

City of Las Vegas

PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY COMMISSION
CITY HALL, 495 S. MAIN STREET
CITY CLERKS 2ND FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM
CITY OF LAS VEGAS INTERNET ADDRESS: www.lasvegasnevada.gov

MINUTES

May 1, 2012
4:00 PM

ITEMS MAY BE TAKEN OUT OF THE ORDER PRESENTED AT THE DISCRETION OF THE CHAIRPERSON. TWO OR MORE AGENDA ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION MAY BE COMBINED; AND ANY ITEM ON THE AGENDA MAY BE REMOVED OR RELATED DISCUSSION MAY BE DELAYED AT ANY TIME.

DUPLICATE AUDIO CDs MAY BE AVAILABLE AT A COST OF \$5.00 PER CD THROUGH THE CITY CLERKS OFFICE.

1. [CALL TO ORDER](#)

Minutes:

VICE CHAIR BUCHMAN called the meeting to order at 4:02 p.m.

PRESENT: VICE CHAIR BUCHMAN and MEMBERS SHERMAN, McCURDY, FOGER, AKER, LEE, LOPEZ, CALLO and BASTIAN

EXCUSED: CHAIR WHITE and MEMBERS HEENAN, ARMENIAN, TEEL, FARLAR and THOMASON

Also Present: DEPUTY LEISURE SERVICES DIRECTOR LONNY ZIMMERMAN, DEPUTY CITY ATTORNEY and DEPUTY CITY CLERK GABRIELA PORTILLO-BRENNER

2. [ANNOUNCEMENT RE: COMPLIANCE WITH OPEN MEETING LAW](#)

Minutes:

ANNOUNCEMENTS MADE - Meeting noticed and posted at the following locations: City Hall, 495 Main Street, 1st Floor, Clark County Government Center, 500 South Grand Central Parkway, Grant Sawyer Building, 555 East Washington Avenue, City of Las Vegas Development Services Center, 333 North Rancho Drive

3. [PUBLIC COMMENT DURING THIS PORTION OF THE AGENDA MUST BE LIMITED TO MATTERS ON THE AGENDA FOR ACTION. IF YOU WISH TO BE HEARD, GIVE YOUR NAME FOR THE RECORD. THE AMOUNT OF DISCUSSION, AS WELL AS THE AMOUNT OF TIME ANY SINGLE SPEAKER IS ALLOWED, MAY BE LIMITED](#)

Minutes:

None.

4. [For possible action to approve the Final Minutes by reference of the Regular Meeting of April 3, 2012](#)

Motion made by BILLIE BASTIAN to Approve as corrected

Passed For: 9; Against: 0; Abstain: 0; Did Not Vote: 0; Excused: 6

HARRY LEE, MICHAEL R. AKER SR., BILLIE BASTIAN, DAVID ALEXANDER LOPEZ, LAURIE R. BUCHMAN, JOSEPH R. CALLO JR., LISA B. SHERMAN, CHARLES FOGER, WILLIAM McCURDY; Against-(None); Abstain-

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(None); Did Not Vote-(None); Excused-(ADROUSHAN "ANDY" ARMENIAN, LETIA "LEE" M. HEENAN, MALCOLM WHITE, JERRY FARLAR, WILLIAM J. TEEL, APRIL THOMASON)

Minutes:

For Item 9 of the subject minutes, COMMISSIONER SHERMAN indicated that she referred to a cost benefit analysis ratio as opposed to a cash analysis and requested the correction be made.

COMMISSIONER CALLO clarified with DEPUTY CITY CLERK GABRIELA PORTILLO-BENNER that under the list of those members present, the members without times in parenthesis next to their names are considered present by the time the meeting is called to order.

VICE CHAIR BUCHMAN clarified that under Item 12, it was she who suggested the ambassadors be invited to speak at this meeting. She requested the correction be made.

