

MINUTES

Washoe County Open Space and Regional Parks Commission August 4, 2015

Commissioner Thomas Guinn called the meeting to order at 2:30on.

Commissioner Guinn led the pledge to the flag.

*1. Roll Call

Members present: Ed Harney, Anne Buckley, Thomas Guinn, Nathan Daniel, Janet Davis and Al Sheakley. Scott Pierson has an excused absence.

Board of County Commissioner Liaison: Jeanne Herman

Staff present: Deputy District Attorney Michael Large, Jennifer Budge, Dave Solaro, Jeff Patterson, Jen Conlan, John Keesee, Dennis Troy, Cheryl Surface, Eric Crump and Joanna Schultz

*2. Public Comments

No public comment

3. Approval of the Agenda for the Open Space and Regional Parks Commission Meeting of August 4, 2015

Motion by Commissioner Buckley to approve the Agenda for the Open Space and Regional Parks Commission Meeting of August 4, 2015. Second by Commissioner Daniel. Motion carried

4. Approval of the Meeting Minutes for the Open Space and Regional Parks Commission Meeting of May 5, 2015

Motion by Commissioner Davis to approve the Meeting Minutes for the Open Space and Regional Parks Commission Meeting of May 5, 2015. Second by Commissioner Harney. Motion carried

5. Approval of the Meeting Minutes for the Open Space and Regional Parks Commission Meeting of June 2, 2015

Motion by Commissioner Daniel to approve the Meeting Minutes for the Open Space and Regional Parks Commission Meeting of June 2, 2015. Second by Commissioner Davis. Motion carried

6. Approval of the Meeting Minutes for the Open Space and Regional Parks Commission Meeting of July 7, 2015

Motion by Commissioner Daniel to approve the Meeting Minutes for the Open Space and Regional Parks Commission Meeting of July 7, 2015. Second by Commissioner Davis. Motion carried

*7. Recognition of Service for Jim Nadeau

Dave Solaro, Director of Community Services Department, presented Jim Nadeau with a photo of one of the trails within our parks system. Mr. Solaro said Mr. Nadeau has been the Chairperson of this Commission for the past year. In the past year, four of the nine Commissioners were new Commissioners and Mr. Nadeau did an excellent job as the Chair to move this Commission forward. Mr. Nadeau's support of parks, staff and scouts is very much appreciated.

Mr. Nadeau said in the last few years we went through some pretty tough times in the Parks Commission. The Commissioners did an excellent job in trying to help move that along. Staff is awesome. Having to go

through what they did; reductions in the budget, cutbacks and losing staff, it was amazing that they kept the parks together. Mr. Nadeau said his hat is off to them, it was his pleasure to serve on the dais, but the staff are the hard workers and doing an excellent job.

- *8. Presentation by Eagle Scout Bryan Merrill on his project to replace split rail fence at the parking lot of Marilyn's Pond in Galena Creek Regional Park

Ranger John Keesee introduced Eagle Scout Bryan Merrill.

Eagle Scout Merrill gave a presentation.

In response to Commissioner Guinn regarding the timeframe to replace the fence, Eagle Scout Merrill said he is still in the planning process, but it should be finish by the end of September. Ranger Keesee added that Eagle Scout Merrill and his troop will be replacing about 100 feet of fence, so it should be a 2-day project.

- *9. Presentation by Eagle Scout Colby Green on his fencing project at Lazy 5 Regional Park

Ranger Jeff Patterson introduced Eagle Scout Colby Green.

Eagle Scout Green gave a presentation.

Commissioner Harney said Eagle Scout Green did a great job. There were a few problems at the beginning of the project, but he had enough people to assist. Commissioner Harney frequents this park and the fence was needed.

In response to Commissioner Guinn regarding the need for tents, Eagle Scout Green said they were up because of the weather.

Commissioner Guinn thanked Eagle Scout Green and staff for providing the materials.

Ranger Patterson said the fence rails and posts came from a trails grant.

- *10. Presentation by Eagle Scout Wyatt Keysor on his willow trimming and fishing day project at Galena Creek Regional Park

Commissioner Guinn said this item will be placed on a future agenda. Eagle Scout Keysor was unable to attend the meeting.

- 11. Review, discussion and possible recommendation to the Board of County Commissioners regarding possible purchase of two permanent Public Utility Easements [totaling 11,400 square feet] by Truckee Meadows Water Authority on APN#019-140-12, commonly known as Washoe Golf Course, at the appraised value of \$8,217.

Jennifer Budge, Park Operations Superintendent said Truckee Meadows Water Authority (TMWA) requested two public utility easements at the Washoe County Golf Course. The course is 161.59 acres and the areas being discussed are on the corner or Urban and Plumas Streets and Urban and Arlington Streets. The two easement total 11,400 square feet. One easement is an underground easement and is a corrective easement for utilities that already exist. The other easement, Urban and Arlington, is relocation of existing facilities to an above ground structure.

