

Draft MINUTES

Washoe County Open Space and Regional Parks Commission
October 6, 2020

The Washoe County Open Space and Regional Parks Commission met in a scheduled session on Tuesday, October 6, 2020, in the Washoe County Commission Chambers, 1001 East Ninth Street, Reno, Nevada.

No members of the public were allowed in the Commission Chambers due to concerns for public safety resulting from the COVID-19 emergency and pursuant to the Governor of Nevada's Declaration of Emergency Directive 006 Section 1 which suspends the requirement in NRS 241.023(1)(b) that there be a physical location designated for meetings of public bodies where members of the public are permitted to attend and participate. This meeting was held by teleconference only.

The meeting was televised live and replayed on Washoe Channel at:

<https://www.washoecounty.us/mgrsoff/Communications/wctv-live.php> also on YouTube at:

<https://www.youtube.com/user/WashoeCountyTV>

Commissioner Chen called the meeting to order at 2:30 p.m.

1. Roll Call

Members Present in Chambers: Stephanie Chen, Darla Lee

Members Present via Zoom: Doug Doolittle, Jennifer Oliver, Chris Nenzel, Greg Shorts (joined the meeting at 2:33 pm)

Members Absent: Heidi Anderson, Thomas Guinn

Staff Present: Lindsay Liddell, Kathy Emerson, Katy Stark

Staff Present via Zoom: Dave Solaro, Eric Crump

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

4. Approval of the Agenda for the Open Space and Regional Parks Commission Meeting of October 6, 2020

Motion by Commissioner Doolittle to approve the Agenda for the Open Space and Regional Parks Commission Meeting of October 6, 2020. Second by Commissioner Oliver. Motion carried.

5. Approval of the Minutes for the Open Space and Regional Parks Commission Meeting of September 1, 2020

Motion by Commissioner Lee to approve the Minutes for the Open Space and Regional Parks Commission Meeting of September 1, 2020. Second by Commissioner Doolittle. Motion carried.

6. Acknowledgment and recognition of Park Operations staff for their outstanding service and contributions to Washoe County

There were no acknowledgements at today's meeting.

7. Eagle Scout Presentation

There was not a presentation at today's meeting.

8. Presentation and discussion on Residential Construction Tax, including, but not limited to, available balances by Washoe County Park Districts and how it can be used.

Eric Crump, Operations Division Director, provided a presentation on Residential Construction Tax. He added that before 2015, funds could only be used to build new parks, but in 2015 the legislation was changed to allow the funds to be used to also replace equipment in existing parks. Mr. Crump also followed-up on recommendations in the Master Plan which recommends consolidating some of the Park Districts. Washoe County residents are used to the more rural lifestyle and are used to driving to their parks. There is some benefit to consolidating some of the park districts. Staff will be bringing consolidation items to this Commission for recommendations as they do require an ordinance amendment.

Commissioner Doolittle asked about the legislation. It used to say a 1% or \$1,000 or the County could opt for a 2% or \$2,000 assessment. He asked if that was changed in the last legislation? Mr. Crump said the legislation states 1% or \$1,000. He has not seen anything in the legislations that would allow for a higher amount. Commissioner Doolittle asked that when staff starts talking about the park districts, will the Park Commission hear the item prior to any vote on it? Mr. Crump replied that the item would come before this Commission at the start of it. It will be an action item and will list the pros and cons and what the park districts would look like. The item will ask for direction from the Commission with recommendations to the Board of County Commissioners.

Commissioner Oliver asked for clarification that the expenditures have to be within the district and not within the sub-district. Mr. Crump answered that the way it is put together now is that they have to be within the sub-district. That's why you see the low balances, like \$7.