5. [Report regarding Keep Las Vegas Beautiful - Cigarette Park Cleanup All Wards](#)

Minutes:

LISA CAMPBELL, Sr. Neighborhood Outreach Specialist, and SHERRY ALEXANDER, Community Program Specialist at Stupak Center, of Parks, Recreation and Neighborhood Services, were present. MS. CAMPBELL disseminated to the Commissioners and the Clerk a folder with information regarding cigarette litter and the Cigarette Park Cleanup project, which has come to be known as the Butt Out Park Clean-up, and then showed a DVD presentation regarding the event at Justice Myron E. Leavitt Family Park and how the youth were prepared for it. She noted that the American Lung Association partnered in this project to educate the youth on the hazards of cigarette litter. The information in the folder and the DVD were submitted as backup.

MS. ALEXANDER stated that through her experience in the Mayors Cup Soccer Tournament, she has become well acquainted with the parks and saw the need for cigarette butts clean-up.

MS. CAMPBELL then called forward youths BRANDON RAINVILLE, STACIE RODRIGUEZ and KATIMAH HARPER, who spoke briefly about the event and about the dangers of cigarette litter and smoking. They each recommended abolishing smoking in parks or at least in playground areas. If not, then posting signs on how to properly dispose of butts.

Given that May is Clean Air Month, COMMISSIONER SHERMAN suggested to MAYOR GOODMAN to present a proclamation at a City Council meeting to raise awareness.

COMMISSIONER LOPEZ commended the youths for speaking before the Commission. He commented that many of his friends consider smoking to be cool, but it is a bad habit and a personal choice that hurts other people. He confirmed with LISA CAMPBELL, Sr. Neighborhood Outreach Specialist, Parks, Recreation & Neighborhood Services, that the University of Nevada Las Vegas (UNLV) is one of the team members in the clean-up project.

When COMMISSIONER McCURDY asked MAYOR GOODMAN if an ordinance prohibiting smoking in City parks had ever been considered, COUNCILMAN BARLOW indicated that since he, MAYOR GOODMAN and COUNCILMAN ROSS were present, in an abundance of caution, all questions and suggestions directed to them would only be taken under advisement, because they were in attendance for Items 6 and 7.

COMMISSIONER McCURDY suggested placing an item on the next agenda for the Commissioners to forward a recommendation to the City Council to consider an ordinance prohibiting smoking in designated areas in City parks. CITY MANAGER ELIZABETH FRETWELL informed MAYOR GOODMAN that she would look into possibly adding a smoking prohibition to the park rules. LONNY ZIMMERMAN, Deputy Leisure Services Director, Parks, Recreation and Neighborhood Services, indicated he would have an item on the Commissions agenda.

COMMISSIONER SHERMAN recommended to the youths to contact the Health District to assist in abolishing smoking in parks. COMMISSIONER LOPEZ stated that posting signs by the students prohibiting smoking near entrance areas at

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UNLV has worked well.

VICE-CHAIR BUCHMAN thanked staff and the youth for their efforts and the presentations.

6. [Report for possible action regarding the renaming of Doolittle Park located at 951 W. Lake Mead Boulevard Ward 5 \(Barlow\)](#)

Motion made by WILLIAM McCURDY to Approve the name-change recommendation to KIANGA ISOKE PALACIO Park at Doolittle

Passed For: 8; Against: 0; Abstain: 1; Did Not Vote: 0; Excused: 6

HARRY LEE, MICHAEL R. AKER SR., BILLIE BASTIAN, DAVID ALEXANDER LOPEZ, LAURIE R. BUCHMAN, JOSEPH R. CALLO JR., CHARLES FOGER, WILLIAM McCURDY; Against-(None); Abstain-(LISA B. SHERMAN); Did Not Vote-(None); Excused-(ADROUSHAN "ANDY" ARMENIAN, LETIA "LEE" M. HEENAN, MALCOLM WHITE, JERRY FARLAR, WILLIAM J. TEEL, APRIL THOMASON)

NOTE: COMMISSIONER SHERMAN abstained because of her uncertainty of following proper procedure without consulting with the City Attorney.

