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Commissioner Jung said in the Community Services Department there is a division that is working on this and the Director is supportive of this.

Commissioner Jung said that she attended a reception for Gene Sullivan, former Parks Director for City of Reno and finished his career at Washoe County Parks as the Director. Dixie May with the May Foundation unveiled a rock outside the Ranch House in dedication to Mr. Sullivan. It was a great turn out with a lot of dignitaries in attendance.

Commissioner Guinn said that he was accepted for the 2014 Leadership program with The Chamber. Last week he was at an event in Carson City Legislature where the County Manager was a speaker. He said that you hear a lot of concerning words when the County Manager speaks. Commissioner Guinn does not consider the County right now as a flat and still thinks it is still going down with a few more years of really hard times and hard decisions ahead.

Dave Solaro, Community Services Director said Eric Crump was offered and accepted the Operations Division Director position for the Community Services Department. He is very excited to have Mr. Crump moving up in the Washoe County organization. He brings a lot to Washoe County, proven through the many years of service to the Regional Parks and Open Space and now with the Community Services Department.

Mr. Solaro said he does not quite understand the concern regarding the loss of identity but is looking forward to the meeting with Commissioner Jung to work on that. As a resident he enjoys and is dedicated to parks and open space.

In response to Commissioner Daniel regarding the ADHoc Committee for the Washoe County One, Mr. Solaro said this is one of the items in transition. There is still a Park Team/Program that Al Rogers was spearheading, but this has been put on hold during the budgeting process. Now that it is starting to wind down Mr. Solaro expects to start working on this again.

Commissioner Chvilicek added that this Commission does want to have some involvement in budget process. Mr. Solaro said input from this Commission would be helpful in prioritizing the money and where they are budgeted. There is some opportunity coming up with the capital improvement program funds that Mr. Solaro would like this Commission to assist with prioritizing which parks receive the funding.

Commissioner Buckley added that she does have an interest in being involved in the budget process. For the Commission to be advocates they need to understand the budget; what is spent, where it is spent, how much is in the budget.

13. Public Comments:

No public comment.

14. Adjournment

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Chairman Chvilicek adjourned the meeting at 4:16 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Joanna Schultz