

MINUTES

Washoe County Open Space and Regional Parks Commission August 5, 2014

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

1. **Roll Call.**

Members present: Allan Sheakley, Ed Harney, Scott Pierson, Jim Nadeau, Thomas Guinn, Anne Buckley and Nathan Daniel. Janet Davis had an excused absence

Board of County Commission Liaison: Kitty Jung

Staff present: Eric Crump, Deputy District Attorney Leslie Admirand, Dave Solaro, Denise Evans, Doug Davidson, Jennifer Budge, Cheryl Surface and Joanna Schultz

2. **Public Comments**

No Public Comment

3. **Approval of the Agenda for the Open Space and Regional Parks Commission Meeting August 5, 2014**

Item #6 Eagle Scout presentation deleted from the Agenda.

Motion by Commissioner Buckley to approve the Agenda for the Open Space and Regional Parks Commission Meeting of August 5, 2014 with the noted change to Item #6. Second by Commissioner Guinn. Motion carried.

4. **Approval of the Minutes for the Open Space and Regional Parks Commission Meeting of February 4, 2014**

Motion by Commissioner Guinn to approve the Minutes for the Open Space and Regional Parks Commission Meeting of February 4, 2014. Second by Commissioner Pierson. Motion carried.

5. **Approval of the Minutes for the Open Space and Regional Parks Commission Meeting of April 1, 2014**

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

6. **Eagle Scout Presentation: Zach Marshall Troop 710 for the Marshall's Best Beef Restroom Restoration Project**

Presentation removed from agenda.

7. **Presentation by KTMB on the Adopt-A-Spot program**

Jaime Souza, Program Manager of Keep Truckee Meadows Beautiful (KTMB) and Denise Evans, Washoe County Volunteer Coordinator gave a presentation.

In response to Commissioner Guinn who thanked KTMB for a great presentation and asked if there is a hotline for people to call into to report illegal dumping, Ms. Souza said the public can call 329-DUMP or Reno Direct.

8. Presentation by Bon Vivant on a proposal to hold a music, culinary, beverage and art festival special event at Rancho San Rafael Regional Park, May 29–31, 2015 and possible recommendation to Staff to negotiate a special event agreement to be taken to the Board of County Commissioners for possible approval

Eric Crump, Director of Operations said Bon Vivant is here to present a special event proposal for May 29-31, 2015. Staff has met with representatives of Bon Vivant to go over logistics, site use, and layout of the event. It is staff's opinion that the event could take place at Rancho San Rafael as it is consistent with that use. Rancho San Rafael Regional Park has been a location for large events such as Skyfire, Reno Balloon Races, ESPN games etc. If the Commission is agreeable to holding this event staff would like direction on how to proceed. This item will go to the Board of County Commissioners for final approval.

Arthur Farley introduced himself and Jay Sprow. Mr. Farley said as a local business owner and music lover he has traveled to a many music festivals. Reno has one event that is known around the world and that is Burning Man. He feels Reno could use a festival that highlights some other aspects of emerging tourism and Reno would be an ideal place to hold a food and music festival.

The biggest growth in tourism is food and beverage. Reno has a good opportunity with this beautiful park that is better than any location of the festivals he's been to. They will tailor the music with three stages; rock, American roots based (folk, bluegrass, country) and R & B. With the food and beverage they will be inviting celebrity chefs from all over, local restaurant and beverage businesses and other local businesses to display what they do.

They are planning to partner with local casinos, UNR and RTC for transportation and parking as they expect between 10-20,000 minimum for the first year.

The event is scheduled for the weekend after Memorial Day. They would like to hold a high end event with high end food and beverage. Music and selection of music will be catered to the 25 and older groups in hopes of attracting out of state interest.

They know that the park will need to be contained with fencing, security, waste and restrooms. They plan to hire a full production company with experience in these types of events.

Mr. Farley added that they realize it is a bit pressing with time but after meeting with Parks' staff the dates chosen seemed to be a better time as far as weather is concerned and they do need to contact bands, corporate and local sponsors to get letters of intent out.

Commissioner Jung said we could always use more special events.

In response to Commissioner Buckley regarding how many days of the event, Mr. Farley said three days of events; Friday, Saturday and Sunday. They would like to partner with the hotel/casinos so they can highlight this event as well as events in their establishment that happen after the festival so events will end between 9 or 10 p.m.

Commissioner Guinn said that when he lived in San Diego they always had these types of events. It is a huge success if you have security and fencing right and it brings in a lot of money that the City of Reno is letting go of. He thinks it is a great idea.