Minutes:

COUNCILMAN BARLOW appreciated this matter being scheduled on the agenda, as he grew up in the area and played at Doolittle Park as a youth. He stated there were many people present in support of changing the name of Doolittle Park to Kiangra Isoke Palacio Park at Doolittle, as MS. PALACIO has a long history in the community as a philanthropic and active member of the community. Adding her name would be welcomed by the area residents.

HISANI PALACIO read a biography, which was submitted as backup documentation, of his wife, who was greatly loved in the community.

COUNCILMAN BARLOW submitted a petition in support of the name change as backup documentation. Also, approximately 20 adults and youth stood in support of the name change.

COUNCILMAN BARLOW indicated to VICE CHAIR BUCHMAN that the request is to name the outdoor park area.

COMMISSIONER McCURDY stated that as a representative of Ward 5, he is familiar with the Doolittle campus and how its name came to be. He supported COUNCILMAN BARLOWS name change recommendation, adding that the area residents he met with are in support. COMMISSIONER LOPEZ supported the name change, stating that MS. PALACIO was dedicated to youth and the community and her name should live on.

COMMISSIONER SHERMAN recalled the beautiful opening ceremony at Doolittle Park. However, she indicated that the name-change request puts the Commission in an awkward situation, because of the City's park-naming policy, which requires a public hearing. She noted that the only areas of parks that can be named without a public hearing are monuments and parts of parks. Therefore, she suggested a facility within Doolittle Park be named after MRS. PALACIO. VICE CHAIR BUCHMAN pointed out that the recommendation is not for a complete name change.

In response to COMMISSIONER SHERMAN'S comment about requiring a public hearing, COMMISSIONER McCURDY commented that when he surveyed the community, only GENE COLLINS was opposed until he was made aware that the request did not involve a complete name change. *(NOTE: The motion at the June 5, 2012 meeting approved these minutes subject to a requested correction that Gene Collins was not present at the May 1, 2012 Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission Meeting.)*

COMMISSIONER SHERMAN insisted that the park naming policy has a 20-year history and requests should go through a political, legal process, with an opinion from the City Attorney rendered to the Commission.

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COMMISSIONER BASTIAN gave an overview of the park-naming policy, which requires a vote of the Council, including for name changes. Also, according to the policy, a name change can be made because of a persons great impact historically or to the community. She felt this board could make the name-change recommendation to the City Council, who has final discretion. COMMISSIONER BASTIAN added that she had the privilege of coming in contact with MRS. PALACIO, who was a person that made a great impact in the community.

LONNY ZIMMERMAN, Deputy Leisure Services Director, Parks, Recreation and Neighborhood Services, noted that Doolittle is the working name of the park. But regardless of the vote of this body, the final decision lies with the Council.

7. [Report for possible action regarding the renaming of Freedom Park located at 850 N. Mojave Road Ward 3 \(Coffin\)](#)

Motion made by WILLIAM McCURDY to Approve the name change recommendation to Gary Reese Freedom Park

Passed For: 6; Against: 1; Abstain: 2; Did Not Vote: 0; Excused: 6

MICHAEL R. AKER SR., BILLIE BASTIAN, LAURIE R. BUCHMAN, JOSEPH R. CALLO JR., CHARLES FOGER, WILLIAM McCURDY; Against-(HARRY LEE); Abstain-(DAVID ALEXANDER LOPEZ, LISA B. SHERMAN); Did Not Vote-(None); Excused-(ADROUSHAN "ANDY" ARMENIAN, LETIA "LEE" M. HEENAN, MALCOLM WHITE, JERRY FARLAR, WILLIAM J. TEEL, APRIL THOMASON)

NOTE: COMMISSIONER LOPEZ abstained because Reese appointed him to this board.