TMWA submitted an Easement Application in October 2014, staff and the Deputy District Attorney has reviewed the application and determined there are no issues with Deed restrictions or anything existing that would encumber the property. TMWA, at their expense, ordered a private independent

appraisal and it was determined the value of the two easements were \$8,217. After the appraisal, staff worked with TMWA to notice adjoining neighbors. One public comment was received. The neighbor requested that whatever structure was constructed, that we were mindful of the local architecture of the neighborhood and fenced and screened. The corner has difficult line of sight issues, so if vinyl slats were used it could compromise issues with the traffic. The location is an unused portion of the course from a staff perspective and having an above ground structure will not have an impact.

TMWA is trying to meet a requirement through the Nevada Revised Statute with the relocation of utilities. Staff is supportive of the easement and requests.

Chris Struffert, Engineer with Truckee Meadows Water Authority gave a presentation.

In response to Commissioner Buckley regarding will there be a structure on Plumas and Urban, Mr. Struffert said there will not. The building they are proposing is on the west side of the golf course.

Commissioner Guinn said being a Civil Engineer, he appreciates TMWA coming back and cleaning up the easement.

Motion by Commissioner Daniel to recommend to the Board of County Commissioners the sale of two permanent Public Utility Easements [totaling 11,400 square feet] by Truckee Meadows Water Authority on APN#019-140-12, commonly known as Washoe Golf Course, at the appraised value of \$8,217. Second by Commissioner Harney.

Motion carried with five for and one against.

*12. Presentation by Wood Rogers on updating the South Valleys Regional Park Master Plan

Dennis Troy, Park Planner, said over the last two months staff has been working towards updating the South Valleys Master Plan thanks to a private donation. A Request for Qualifications was posted and three firms were interviewed. Wood Rogers was selected for this process.

Melissa Lindell, Project Manager for Wood Rogers said the original Master Plan was completed in 1993 with the last update in 2000. At that the time, the park consisted of about 82 acres. Since 2000, approximately 23 acres was added to the park and this current update effort will consider the exiting acreage, as well as future park amenities to the 105 acre site.

The northern position of the park and adjacent property is impacted by the flood zone. They were able to reduce the size of the flood zone and recapture a lot of the property for development. They are hoping to study the same concept on the park site to recapture more land for more park amenities.

Wood Rogers will solicit input from the surrounding neighbors, user groups and community to help decide the future of the park land. To do this, they are starting with this meeting then will go to the City of Reno, Ward 2 Neighborhood Advisory Committee on August 18th, and the South Truckee Meadows Washoe Citizens Advisory Board on August 13th and then start a charrette process.

The charrette process will start on Monday, August 31st. It will be an open forum allowing a lot of citizen input into the plan. They will have cutouts all different recreational facilities such as soccer and baseball fields, skate parks, etc.

Wood Rogers using an opportunities and constraint map with the existing facility and amenities has identified three different opportunity areas. The biggest is the northern piece of about 32 acres. There is a

flood zone and they think they can recapture more land. The six acre area is north of the library and west of the softball/ball fields. And another area down south is about five acres where at one time the area had been graded out for tennis courts. They would like to find out if the community still feels that tennis is important or, if additional parking is. They want to look at access and the different users. They've gotten interest from softball, baseball, lacrosse, football, soccer, ice skating and swimming groups.

There are a lot opportunities to improve access. User groups, library patrons and neighbors have experienced the congestion during event days and Wood Rogers thinks there are some opportunities for additional access along Wedge Parkway. They will work with Parks staff and the developer of the adjacent property for another access point. They will also investigate a potential access point to S. Virginia through a Nevada Department of Transportation property, which has some complications.

Ms. Lindell encouraged any input, involvement and support from this Commission at the charrette session that will start on Monday, August 31st. After this first session they will gather the information to develop alternatives. There will be another public forum to present the alternatives and vet out the preferred alternatives.

The final draft of the Master Plan will be brought back to this Commission.

In response to Commissioner Guinn regarding is the main roadway Washoe County or Regional Transportation maintained, Jennifer Budge, Park Operations Superintendent said it is City of Reno.

Commissioner Guinn lives in the area and visits the park often. He requested an investigation of speed reduction and additional parking. There are also people who fly their remote control planes at the park and suggested adding them to the user group list. This is overdue, he appreciates the private donation and is looking forward to this being developed.