In response to Commissioner Nadeau regarding number of expected attendance, Mr. Farley said they are expecting 10-20,000 daily. They will sell day passes but feels most people will take advantage of the weekend pass and parking breaks. They are planning on some VIP events as well.

Mr. Farley added that are hoping to have a hosted event on Thursday night with a celebrity chef.

Mr. Crump said that we can come back to this Commission progress report as they develop and start getting their lineup.

Motion by Commissioner Sheakley for staff to negotiate a special event agreement between Washoe County and Bon Vivant Reno to hold the Bon Vivant Festival at Rancho San Rafael Regional Park on May 29-31, 2015 and take the Agreement to the Board of County Commissioners for possible approval. Second by Commissioner Harney. Motion carried.

9. Discussion and update on Chapter 95 of Washoe County Code to include, but not limited to, background on Chapter 95 of Washoe County Code, recent request to initiate proceedings to amend Chapter 95 of Washoe County Code, and involvement from Open Space and Regional Park Commission on amendment

Dave Solaro, Director said Chapter 95 is the governing document for Parks and Open Space. It outlines the process that special event requests such as the Bon Vivant event need to take, as well as the creation of this Commission; number of members and number of meetings. This item is a discussion of Chapter 95 and will be brought back to this Commission for future action.

At the July 22nd Board of County Commission (BCC) meeting, Commissioner Hartung tasked the Community Services Department to bring forward to the Board a request to amend Chapter 95. The reason for this has to do with some constituents and how they were treated within the parks concerning use of park pavilions. There are a lot of things governed through Chapter 95 and this gives staff and this Commission the opportunity to look at the entire code and make changes.

Commissioner Jung as the County liaison requested that we bring this item to the Board as well as bring this item to this Commission for review.

Staff would like to initiate a review and possible change brought up by Commissioners Hartung, Jung and Webb. The BCC left it open for staff suggestions as well.

- 95.300 – Games and playing in certain areas
- 95.370 – Payment of use of facilities
- 95.380 – Fees; method of establishment and collection
- 95.480 – Filming with professional cast

In 2011 staff worked on revising Chapter 95 but never went back through the process. It came to this Commission but never to the BCC due to other sections of the code that were contentions at the time. The Director at the time made the decision not to move forward with those changes.

The last time changes made to the Code was in the late 1980s so there are Codes that are outdated. We would like to catch all of these for revision and do one comprehensive review and update to Chapter 95 for review by this Commission and adoption by the BCC.

Commissioner Jung said they were a couple of issues brought to the attention of the BCC, then staff from the public. This is an opportunity for discussion on how this Commission would like to advise the BCC on changes to Chapter 95. Staff is doing what the regulations say but there are a few areas that need cleaning up.

- The narrow definitions of playing in the park, rental fees being demanded and how those are interpreted by staff.
- There was a private party at the Ranch House that served foie gras. Animal rights activists did not think that was a proper use of their tax paid facilities. A advocate brought up a good point about if a neo nazi club wanted to rent a public space, do we have the ability to say yes or no.

As the policy stands we do not have that ability. The BCC would also like this Commission to think about that.

- Charging professional photographers fees for taking pictures in Open Space and Regional Parks. Is this legal and should it be reassessed? Years ago that the City of Sparks tried to create a business license for artistic performances in City streets and open space. They lost that as a First Amendment right issue.
- Have we done a good enough analysis on fees and charges for parks to get people to rent at those fees? Do we have a good market rate? Would we want to lower the rates to increase use of the facilities or keep them the same?

What does this Commission see as areas of Chapter 95 that should be reviewed and altered knowing how you use the park and what citizen/constituent issues that are brought to your attention? This would also include how often this Commission meets, Commission makeup or any area you feel needs review. Staff and the BCC would like to hear from you. This item today is more of a process for this Commission to look at Chapter 95. The BCC feels this needs to go to this Commission first for review before they make any decisions as they value this Commission's recommendations.

Commissioner Guinn said he heard about the July 22nd BCC meeting then read the minutes. The fees could definitely be looked at but is concerned about who we can tell that they can or cannot come to a public park. Is it his right to tell them they can't come to a public park that they all pay taxes for, he doesn't think that's right. It's a fine line and expects Legal will be involved. When addressing this issue we need to be careful about what we can and can't say.

Commissioner Buckley said she agrees with Commissioner Guinn. She would hate to see a decision made on who is worthy of using parks.