NOTE: COMMISSIONER SHERMAN abstained because she felt uncomfortable going forward without conferring with the City Attorney to ensure compliance with Nevada Revised Statutes (NRS).

NOTE: A previous motion by Sherman for consulting with Ward 3 Councilman Coffin, having a discussion with constituents and assessing legality with the NRS time limit for naming a park after a political official has left office failed with Aker, McCurdy, Bastian, Buchman and Callo voting No and Lopez abstaining because he was appointed by Reese to this board.

Minutes:

COUNCILMAN ROSS thanked the Commissioners for their service and dedication to this board, as well as to the Park Ambassadors for doing a great job in the parks. He then introduced THOMAS PFUNDSTEIN, who has been involved in naming parks in this community, and is now involved in changing the name of Freedom Park to Gary Reese Freedom Park. COUNCILMAN ROSS fully gave his support to this effort, stating that GARY REESE served the City of Las Vegas residents well for many years as a member of the Board of Zoning Adjustment, the Planning Commission and the City Council, and it was his efforts that led to the creation of Big League Dreams Sports Parks.

As a man who does a lot of charity fundraising and has made a lot of donations, MR. PFUNDSTEIN commented that GARY REESE was too humble to support the name change, but he believes MR. REESE is well deserving of this honor. He is a man that, as an elected official, sought the support of all of his constituents when he wanted something done in his ward. He served his community and the entire City well. His legacy is that he cared about every resident of the City of Las Vegas. MR. PFUNDSTEIN submitted a petition in support of the name change to Gary Reese Freedom Park, noting that Freedom Park should be retained because that was done in honor of the Vietnam War Veterans and because of trademark infringement issues associated with Big League Dreams.

MAYOR GOODMAN said that her husband and she rarely speak for each other, but in this case, she could honestly say that both of them fully support this request, as they both consider GARY REESE to be a devoted man deserving of this honor.

COMMISSIONER AKER stated he knows many people in the area that are deserving of recognition.

COMMISSIONER McCURDY emphasized that MR. REESE did more than just represent his constituents well; he fought for quality of life for all City residents, young and old. He also donated money from his barbershop and raised funds from

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other agencies to help many organizations.

COMMISSIONER SHERMAN stated that establishing merit is not an issue, noting there are many other officials that are deserving of recognition. Her bigger concern is that the public might view this as political bias and that going forward might go against Nevada Revised Statutes (NRS), which she believes prohibit naming after a politician for three years after leaving office. MR. REESE has only been gone for almost one year. She would also like to see the support of COUNCILMAN COFFIN. MR. PFUNDSTEIN indicated that COUNCILMAN COFFIN endorsed the name change and that the petition represents endorsement from 90 percent of the people of Ward 3.

COMMISSIONER BASTIAN clarified with MR. PFUNDSTEIN that the request is to rename the park to Gary Reese Freedom Park.

COMMISSIONER SHERMAN clarified with LONNY ZIMMERMAN, Deputy Leisure Services Director, Parks, Recreation and Neighborhood Services, and CITY MANAGER ELIZABETH FRETWELL that MR. REESE received compensation of approximately \$40,000 annually as an elected official.

COMMISSIONER LEE suggested looking into NRS to ensure there is no issue with any timelines. COMMISSIONER BASTIAN interjected that the board is taking on too much legal responsibility. She felt there would be no issue with putting a motion forward and leaving the final decision to the City Council. COMMISSIONER McCURDY agreed, adding that this Commission is merely an advisory committee. MR. ZIMMERMAN stated the City Attorneys Office has indicated that NRS requires a three-year timeline for naming facilities or buildings only, not parks. COUNCILMAN ROSS noted that the Commissioners do not have to worry about the Council being in compliance with the NRS, because the City Attorneys Office would not let the Council break State law.

8. [Report regarding UNLV Open Trails/Park Study from Dr. Monica Lounsberry - All Wards](#) (NOTE: The correct spelling of the last name is Lounsbury.)