Ms. Lindell added one thing she feels is key to the park, and is going to help is that the developer, Ryder Homes, is building apartments and has worked with the Parks Department on trail access to the east. They are also looking at a tentative map for single family homes where the airplane enthusiasts fly. With their project they are going to be installing a traffic signal at Arrow Creek and Wedge Parkway. This will be huge for the community and people visiting the park.

Commissioner Buckley regarding parking is a big issue and are there any plans for additional parking, Ms. Lindell said they have also heard about the parking issue as well as experiencing it firsthand. They will be investigating additional parking on all three development areas.

Commissioner Buckley added that she hopes additional parking is added as the library hours are already restricted and to go to the library and can't park is particularly egregious.

Mr. Troy said the charrette will be held at the South Valleys Library and staff has been working very closely with the library managers on this issue.

- *13. Program/Park of the Month: Irrigation rehabilitation project at Rancho San Rafael Regional Park by Jennifer Conlan, Park Maintenance Worker II

Jennifer Budge, Park Operations Superintendent introduced Jennifer Conlan.

Jennifer Conlan gave a presentation.

In response to Commissioner Daniel regarding he thought all the water at Rancho San Rafael was potable and all on the City system; the Highland Ditch only fed the pasture area and the arboretum water. Ms. Conlan said we pull from the ditch for the Chinese Pagoda pavilion area and all the turf to the west. The Ditch also feeds the Peavine Pond and water for the Arboretum from the ditch will eventually tie into the system as well. The

main point is so we can use the ditch water to its maximum capacity. The Arboretum and the rest of the park is potable water.

In response to Commissioner Daniel regarding if the Highland Ditch is dry can you tie into the potable, Ms. Conlan said yes.

Ms. Conlan invited Commissioners to come take a look; she would give a personal tour.

Commissioner Guinn said it was a great project and staff is thinking about energy savings and using our water the best we can.

*14. Parks Reports

Jennifer Budge, Park Operations Superintendent highlighted reports.

No May Center or Golf Reports available this month.

In response to Commissioner Guinn regarding flooding in parks, Ms. Budge said the July 7th event in particular was the only real event that impacted our parks system. There was a lot of flooding, the majority at Rancho San Rafael Regional Park.

- Structures flooded in the basements of the Ranger residence, Arboretum office and Ranch House
- Most of the Arboretum trails were completely washed out, but under our insurance deductible we have the ability to hire a contractor to fix this
- The berms around the wetlands cells held up well, but multiple flooding events ended up compromising those. We will work with the contractor and build those back up
- Flooding of trails and washouts at the Swan Lake Nature Study area
- At Village Center Park we have a couple of splash parks features the ground water came up so high with the flooding event it compromised the controller to that system

Commissioner Guinn thanked Ms. Budge for the update. It's good for the community to know that staff isn't sitting around while people's houses are flooding.

*15. Director's Report

Dave Solaro, Director of Community Services said there were no Board of County Commissioner (BCC) actions for July.

The BCC Strategic Plan for the next year can be found on the website. The Community Services Department is an integral part.

An item from a previous meeting was a request to hold Parks Commission meetings in one of the parks. Mr. Solaro wanted feedback from Commissioners on parks they would be interested in visiting. Michael Large, Deputy District Attorney added that those request can be made under Commissioner's Comments, if Commissioners would like to make any requests today.

In response to Commissioner Buckley regarding the information requested on if the cost of various services is coming soon, Mr. Solaro said it was on this agenda, but he requested that it be pulled, so he could review the report.

*16. Commissioner's Comments

Commissioner Buckley would like to see the minutes from previous meetings in a timely manner.

Commissioner Buckley said budget planning will be coming up again and we missed sending a letter this last time. She would like to have a plan that this Commission would present to the Board of County Commissioners (BCC) that they do need to give some money to Parks. She would like to either write another letter or send a Commissioner to the BCC meeting specifically to ask about their plans. She would like a discussion on this put on the agenda for the future.

Commissioner Daniel agreed that it should come back up on the agenda. He did not make adjustments to the letter and asked if there were any received. Michael Large, Deputy District Attorney said he did not receive any suggestions, but we can work with staff on this through another agenda item.

Commissioner Daniel said he does not have a park in mind for Parks Commission meetings, but is interested in what Commissioners, or staff might suggest.

Commissioner Guinn said he would like to go see some of the projects the Eagle Scouts completed.

Commissioner Guinn acknowledged Commissioner Herman, who has been on our side on this. He would like a copy of the letter as he also has comments.

Commissioner Guinn would like to see updates on budgets. He'd like to see where Parks is at and where they should be.

Commissioner Daniel thanked Commissioner Herman for her consistent presence and participation at the Parks Commission meetings.

*17. Public Comments

No public comment

*18. Adjournment
3:35pm

Respectfully submitted,

Joanna Schultz