Commissioner Shorts commented that there is a lot of money in Incline – have they not been spending the money or is it accumulating from another source? Mr. Crump said that it is not accumulating from another source, it is all residential construction tax. There are two areas within Washoe County, one is Incline Village and the other is Sun Valley, where there is a General Improvement District (GID) that has recreational authority. They offer and provide recreational opportunities within their communities. The County has agreements with the Incline Village and Sun Valley GID's to reimburse them for expenses that are eligible under the residential construction tax. They can come forward with a project – whether it's an improvement to an existing park or a new park. They have a standing agreement which allows them to utilize the residential construction tax. They had one recently for the Sun Valley GID to reimburse them for some improvements they made in a park. Those are relatively small communities and there are not a lot of parks but they do utilize that money quite often.

Commissioner Doolittle added that they have had a lot of transition over the last few years and they may not know how much money they have in the fund. It would be worthwhile to communicate with them as to how much money they have in the funds. They don't have a lot of growth up there (Incline) but there is new construction going on all the time. Many of the parks were built using the residential construction tax fund. They have utilized quite a lot of it over the past several years.

Commissioner Oliver asked if any of the residential construction tax fund was used for the East Shore trail? Mr. Crump answered no, it was not. Commissioner Oliver asked if that was an eligible

expense? Mr. Crump answered that elements of it would be eligible. The project is not finished yet and there is talk of using some of the residential construction tax fund for certain elements of it.

Commissioner Lee asked for clarification on creating the park districts and how it will improve revenues for Parks. Mr. Crump replied that at the workshop, there was a presentation from former directors Julee Conway and Karen Mullen on park districts. That is completely different from the park tax districts that they are talking about today. The enabling legislation (NRS) that Mr. Crump is talking about today has been in place for some time and allows cities and counties to collect residential construction tax based on development. It is meant to be a funding source to build parks and replace things within the parks. It can't be used for operation and maintenance. The consolidation of all the 20 different sub-park districts would allow them to get the smaller fund balances on the ground and be able to be used the funds to benefit the community.

9. **Parks Reports**

Eric Crump, Operations Division Director, highlighted that on September 26th, another annual KTMB Truckee River Clean-up was held and was very successful. Crystal Peak Park, Mayberry Park, Dorostkar Park and Ambrose Park were locations that received some much needed volunteer help during the clean-up. He thanked KTMB for their continued support of the parks.

Chair Chen asked about the increase in gatherings from 50 to 250 and asked whether staff have thought about adding more events with more people, assuming that social distancing guidelines can be met? Mr. Crump said that staff has spent a lot of time going through the new directives, along with the Cities of Reno and Sparks. He said they are in a position where they can open up some of the parks to larger gatherings. It's important to note that there are many stipulations and measures that go with the new directives allowing larger groups. Staff is working with their events and event organizers on this.

Commissioner Oliver said that Directive 33 increased gatherings to 250 or 50%. She noticed that the County had a 25 person limit and has that been changed? Mr. Crump answered that the original directive limited group sizes to 50. Washoe County had to submit a plan to the state because they met a certain number criteria that put them in a "yellow zone". One of the elements of that plan is to limit their group size to 25. They have to abide by State directives but they also have more restrictive guidelines. It is his understanding that they are now working under the new directive of 250 or 50% capacity.

Commissioner Lee asked about the golf report, whether Sierra Sage and Washoe Golf are combined. Dave Solaro, Community Services Director, answered yes, the last three pages of the report are Washoe Golf (Bell-men). Commissioner Lee asked whether Wildcreek Golf Course is included in the report?. Mr. Solaro replied that Wildcreek is not included. When he gets the final report in November, he will report back to the Commission. He is waiting for a proposal from Mike Mazzaferri related to Wildcreek.

10. **Director's Report**

Dave Solaro, CSD Director, reported to the Commission that the Washoe County Sewer Utility has taken a contract to the County Commission for some design work associated with providing reclaimed water up to the Hidden Valley area. There is a potential to get reclaimed water to their park facility at Hidden Valley Regional Park.

11. **Commissioner's Comments**

There were no Commissioner's comments.

12. **Public Comments**

There were no public comments.

Meeting adjourned at 3:01pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Emerson, Recording Secretary

Approved by Commission in session on December 1, 2020.

Stephanie Chen, Chair