Minutes:

MONICA A.F. LOUNSBERRY, Ph.D Director, Physical Activity Policy Research Program Department of Kinesiology and Nutrition Sciences, University of Nevada, Las Vegas, gave a detailed PowerPoint presentation on the results from observing park environments in Nevada. She went over the importance of promoting parks and trails and making them safer for people in order to increase physical activity and health and discussed some of the strategies for making parks more open to the citizenry. A copy of the PowerPoint was submitted as backup.

LONNY ZIMMERMAN, Deputy Leisure Services Director, Parks, Recreation and Neighborhood Services, informed COMMISSIONER McCURDY that the Department does not have the staff to do outreach in parks due to staff downsizing due to the economy. The City serves as a facilitator and relies on community partners to spread the word.

9. [Report for possible action regarding revised Park Rules All Wards](#)

Motion made by WILLIAM McCURDY to Hold in abeyance to 6/5/2012

Passed For: 9; Against: 0; Abstain: 0; Did Not Vote: 0; Excused: 6

HARRY LEE, MICHAEL R. AKER SR., BILLIE BASTIAN, DAVID ALEXANDER LOPEZ, LAURIE R. BUCHMAN, JOSEPH R. CALLO JR., LISA B. SHERMAN, CHARLES FOGER, WILLIAM McCURDY; Against-(None); Abstain-(None); Did Not Vote-(None); Excused-(ADROUSHAN "ANDY" ARMENIAN, LETIA "LEE" M. HEENAN, MALCOLM WHITE, JERRY FARLAR, WILLIAM J. TEEL, APRIL THOMASON)

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10. [Report from Detention & Enforcement on issues at city facilities and parks All Wards](#)

Motion made by HARRY LEE to Hold in abeyance to 6/5/2012

Passed For: 9; Against: 0; Abstain: 0; Did Not Vote: 0; Excused: 6

HARRY LEE, MICHAEL R. AKER SR., BILLIE BASTIAN, DAVID ALEXANDER LOPEZ, LAURIE R. BUCHMAN, JOSEPH R. CALLO JR., LISA B. SHERMAN, CHARLES FOGER, WILLIAM McCURDY; Against-(None); Abstain-(None); Did Not Vote-(None); Excused-(ADROUSHAN "ANDY" ARMENIAN, LETIA "LEE" M. HEENAN, MALCOLM WHITE, JERRY FARLAR, WILLIAM J. TEEL, APRIL THOMASON)

Minutes:

LONNY ZIMMERMAN, Deputy Leisure Services Director, Parks, Recreation and Neighborhood Services, indicated that the Commissioners could arrange a ride-along with City Marshals by contacting Susie Martinez at 229.4172.

11. [Report regarding the Park Ambassadors Program All Wards](#)

Minutes:

LONNY ZIMMERMAN, Deputy Leisure Services Director, Parks, Recreation and Neighborhood Services, introduced STEPHANIE RICHARD, Sr. Community Program Specialist, Parks, Recreation and Neighborhood Services, who introduced Park Ambassadors DIANE STOWELL, JANET ROBINSON and ROGER DAWSON, and they spoke about how much they enjoy being a park ambassador.

MS. RICHARD gave a detailed PowerPoint presentation, a copy of which was submitted as backup, regarding the program and its benefits to the community and the City, adding that there are 20 ambassadors to serve 10 parks. She felt fortunate to be a part of such a great program.

COMMISSIONER McCURDY asked how many people participate and said he was not aware of any ambassadors for Doolittle. MS. RICHARD indicated that even though the number of ambassadors has decreased from 30 to 20, it does not mean the 20 remaining are any less effective. Quantity does not always equal quality. The 20 ambassadors are very devoted and collectively put in about 90 hours a month. She named the three ambassadors for Doolittle, noting that they are very active. COMMISSIONER McCURDY suggested doing outreach at churches, to which MS. RICHARD responded that recent downsizing has hindered her ability to leave her office and do outreach. COMMISSIONER FOGER interjected that he helped recruit two of the ambassadors for Doolittle.