Commissioner Buckley added that the Parks staff is now a skeleton staff, budget has been cut over 60% and we are obliged to have 9 meetings a year. During these meetings there are 6 or more staff members present. They have a lot of work to do, some meetings we don't have any items to vote on and she feels that the number of meetings should be reduced. She would suggest 6 mandatory meetings and if there is a need, schedule additional ones.

Mr. Solaro said they will be doing work on this and if the Commission has any questions or suggestions to contact him or Mr. Crump.

10. Review and possible recommendation to the Board of County Commissioners approval of an Intergovernmental Funding Agreement Regarding Residential Construction Tax For Neighborhood Park Development within Sun Valley Park District 2D between Washoe County and Sun Valley General Improvement District [approximately \$127,018.76 Sun Valley Park District 2D Residential Construction Tax]

Jennifer Budge, Park Planner said this item is for a proposed funding agreement between Washoe County and the Sun Valley General Improvement District (SVGID). Washoe County is the fiscal agent for Residential Construction Tax (RCT) collected in the unincorporated areas of Washoe County. NRS 278 outlines the parameters for this fund; to be used for neighborhood park development in the areas where the funds were collected. The funds are collected based on the construction replacement value of a home up to \$1,000/home/new construction with \$88/mobile home.

Through previous action from this Commission and by the Board of County Commissioners (BCC) the SVGID was granted recreation powers and ownership of all neighborhood parks in Sun Valley Park, District 2D. In 2010 Washoe County deeded over Sun Valley Community, Sun Mesa, Highland and Gepford neighborhood parks to SVGID.

This item, if approved would allow SVGID approximately \$127,000 for neighborhood park development at any of the park sites. Through the agreement \$60,000 would be allocated toward a project at Gepford

Park: new community building, restroom and concession building to support the athletic leagues and events. The remaining funds of approximately \$67,000 would go toward future project improvements. SVGID would generate a list of projects for Parks staff to review for NRS compliance then be brought to this Commission.

In response to Commissioner Daniel regarding would this allow the SVGID to use all remaining funds in the District, Ms. Budge said yes. There are other parks in the District owned by Washoe County but they are not neighborhood parks.

In response to Commissioner Nadeau regarding Sun Valley is District D and would the pool qualify for the funds, Ms. Budge said yes District 2D. Swimming pools are different and the funds probably would not be able to go towards the pool. We could work with SVGID as they anticipate using this fund to leverage grant funds for match.

Commissioner Nadeau the pool is in which park, Ms. Budge said probably not but can work with the SVGID

Motion by Commissioner Guinn to recommend to the Board of County Commissioners approval of an Intergovernmental Funding Agreement Regarding Residential Construction Tax For Neighborhood Park Development within Sun Valley Park District 2D between Washoe County and Sun Valley General Improvement District [approximately \$127,018.76 Sun Valley Park District 2D Residential Construction Tax]. Second by Commissioner Buckley. Motion carried.

11. Presentation on Park or Program of the Month featuring the *South Region Maintenance Operations*

Eric Crump, Director of Operations introduced Doug Davidson, Maintenance Supervisor of the South Region.

Doug Davidson gave a presentation.

In response to Commissioner Daniel regarding maintenance staff covers 56 acres per worker, what is the industry standard, Mr. Crump said somewhere in the neighborhood of 10 or less acres.

Commissioner Daniel said staff covers 8 times the industry standard.

Mr. Crump thanked Mr. Davidson and staff on a job well done. All the Parks look great.

Commissioner Nadeau said staff does an awesome job.

12. Parks Reports

Eric Crump, Director of Operation highlighted reports.

Commissioner Buckley said she overheard a gentleman talking about the Sage Hill trap shooting facility closing and there is nowhere to practice. She told them about the Washoe County Regional Shooting Facility. Is there more business needed out there, Mr. Crump said yes, however, we do not have shotgun capabilities.

Commissioner Buckley suggested when the range is finished to do an article to inform the public and consider a shotgun trap shooting facility as there is not one anymore. Mr. Crump said it is on the Master Plan.

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

13. Director's Report

Dave Solaro, Director highlighted the Board of County Commissioners actions for July 2014.

Mr. Solaro said we are currently recruiting for the Parks Superintendent position and that recruitment closed yesterday.

14. Commissioner's Comments

Commissioner Guinn requested an up-to-date Organizational Chart.

Commissioner Daniel would like a status on the AdHoc Committee for WC-1 Bond.

In response to Commissioner Pierson regarding the best way to go about sending comments on Chapter 95, Mr. Solaro said comments/questions can be directed to him or Mr. Crump.

15. Public Comments

No Public Comment

Adjournment

Chairman Nadeau adjourned the meeting at 4:03 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Joanna Schultz