COMMISSIONER SHERMAN shared her enthusiasm and appreciation for this program. MS. STOWELL advised the Commissioner that ambassadors assist with many aspects at Corporate Challenge events, including signing in and directing participants.

COMMISSIONER BASTIAN discussed with MS. RICHARD that there is an ambassador for Rainbow Park; the woman regularly walks the park. COMMISSIONER BASTIAN suggested honoring the ambassadors under the ceremonial portion of the City Council agenda to raise awareness of the program. The ambassadors could also be featured on the City's website. COMMISSIONER McCURDY suggested they also be featured on KCLV Channel 2.

12. [Report regarding Parks and Recreation Administrative projects All Wards](#)

Motion made by WILLIAM McCURDY to Hold in abeyance to 6/5/2012

Passed For: 9; Against: 0; Abstain: 0; Did Not Vote: 0; Excused: 6

HARRY LEE, MICHAEL R. AKER SR., BILLIE BASTIAN, DAVID ALEXANDER LOPEZ, LAURIE R. BUCHMAN, JOSEPH R. CALLO JR., LISA B. SHERMAN, CHARLES FOGER, WILLIAM McCURDY; Against-(None); Abstain-(None); Did Not Vote-(None); Excused-(ADROUSHAN "ANDY" ARMENIAN, LETIA "LEE" M. HEENAN, MALCOLM WHITE, JERRY FARLAR, WILLIAM J. TEEL, APRIL THOMASON)

13.

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CITIZENS PARTICIPATION: PUBLIC COMMENT DURING THIS PORTION OF THE AGENDA MUST BE LIMITED TO MATTERS WITHIN THE JURISDICTION OF THE COMMISSION. NO SUBJECT MAY BE ACTED UPON BY THE COMMISSION UNLESS THAT SUBJECT IS ON THE AGENDA AND IS SCHEDULED FOR ACTION. IF YOU WISH TO BE HEARD, GIVE YOUR NAME FOR THE RECORD. THE AMOUNT OF DISCUSSION ON ANY SINGLE SUBJECT, AS WELL AS THE AMOUNT OF TIME ANY SINGLE SPEAKER IS ALLOWED, MAY BE LIMITED

Minutes:

Given the legal issues that came up at this meeting, COMMISSIONER CALLO requested VICE CHAIR BUCHMAN contact the City Attorneys Office to ensure the presence of one of its attorneys at future meetings. COMMISSIONER FOGER agreed.

COMMISSIONER BASTIAN expressed appreciation to CHAIR WHITE and COMMISSIONER LOPEZ for appearing on behalf of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission before the City Council regarding the naming of Justice Myron Leavitt Park Jaycee Park.

COMMISSIONER McCURDY stated that serving on many boards in the Valley has gained him significant knowledge regarding Nevada Revised Statutes. He agreed with COUNCILMAN ROSS comments under Item 7 that the board can make recommendations, but the City Attorney will ultimately advise the City Council.

14. ADJOURNMENT

Minutes:

The meeting was adjourned at 6:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Gabriela Portillo-Brenner, Deputy City Clerk

Lonny Zimmerman, Deputy Leisure Services Director
Parks, Recreation and Neighborhood Services

Facilities are provided throughout City Hall for the convenience of disabled persons. If you need an accommodation to attend and participate in this meeting, please call the City Clerks office at 229-6311 and advise of your need at least 48 hours in advance of the meeting. The Citys TDD number is 386-9108.

THIS MEETING HAS BEEN PROPERLY NOTICED AND POSTED AT THE FOLLOWING LOCATIONS:

City Hall, 495 South Main Street, 1st Floor
Clark County Government Center, 500 South Grand Central Parkway
Grant Sawyer Building, 555 East Washington Avenue
City of Las Vegas Development Services Center, 333 North Rancho Drive